

**PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE.**

**French Ambassador Called on President and of Course All Began to Talk.**

**CALL HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER.**

Washington, August 3.—After a conference on the peace question lasting for just an hour this afternoon, between the President and M. Cambon, the French ambassador, the latter acting as the representative of Spain, Secretary Day emerged from the White House and announced that to-day's conference was inconclusive; wherefore, the parties to it had agreed to say nothing publicly as to what occurred. The secretary did not appear to be discouraged as he made this statement, though he admitted that no time had been set for another conference. From this it is gathered that the long expected answer of the Spanish government to the President's note, upon being received had turned out to be just as was expected, either a counter-proposition or a request for a fuller statement in detail upon some of the heads of the President's note.

Up to the middle of the afternoon it was stated by all parties concerned that the Spanish answer had not been received; that the only formal note that had come to hand was one from the Madrid cabinet to M. Cambon asking for information upon some points that were not clear to the Spanish mind.

**The Call Did Not Refer to Peace,**

**But to the Detention of the French Steamer—Summary of Peace Possibilities.**

Washington, August 3.—A call by M. Cambon at the state department to-day is likely to cause speculation, though it has no reference to the peace negotiations or the affairs of Spain, but it is for the purpose of discussing a matter relating to France and the United States. Some weeks ago a United States warship captured the French merchant steamer *Olinde Rodriguez* when she was nine miles off San Juan. It was claimed she was running the blockade, and she was taken to Charleston, S. C., where she is still detained, with a number of passengers and freight, and with the official mail of the French minister at Port-au-Prince.

Both the French embassy and the French Trans Atlantic Steamship company asked for the release of the steamer, on the ground that she was not running the blockade. The department of justice has been considering the subject, and the prospects are for a satisfactory adjustment and a release of the steamer, if no claims for detention are made. M. Cambon called at the state department on the matter to-day.

**A GLANCE AT THE NEAR FUTURE.**

On the assumption that peace is near at hand, some attention is being given to the steps by which this may be brought about: formally and the measures necessary to be adopted immediately afterwards. It is said to be not at all improbable that the preliminaries leading up to the signature of the treaty of peace may consume fully three months, so that it may be well along toward the legal date of the assembly of congress before the President will be prepared to submit a peace treaty to the senate. This allowance of time is rather moderate than excessive. We were two years, from 1781 to 1783, in arranging a peace with Great Britain to terminate the Revolutionary war. In the case of the Chinese Japanese war it was several months before the commissioners were able to perfect the treaty of Shimonoseki which terminated that war. It does not follow from this that an actual state of war will prevail during the interval of three months, for, as a matter of fact, hostilities will terminate within a few days after Spain has notified the United States government of her acceptance of the terms laid down in the President's note of last Saturday. The military establishment, however, must be maintained during that time, and many acts performed that are incident to actual warfare.

It is expected here that the Spanish pledge to accept the broad conditions laid down by the United States will take the form of a written agreement, something in the nature of a protocol, while a very necessary step in the negotiation of a treaty, is not always a part of the document. The negotiations have not progressed sufficiently to indicate who shall be the parties to this agreement or rather, who shall represent the principals, the United States and Spain. It is possible that it may be signed in Washington between Secretary Day and M. Cambon, or, on the other hand, the ambassadors of Spain and the United States in one of the European countries, pro-

bably in this case France, might meet and by the authorization of their respective governments sign this agreement. The protocol, if it may be so called, in either case would not take the place in any manner of the treaty of peace which would be drawn up later by commissioners to be appointed for this purpose.

**THE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

Under the terms of the President's note, if they shall be accepted by Spain, the Spanish government is bound to evacuate Cuba and Porto Rico immediately. This action is not to wait upon the work of the peace commissioners, but is to proceed it, and to follow immediately upon the signature of the memorandum accepting the President's conditions. The word "immediately, in this case is perhaps a little deceptive. The experience of the war department in the endeavor to remove to Spain the Spanish troops surrendered at Santiago has not justified the expectation that the large force of Spanish regulars can be gathered up and shipped home to Spain in less than about 60 days, at best. This estimate is based on the fact that it is not expected by the Spanish authorities who are directing the movements of the Spanish troops on transports that they will be able to return all of the Santiago prisoners to Spain before the first of September. Therefore, what is meant by the word "immediately" is that the Spanish government shall at least begin the arrangement at once for the evacuation of the islands.

On the whole, it is rather a fortunate circumstance that this evacuation cannot take place en masse immediately, for it has been determined that the Spanish troops withdrawn must be replaced by United States troops. This is deemed to be absolutely necessary to guard against anarchy and to secure the establishment of a stable form of government in Cuba, under proper constitutional guarantees, but in all probability not many of them will have to go there before the present rainy season has neared its end.

