GEN. SHAFTER REPORTS

Can Now Say We Have Comfortable in Ponce.

SPAIN TO SEND TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS OF WAR.

No Answer to Peace Overtures Received—Preparations Nearing Daily—Sampson Visiting Santiago with Shafter.

Washington, July 25—Gen. Shafter seems to take hold like the possessor of the energy and ability he has shown in his dispatches and will be found to be equal to the task of his new command. He will engage in considerable change in the disposition of his forces, so that they will not be subjected to the sickness which has so weakened the Spanish troops.

Gen. Shafter has no news of the surrender of Santiago, although he has been in communication with Gen. Toral. He has received a message from Gen. Garcia, who is in the rear of Santiago, in which he says he has 4,000 men with him, and that he has 1,000 men in the city of Santiago who are ready to join him at any moment. Gen. Garcia says he has had no communication with Gen. Toral, but he has had with the Spanish officers who have been in the front of this work.

Stopped a German Steamer.

St. Thomas, July 25.—The German steamer Crosby, which sailed from this port, reports that she was stopped three miles out from Porto Rico by a Spanish man-of-war and was searched. The Crosby was bound for Porto Rico, but was not allowed to form part of the American blockading squadron. The Crosby was boarded by an officer, who seemed to be from the United States cruiser New York. She was allowed to continue to St. Thomas. The Crosby had no intention of entering San Juan.

TALKING OF PEACE.

Our Report Says it is Near, Another that it is Further Off Than Before.

London, July 25.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times says: "Peace prospects have greatly improved since the last telegraphic dispatch from Madrid. The political circles of the Duke de Almodovar de Rio, the foreign minister, have been more practical than we understand, and I am informed that the government's efforts are centering a new phase, which may prove well, but to complete results.

"The general feeling of the Spanish people is that, if it is true that negotiations have been begun and the United States, through the French ambassador, has made a proposition of any sort, it is a proposition of any sort, it is a proposition of any sort, it is