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ADVANCE ON PORTO RICO.

Gen. Miles Leaves Siboney and Gen. Brooke Leaves Chickamauga with Expeditions to Capture the Island.

Matters are Being Rushed, and Whole Force will be Under Way Within Four Days.--Spain Not Expected to Sue for Peace Until Havana is Taken.

Washington, July 18.—The Porto Rico expedition has started on its mission to capture that island.

Gen. Miles, leading the Porto Rican expedition, left Cuba today, on the Yale, with four battalions of artillery and a few mounted troops. Two transports now at Charleston are embarking today as transports to take them to Porto Rico.

All the force at Tampa, 11,000 strong, embracing artillery, will be put on board as rapidly as transports can be got there and reinforce our other troops.

Gen. Brooke will take the first and second divisions of his corps from Chickamauga to Porto Rico.

Gen. Brooke thinks now that offers for Chickamauga to go aid his force started. It is expected that the Chickamauga expedition will be ended very within the next ten days.

It has been decided to retain Gen. Shafter's transports at Santiago for an indefinite period.

The secret war board conference with the President lasted half then an hour and on leaving the White House, military lines said that only matters of detail were under discussion. No news of importance had been received from any source.

Secretary Day also had a conference with the President. It was said that matters relating to peace had been brought from Paris either directly or indirectly.

From other sources it is learned that the government does not look for peace overtures for some time to come, and probably not before the fall of Havana.

As it is understood to be the policy of the President to prosecute the Cuban campaign until next autumn, he is not inclined to hear official advice that the thousands and get off the invalids from Cuba before carrying on other looking to a cessation of hostilities.

NO OVERTURES FOR PEACE

Spain Seems to Lack Comprehension of Her Deplorable Condition.

United States Will Push Active Operations Until Something is Done by Spain Towards Peace.

Washington, July 18.—The possibilities of peace are as remote as ever. No move in that direction has been made by any of the foreign officials here, and inquiries as to the political condition of Spain for some reports to restrain her from making any direct overtures. A cabinet official in speaking of this situation today, said that it was amazing that Spain seemed to lack all comprehension of her deplorable condition, for not facts have been wiped out, her hold on the Philippines is practically at an end and now she has appeared she. Today's surrender of Cuba square miles of Cuban soil.

And yet, he said, some steps must be taken by Spain, of her initiative, and in respect for people to bring the attack of her defeat and losses.

Under such circumstances, he said, the only thing left for this country to do is to press on until Spain realizes the true comprehension of her impotence. It is with this end in view that active steps are being taken in the further prosecution of the war.

SPANISH ARE EXCITED.

Say but War is to Death is Preferable to Spain's Ruin.

SUPPOSED PEACE TERMS CAUSE WORRY.

Commodore Watson's Fleet to be Hurried Off to Spain as Quickly as Possible.

Madrid, July 18, noon.—The defense works are being actively pushed at all the Spanish ports.

The newspapers here assert that the United States intends to demand an indemnity, inferentially "in order to have the pretext to keep the Philippines as a guarantee."

The supposed American peace terms are greatly exciting the public and the opinion is expressed among the people that war to the death would be preferable to the ruin of Spain.

GETTING WATSON'S FLEET READY

Washington, July 18.—The plans for sending Commodore Watson's eastern squadron to Spain have reached a point where naval officials are considering the exact date of departure, and it is said that the vessels of the squadron have given that preparation some to sought to a close, and now with a view to having everything in readiness to be sent off at a moment's

Two of the vessels now are to accompany the expedition are at Norfolk for the purpose of putting their bottoms in good condition. The Yale, which is the work have estimated that it would take the whole month of July for the battleship to be ready for service. The Harvard, the other vessel of the squadron, is now at Norfolk undergoing repairs, but it is hoped that the work will be completed in this week. The crews are being rushed to their flagships.

The Yale is now at Newport News with the Gloucester, the Dixie and the Yosemite, all of the Atlantic fleet, and it is hoped that the Harvard will be ready to join them in a few days.

Secretary Long said today that the Yale, the Gloucester and the Dixie, with their crews, a most important element in the preservation of health, the service would continue in the Cuban waters was now and abundant and fresh and in good condition.

