

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

San Francisco, May 11.—W. H. Hammon, in charge of the United States weather bureau here, in his weekly summary of crop and climatic conditions, based on reports received from all sections of the state, says:

The week has been almost without rain, only a few slight showers having been reported along the coast and in the mountain districts of the western portions of the state.

The weekly deficiency in all portions of the state equals the normal rainfall.

The wheat crop is a failure in the principal grain sections of the state. A small amount of wheat will be harvested on irrigated land and summer fallow in foothill sections. Some elsewhere will be cut as hay. Feed is scanty.

Haying is in progress in many sections.

Both hay and alfalfa are light crops. In the fruit orchards irrigation is in full operation, and where trees cannot be reached by irrigation ditches, the orchardists are hauling water.

Paris, May 11.—The correspondents in Rome of the newspapers of this city all affirm a revolution in Italy is imminent and that the popular rising throughout the country will not long be delayed. The news causes great satisfaction here, where a republican Italy is regarded as the natural friend of France and as an enemy of the drebund.

Messina, May 11.—Quiet has been restored here.

Livorno, Italy, May 11.—In the rioting here yesterday eight persons were killed and thirty were wounded.

Rome, May 11.—Martial law has been proclaimed in the province of Como. There was rioting yesterday at Nevara in Piedmont. A mob stoned the troops, who fired upon the rioters, injuring five of them. An officer and some soldiers were injured.

On Board the Associated Press Dispatch Boat, Kate Spencer, off Cardenas, May 9, via Key West, May 10.—(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—The little torpedo boat Winslow yesterday morning precipitated the first naval engagement fought in Cuban waters. On a reconnaissance in Cardenas harbor she drew the fire of three Spanish coast guard vessels and a lively vest pocket sea fight followed with the tiny gunboats.

As the Winslow was decidedly in the minority she ran for the open sea, where her big station-mate, the gunboat Machias, which had been called up by the firing, took a hand in the game with her four-inch rifles and tossed several shells over the low sand spit behind which the Spanish boats were sheltered. It was impossible to see whether any of these landed.

The Winslow was not touched, but she claims to have knocked a few splinters out of the larger coast guard boat.

The most important result of the Winslow's reconnaissance was the discovery that the harbor is mined. If there were any batteries on shore the Then the Winslow scudded along for the open sea, using her after gun as a stern chaser and defiantly shooting as she went along.

The Spanish boats fired about sixty shots, and the biggest boat, mounting a 12-pounder, kept up the bombardment as long as the Winslow was in range.

The Spaniards, who probably had heard the news from Manila, were evidently as mad as hornets, and kept up the chase until all four of the little craft were rocking in the swell past Pledras Keys. Just then there was a crash and

a roar to seaward, and the Machias, bearing in under the canopy of smoke, sent a shell smashing into the pursuing fleet, the little patrol boats spun about like water spiders and ran to shelter beyond the sand spits. The Machias sent a few shells skipping in but with what effect could not be seen. At any rate there are three prospective additions to our mosquito fleet bottled up in Cardenas harbor, awaiting shipment. Spaniards did not think it worth while to show their presence. That there are mines in the channel is important in view of the report that it is Cardenas and not Matanzas where the landing of the United States forces will be made. The fight with the coast guard occurred yesterday morning. Cardenas is one of the largest bays along the coast, the little town of the same name lying at the southern end. From the western shore Icicas point reaches out like a long index finger, almost touching Pledras Key lighthouse, which in peaceful days beacons the harbor entrance.

The lighthouse has been in darkness and deserted for many nights. Feeling safe in the desolation of the lighthouse and the silence ashore, the little Winslow crept quietly in, under the early morning haze, for a closer inspection of the harbor. There evidently had been a lookout among the dunes along the sand spit, for the Winslow was allowed to feel her way into the harbor, taking notes of chained buoys and false marks designed to lead a hostile fleet onto the torpedo fields.

But suddenly there was a puff of smoke from among the clumps along one of the inlets and a six-pound shell screeched from the bushes, crack came another from the shelter of a tiny key in the bay and a third from further down the coast. Then three coast guard boats darted from their cover under full head of steam, like a big pike after a minnow. The Winslow's crew jumped to the two pounders fore and aft and let the Spaniards have it port and starboard, as they chased in.

