

ties to this conflict, and he represents but one of them, represents it very poorly, too. Has he never studied over or does he utterly disregard the rules of war, which make justifiable a departure from recognized methods when the other side has already taken such departure? Furthermore, it ought to percolate through his mentality, and perhaps would if he were not in so perturbed a condition throughout that the aggressor in such a proceeding—that is, the one making the first breach—takes upon himself all the odium for what either may do pursuant thereto, a very unpleasant, unprofitable position to occupy.

Such instances are abundant. At Cavite, after a white flag had been raised and the Americans immediately stopped firing—which procedure Blanco proposes to overturn—two men from Dewey's fleet were sent ashore to arrange the terms of surrender. On reaching the commandant, they were doubtless greatly surprised to learn that the flag had no reference to a surrender but was simply to effect a cessation of hostilities till the women and children could be removed to a place of safety! The question was asked why the women and children had not been previously removed, and the reply was given that there was not sufficient time. Then came the Yankee question which completely spiked the Spanish verbal gun: "If you wanted time, why did you begin the firing?" Being notified that but two hours were granted in which to sign papers and turn over effects, matters took a more business-like turn. The documents were soon executed, one provision being that all the Spanish forces were to stack their arms and turn them over to the victors and themselves be paroled. While the commissioners were on their way back to the ships with the terms of capitulation, the Spanish soldiers slipped off to Manila, taking their rifles with them!

You can trust some Spaniards, no doubt; but if your country is at war with theirs, you might as well keep your eyes open while they are around.

GERMAN INTERFERENCE.

It is not impossible that the German government is desirous of ascertaining how far it may go in the matter of interference in the Philippine Islands without provoking hostilities with the United States. Germany has three ships at Manila with a force of 1,600 men. But this is not deemed sufficient, and another vessel has been sent there, it seems, with 1,400 soldiers. This is in Washington regarded as an insult to the United States, as it implies lack of confidence in Admiral Dewey to protect the Germans living in the capital of the Philippines.

But notwithstanding this display of force by Germany, it cannot be supposed that the intention is to make any serious resistance to whatever policy with regard to the islands our government may decide upon. A hostile act by Germany in those waters would probably bring the German commander face to face with both Admiral Dewey and the British ships. The German squadron would not hold out long against such a force. Besides, Germany cannot afford to go to war with the United States simply to satisfy the demands of envy and jealousy. She is not strong enough for such a contest, in which her immense army would be of comparatively little use. The better sentiment in Germany is against any hostility to the United States. "It is nonsense," says the *Neueste Nachrichten*, "to speak of enmity against the United States," and adds:

"Germany is connected with the United States by countless business and

family relations, and despite their tariff system the Americans are still too valuable as customers to wish them harm or to treat them badly."

Other German papers take a similar view. As long as the sound business sense of the German people makes its influence felt in the government, there can be no danger of interference on the part of Germany.

GOVERNMENT SEED TESTING.

The "News" has been requested to publish the following:

"The act of Congress making appropriations for the department of agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, under the heading, 'Botanical Investigations and Experiments, Division of Botany,' contains the following:

"The secretary of agriculture is hereby authorized to purchase samples of seed in open market, test same and when found not up to standard he may, at his discretion, publish the result of these tests, together with the names of the seedsmen by whom the seeds were sold."

"The purchase of seeds for the tests authorized under this act will begin July 1, 1898. It will be the aim of the department of agriculture in carrying out this law to put a stop to the sale of seed so poor as to make probable a positive injury and loss to the purchaser, thus giving protection on the one hand to the farmer and gardener, and on the other hand to the honorable seedsmen and seed dealer."

"Further information, including a table of the standards of purity and germination and a list of the most injurious seeds likely to occur in commercial seed, may be obtained from the department upon application."

OUR ISLAND POLICY.

According to statements made, the purposes for which the war on Spain is made are the following: Cuba must be turned over to the United States until peace and a stable government are established there; Porto Rico must be ceded to the United States; this country must retain a naval base and a port in the Philippines and also in the Ladrone and Caroline Islands. Peace, it is asserted, will not be concluded until Spain is willing to accept these conditions, and it is also intimated that unless Spain gives in within a reasonably brief time, the demands upon Spain may be made to cover considerably more ground.

The purpose of the government then, is to establish a chain of naval stations across the Pacific from California to the China sea. Starting from San Francisco the chain is laid over the Hawaiian Islands, situated about one-third of the distance between San Francisco and Manila. Then the Ladrone Islands are reached about half way between Honolulu and the capital of the Philippines. A little to the south of the Ladrone Islands the Carolines are reached. It is a magnificent plan that contemplates the building, as it were, of an American bridge across the Pacific—a highway which will secure for this country a large share of some of the most important trade of the world.

It is a grave question, though, whether a naval base in each of the island groups would be sufficient for the purpose. In the Philippines there are about 2,000 islands and in the Carolines about 500. The Ladrone group comprises about 15 islands. The United States, it is feared, if owning only one island in each group, might be compelled to defend her possessions against jealous neighbors, and thus be put to continual expense. If the gov-

ernment has decided on a colonial policy it would seem to be necessary to take in the whole of the island groups mentioned. They would be of no value to Spain, but their occupation by the United States would prevent other powers from causing trouble in the future.

The question as to Hawaii is to be decided first. And it cannot be forgotten that the government of the little republic has already placed it in open enmity to Spain, by allowing our vessels to coal at Honolulu while on a hostile expedition to the Philippines. Unless annexation is effected before the close of this war, Spain is in a position to demand a heavy indemnity from Hawaii and to destroy her commerce and ports unless the indemnity is paid. Hawaii needs the protection of the United States, and this country would not be justified in refusing to extend that protection after having accepted the hospitality offered at a time when such acts of courtesy possibly might have had disastrous effects to the Hawaiians. The question of the Sandwich Islands settled, the time is opportune for a thorough consideration of the Spanish island possessions.

TO AID THE AFFLICTED.

There should be but one regret because of the action of the City Council at Tuesday night's session is appropriating \$2,500 for the benefit of the stricken people of Park City, and that on account of the solons being unable to make the amount larger. Undoubtedly they went to the limit, and what would be done if our financial affairs were in a healthier condition will have to be accepted in lieu of an enlargement of the appropriation. A great many people are houseless and homeless, with nothing to eat but what the benevolent place in their way, and no clothing but what they have on their persons, and all their home appendages, to the last item, have been swept away by the destroyer. While those people will not be permitted to suffer long or be deprived of necessities at all, it still follows that with our best work put forth in their behalf they will still be far from equal to what they were before. Of course they do not look for this, and in fact have asked for nothing at all; but this does not make it any the less incumbent upon those who are able to give something of their substance to the ones who have nothing at all.

NOTICE NOT NECESSARY.

The question is sometimes asked as to whether, in firing on fortifications and towns without notice, the American warships do not commit an infraction of the code of war. It is customary to give such notice in the case of towns, sometimes also in that of forts, but in neither case is it imperative. In 1863, during the war of the rebellion, an order was given covering the point raised. It was known as general order No. 100, and was issued on the 24th of April, being as follows:

"Commanders, whenever admissible, inform the enemy of their intention to bombard a place, but it is no infraction of the common law of war to omit thus to inform them. Surprise may be a necessity."

The United States forces, whether on land or water, have violated no article of civilized warfare in this contest and have no intention of doing so, that line of procedure obtains exclusively on the other side.

There has been no account yet of the famed "Industrial" army "generals" going to the front in the present war.