

for Tampa preparatory to moving to Cuba later.

Hongkong, May 12.—(Copyright 1898 by the Associated Press, at 6 p.m. Greenwich time).—The British gun vessel *Linnle* has arrived here with news from the Philippines. She left Manila on Monday last and reports that the insurgents are uncontrollable. The whole country, it appears, is in a state of anarchy and Rear Admiral Dewey is powerless to restore order. The officers of the *Linnle* add that even if Spanish rule is abolished it will require a large force with special training to restore order in the interior.

In the meantime the Spaniards in Manila refuse to submit, and Admiral Dewey is not willing to bombard the town. He hopes to starve the place into submission, but the Spanish are confident of being able to hold out. They allege that they have ample supplies for 25,000 regular troops and thousands of volunteers beyond the range of the United States warships, and they are defying the Americans in the hope of European intervention.

Two German warships, one French warship and a warship of Japan are now at Manila. A Russian vessel is expected there shortly.

Strong anti-British feeling exists among the populace at Manila, and the people are desperate and starving.

New York, May 12.—A Hongkong special of this date says that a trading vessel from the Philippines reports having witnessed the destruction of a Spanish warship by the United States gunboat *Concord* of Iloilo. The fight is said to have lasted two hours, at the end of which time the Spaniard went down with colors flying. There were no casualties on board the *Concord*, and no damage was done to the gunboat. There are, it is alleged, only two other Spanish war vessels in Asiatic waters, and one of these is in dry dock at Hongkong, while the cruiser *Boston* is searching for the other, under orders to engage and sink it.

Washington, May 12.—Gen. Wesley Merritt, commander of the department of the East with headquarters at New York, was at the war department today in consultation with Secretary Alger regarding the proposition to assign him to the command of the expedition to Manila, and on arrival there to establish a military government with himself at the head. The general said this morning the matter had not been definitely determined and would not be until he had an opportunity to talk with the President.

Gen. Merritt is known to be anxious for an active command and is believed to look upon his proposed assignment with great favor. The war department has informed him that it proposes to send an adequate force which will enable him to hold the islands beyond all peradventure and which will amount to between 10,000 and 12,000 men. These, the general thinks, might be sent in two expeditions, although he does not believe the first one will get off for a week.

It is stated at the war department that Maj.-Gen. Wesley Merritt will command the expedition to the Philippines.

Gen. Otis will be second in command. San Francisco, May 12.—The government has finally arranged for the chartering of the steamers *Connemaugh* and *Ohio*, which arrived from Philadelphia a few days ago.

This makes five steamers that have been chartered by the government to be used as transports to Manila. They are the *City of Sydney*, the *City of Peking*, the *Australia*, the *Connemaugh* and the *Ohio*. The last two named were to have engaged in the Klondike trade.

It is also reported that the *Monterey* has been ordered to Manila.

Boston, May 13.—Orders were received at Fort Warren from the war department to remove all women and children at once. The orders were promptly obeyed.

Key West, Fla., May 13, 7:30 a. m.—The transport steamer *Gussie*, which left here with a big expedition for Cuba on Wednesday night had a lively engagement with the Spanish at Canabas, province of Pinar del Rio yesterday, but succeeded in accomplishing her mission.

The *Gussie*, which came here from Tampa, carried 7,000 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition intended for the Cubans. The expedition was directed by Captain J. H. Dorst, of the United States cavalry, who took with him over 100 men of the First Infantry and ten Cuban scouts.

After a rough voyage the *Gussie* was met off the Cuban coast by the auxiliary gunboats *Wasp* and *Manning*, which escorted her in. As they approached the shore a large body of Spanish soldiers opened fire upon the expedition and the gunboats replied with effect, enabling the expedition to land.

On shore the battle was renewed. The Spanish troops had retired to their works and the woods, and directed a constant but inaccurate fire upon the landing party. The latter later was reinforced by a body of armed insurgents who had been informed of the coming of the expedition. Then, under the fire of the gunboats, the Spanish force was compelled to withdraw and the mission of the *Gussie* was accomplished.

One of the American party was shot in the back. The Spanish loss is not known, but must have been heavy.

New York, May 13.—A dispatch to the *World* from Nuevitas, Cuba, by way of Nassau, N. P., says:

"Chaos reigns at Camaguey and famine at Nuevitas. Every boat in this harbor, steam and sail, has been jammed into the narrow channel, to be sunk at the first sign of an attack.