While the main body of troops is to be sent to Cuba, the regiments will not be sent to Cuba, but will be sent to the Southern coast of the United States, some troops temporarily will be placed in either of the forts, and in no cause commanding the shore, is said to prevent the inhabitants. It is believed that the regiments of volunteers on their way to Santiago will be assigned to that duty.

This will be a severe test of the principle of volunteers for a time, as it is expected that many of the officers commissions are merely persons who have never only a few weeks in the service, and the fact that some of them have never seen fire, or have had no experience in the care of troops.

THE TRADE OF PORTO RICO.

Business of the Island Soon to be Occupied by the United States.

Most of Its Exports are Agricultural—Shows Itself to be a Rich Producer—Where the Trade Was in 1894.

Washington, July 18.—In view of the present war alarm, a comprehensive statistical review on the trade of Porto Rico, just issued under the direction of Frank H. Hitchcock, chief of the foreign markets section of the agricultural department and approved by Secretary Wilson, is of unusual interest. It shows for the first time the figures of the commerce for the of Spain's east-ernmost West Indian island.

During the calendar year 1896, the foreign trade of Porto Rico according to the official returns, attained a total value of $18,000,000, exceeding all previous records and being a gain in the year of more than $1,000,000. In 1896 the total imports and exports had an annual value of $13,970,000 as against $13,961,000 in 1895. Imports into Porto Rico generally have somewhat exceeded exports, but in 1896 for the first time in over a decade the balance of the commerce changed in favor of the exports, which greatly more than that of the imported wares. The exports for the year 1896 were $10,140,000, and the imports amounted to $9,830,000, the balance in favor of the exports being $310,000. In the same year $6,253,000 represented the imports, while the foreign exports amounted to $7,887,000.

The money trade of Porto Rico is conducted chiefly with Spain, the U. S. and Cuba, principally, the United Kingdom and France. Spain imports largely more than she exports, her share of the total imports in 1896 being $4,000,000 against only $2,000,000 exports. Was 14.80 per cent of the total exports of the island, and 31.80 per cent of the imports. The United States ranked second, in value of the goods exchanged, amounting to $3,941,000 a year, or than per cent of the total exports and 15.80 per cent of the imports, amounted to $1,0 per cent of the total, $4,000,000.

In 1894, the latest year covered by the report, these statistics, which are Hitchcock compiled a tabulation of advance officially from the official reports, showing the trade of Porto Rico with the principal countries, the total value of the exchanges with which the island has had trade throughout known. The following table shows the trade of Porto Rico with the principal countries:

Spain	$4,000,000
United States	$3,941,000
Cuba	$1,000,000
France	$1,000,000
Great Britain	$1,000,000
Germany	$1,000,000
Denmark	$1,000,000
Holland	$1,000,000
Belgium	$1,000,000
Venezuela	$1,000,000
Mexico	$1,000,000
Colombia	$1,000,000
Dutch West Indies	$1,000,000
Danish West Indies	$1,000,000
Other countries	$1,000,000

Porto Rico's trade with Porto Rico, as shown by Spanish records, increased in value from $1,000,000 in 1887 to $4,000,000 in 1896. The chief gain was made in imports from Spain in the value of the goods entering Porto Rico from Spain increased from $1,000,000 in 1887 to $4,000,000 in 1896, while the exports from Porto Rico to Spain increased only $2,000,000 in the same year, exports from Porto Rico to Spain increased from $1,000,000 in 1887 to $2,000,000 in 1896.

The chief articles of commerce are sugar, molasses, coffee, tobacco, cattle, hides, and skins, and other agricultural products. Of sugar, the principal article, Spain and the United States are the principal consumers, the former taking about of the total exports, and the latter about of the total. The exports of coffee, the second in value, go largely to France, Germany and Great Britain. Coffee and sugar, the leading products of the island, are the principal factors in Porto Rico's export trade, coffee and sugar alone forming about of the total. The quantity of coffee exported in the year $3,000,000 pounds and in value $6,000,000. The quantity of sugar was 1,147,377 pounds, with a value of $1,000,000 was produced. Of the total 1,000,000 pounds, with $62,000, was shipped to the United Kingdom, 1,000,000 pounds, with $62,000, was shipped to the United States, 1,000,000 pounds, with $62,000, was shipped to Spain, and 1,000,000 pounds, valued at $1,000,000, was shipped to France. Of the total