The little gun boats came along, shooting, but after the usual Spanish fashion hitting nothing but adjacent scenery.

New York, May 11.—A Key West special says that information has reached that place of the landing within fifty miles of Havana the expedition under command of Captain Dorst, fourth cavalry, which left Tampa yesterday on board the transport Gussie.

Chattanooga, May 10.—Camp Geo. H. Thomas, at Chickamauga Park is rapidly undergoing demolition. At daybreak this morning the work of breaking camp was begun by a number of the regiments and in a few hours thereafter places which have been covered with white tents for some time were again vacant and deserted. Officers and men of all regiments now remaining are giving their time and attention to preparations for departure and the regular routine of camp life has been entirely suspended.

The first troops out were the Third cavalry. They were loaded on special trains at Rossville about 9 o'clock and started through to Tampa, over the Southern railway. The Sixth cavalry got out a few hours later, going to Tampa over the same route. The two regiments are under the command of Gen. S. S. Sumner. The Second cavalry under Col. Hunt will probably get out for Mobile late this afternoon and the First and Tenth cavalry under Col. Baldwin will leave about the same time for New Orleans. Two of the infantry regiments will march 9 miles to Ringgold and take cars for camp Tampa tomorrow.

Those remaining will follow as rapidly as possible. The indications are now that all the commands with their equipments will be gone before Friday noon. The contract for conveying the troops to Tampa has been divided between the Southern and Western and Atlantic. The Southern will carry all destined for New Orleans and Mobile.

The railroads are doing extensive work and are giving the officials every assistance in rushing the troops out.

Tampa Bay, Fla., May 11.—Everything possible is being done to facilitate the work of loading the transports at Port Tampa with ammunition and supplies for the expedition. All last night and all of today hundreds of men were kept busy unloading the war material from the freight cars and carefully stowing it away.

This part of the work will be practically concluded by tomorrow night and the ships now in the slip will drop anchor in the bay to make room for other transports. The Orizaba is expected up from quarantine tomorrow. This is one of the largest transports engaged by the government and will be used for carrying infantry.

A number of Hotchkiss and Gatling guns were loaded on the Florida today.

The big siege guns, four of which have arrived here, have not yet been unloaded from the cars. They will be loaded on some of the larger vessels, probably the Alamo or Orizaba.

Lieut. J. D. Miley of Gen. Shafter's staff who was sent to Washington Saturday with the report of Captain Dorst and the plans of the Cuban campaign, returned today bearing with him a big bundle of maps and documents, and immediately reported to Gen. Shafter. It is now believed that the two Cuban regiments will accompany the regular troops to Cuba. They have all been armed with Springfield rifles and, under almost incessant drilling, are rapidly being pounded into shape.

Indianapolis, May 11.—Gov. Mount today received an order from the secretary of war directing him to prepare another regiment for immediate service in addition to the two Indiana regiments already designated to go to New Orleans.

The additional regiment will go to Mobile and will probably start Sunday. It now appears that the departure of all the Indiana troops assigned for duty will be delayed several days.

Wile, Fla., May 11.—In the camps of the regulars and volunteers all is quiet. No orders to move have been received, although the officers are looking for them at any moment and are ready to go to the front promptly.

With the regulars and state troops combined there are 5,000 men encamped here.

New Orleans, May 11.—Officers at the fair grounds of both regular and volunteer forces are waiting anxiously for some news confirmatory of the press dispatches intimating that troops are to be sent to Cuba very shortly. If any orders has been received, however, they have not yet been given out. The work of mustering the Louisiana guards is progressing rapidly and the regiment of volunteers is also steadily being increased in numbers.

The announcement that Iowa, Illinois and Indiana troops have been ordered to New Orleans has stirred the officers at the fair grounds to activity and preparations are being made for the encampment of the Western troops provided that they are to remain here for any length of time before taking transports for the islands. The grounds and accommodations here are ample for several thousand troops that have been ordered to New Orleans.

Washington, May 11.—A final decision has been reached that Gen Miles and his staff will leave tomorrow night