Two thousand soldiers guard the entrance twelve miles from the city and four old cannon have been mounted on an island in the harbor.

People are starving. Salt pork costs a dollar and a half a pound, rice fifty cents and goats bring \$100 each.

The Spanish commander told the starving citizens to go into the country as he could not feed them.

Many soldiers are joining the insurgents to get food.

The conditions at Puerto Principe are still worse. The surrounding forts are almost abandoned.

A column of 5,000 Spaniards started for Moron, carrying a flag of truce. When fired upon by the insurgents the commander sent word that he was no longer making war upon Cubans, but was going to the coast to fight Americans.

Gen. Lopez replied "Spain cannot fight the United States without fighting us. Their war is ours," and again opened fire.

The Spaniards lost 900 men in the four days' march to the sea. Pacificos, spongers and fishermen are being pressed into the Spanish service. The Spanish columns on the way to the sea coast are burning all the country homes.

President Maso has ordered Generals Gomez and Garcia to meet himself and cabinet at Moron trocha where there will be a concentration of Cuban forces.

Rome, May 14.—There was a violent earthquake at Sicily this morning, extending southward from Mount Aetna and reaching to Minoa and Caltagirone, 30 miles southwest of Catania.

A number of houses were wrecked at Bianciville, in the declivity of Mount Aetna and Bempasso.

Other shocks followed.

Key West, May 14.—News just received here from Havana says the reconcentrados are dying of starvation, cart loads of dead being taken daily through the Spanish lines.

A tale of great suffering in Havana is also brought today by Major Lima, inspector of the northern coast of Cuba, of the Cuban army, under Gen. Alexander Rodriguez, who arrived here today with four officers of his staff.

Major Lima was taken off the coast of Cuba between Del Norte and Cojimar by a United States gunboat, and was transferred to a torpedo boat, which vessel brought him here.

Raleigh, N. C., May 16.—The body of Ensign Bagley, who was killed on the torpedo boat *Winslow* off Cardenas last Wednesday, arrived here at 2 o'clock this morning. It was taken at once to the home of his mother, Mrs. Adelaide Bagley, widow of the late Major W. H. Bagley, a Confederate soldier, and daughter of ex-Governor Jonathan Work, deceased.

The body will remain at the Bagley home until 1 o'clock this afternoon, when it will be escorted to the rotunda of the capitol by the governor's guard, who will keep guard over it.

The ceremony will begin at 4 o'clock and the cortege accompanying the body to the grave will be one of the most imposing ever assembled in this state.

The young officer whose blood was the first spilled in the present war, was known to nearly everybody in Raleigh and was very popular. All flags on public buildings are at half mast and business is suspended. The public schools are closed and the children will attend the funeral in a body.

St. Hyacinthe, Que., May 16.—A disastrous fire occurred here early today when the *Materie St. Joseph* was burned, causing the loss of seven lives and the injury of a number of the inmates, of whom there were 200 in the institution, by jumping from windows. There are also five persons unaccounted for. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Middletown, N. Y., May 16.—An engine drawing a westbound freight train at Grey Court hlew up, killing Engineer William Crong and Fireman Ben Ranker of Port Jarvis. Fifteen cars were piled up.

Chicago, May 16.—A special to the *Journal* from Washington says:

President McKinley has abandoned his peaceful blockade idea. Orders were today cabled to the commander of the blockading squadron that will give him an opportunity to turn his ships loose on all fortifications where resistance is offered.

Every Cuban port that is strongly protected will be attacked and the bombardment will be kept up until Spanish guns are silenced and all gunboats are sunk.

New York, May 17.—Preparations for the relief expedition to be sent to the Philippine Islands are being hurried in both the military and naval departments, says the Madrid correspondent of the *World*. Five battalions, each 1,200 strong, under 38 officers, are assembled at Cadiz, Barcelona and Valencia already, or will be ready for embarkation this week. This force will be commanded by Gen. Camprubi.

It is made up wholly of picked men who have served two years. Several batteries will go with the expedition and large supplies of stores and coal. Warships to convoy the transports will go from Cadiz and Barcelona.

A dispatch to the *World* from Gibraltar says:

A Spanish fleet was to leave Cadiz today, a telegram from Madrid, just received here, reports, bound for the Philippine Islands. The expedition, which is said to consist of troops and warships both, will go by way of the Suez canal.