**EQUALLY UNSATISFACTORY FROM MADRID.**

Paris, August 3.—The Madrid correspondent of the Temps telegraphs this afternoon saying that if the definite reply of the United States on the peace proposals arrives to-day the Spanish cabinet will meet this evening and officially accept the terms. The cabinet ministers, the correspondent adds, believed that the agreement would be accepted by the country without trouble, and the government will not summon the cortes before the autumn.

The newspapers are attacking Premier Sagasta and his colleagues, the correspondent of the Temps continues. They assert that the premier opened negotiations yesterday with Senor Pidal, president of the Spanish chamber of deputies, with the view of returning the Conservatives to power as soon as peace is arranged, believing that the Conservatives are more competent to reorganize the country. Senor Sagasta's partisans deny this.

**ALL MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY FIRMLY REFUSED.**

Washington, August 4.—The United States government is now waiting to hear again from Spain, and this time it is expected the answer will be final. Firmly, but courteously, the President has declined the earnest appeal of the French ambassador to modify the United States' demands except in slight and comparatively unimportant respects. There is no doubt that the peace negotiations are progressing to the entire satisfaction of the President and the members of the cabinet. A statement to that effect was made to-day by a high official of the administration who expressed the belief that within a very short time there would be a complete cessation of hostilities.

The conference yesterday afternoon at the White House, in which the President, M. Cambon and Secretary Day participated, was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of details which are regarded by the President as unimportant, and hence the requests of the French ambassador, for the most part, will be acceded to.

**WANTS TO MEET IN FRANCE.**

One of these was that the commission to be appointed to settle the terms of peace shall meet outside of the United States, and preferably in France. The President sees no material objection to granting this request, and it is said to be practically settled that the conference will be held in Paris.

**ONE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED.**

The Madrid government, through M. Cambon, propounded a number of questions as to the time when Spain would be expected to evacuate Cuba and the territory to be ceded the United States, and what provisions would be made by the United States to protect the interests of Spanish subjects in these islands while the evacuation was in progress. M. Cambon was informed upon all of these points presumably to his satisfaction.

**THIS IS THE WAY TO TALK.**

There is one point, however, which the Spanish authorities, judging from the communication to their representatives here, fail fully to comprehend, and Secretary Day's call upon the ambassador last night was for the purpose, principally, of making perfectly clear

this one point, which was the evacuation of Cuba, Porto Rico and one of the Ladrone islands to be selected by the United States, and the permanent cession to this government of all these islands except Cuba, was made a condition precedent to all peace negotiations, and that not until these terms had been fully complied with would this government consent to entertain any peace proposition whatever.

**MOTIVES NOT QUESTIONED**

The question upon which the Spanish government has so far asked for additional information are regarded by the administration as perfectly legitimate and proper, and up to this time nothing has occurred to bring in question the sincerity of their motives. Under these circumstances it is the purpose of the President to deal with them in a spirit of perfect fairness and to make the road to peace as smooth for them as the rights and dignity of this government will permit, and to this end unimportant concessions will be readily granted.

**BELIEVED THAT SPAIN WILL ACCEPT.**

It was midnight last night before the concessions of the President regarding the meeting place of the peace commissioners was communicated to the Madrid authorities, so that, allowing the difference in time, it was impossible for an answer to have been received this morning. However, it is expected that the delay will not be long, probably at most not more than a day or two, and that the answer when it comes will be found to be an unconditional acceptance of the terms as they now stand.

**IT'S ONE THING OR THE OTHER.**

Now with the Spanish government assured that no further modifications can be expected, there is nothing remaining but an acceptance of the terms outright or a rejection without further debate, which is not expected.

**NEED HAVE NO FEARS.**

Something has been said about an effort on the part of the Spanish government to secure some guarantee from the United States that the lives and property of Spanish citizens in conquered territory shall be cared for. The idea of the administration is that no such pledge or guarantee is necessary. Assuming sovereignty over conquered territory and exercising it either through civil administration, as will be the case with Porto Rico in the end, or through military governorship, as will be the case in Cuba, for an indefinite time, the United States assumes a strict obligation to protect the lives, interests and property of all citizens of all stations, and it must be remembered that when the treaty of peace is signed the citizens of Spain, now enemies, will be in that category.

**SPANISH VIEWS.**

London, August 5.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times says: "Though peace is regarded as assured, it may not be attained so quickly as is generally expected. Senor Sagasta objects to being hurried and insists upon everything being done in a quiet, orderly and dignified manner. He considers it necessary to have full and satisfactory explanations as to all doubtful points in order to enable him best to protect the national interest against the aggressive tendencies of the Washington cabinet.

"He has also to examine very minutely the exigencies of the internal situation and home politics, so as to avoid popular dissatisfaction and political unrest. The Spanish people, though sincerely desirous of peace, are disposed to admire this hesitancy and tenacious holding out to the last, although aware that it implies greater sacrifices.

"As an illustration of this feeling, while Gen. Toral is blamed for capitulating at Santiago, Capt. Augusti, continuing a hopeless resistance at Manila, bids fair to be a popular hero. It would be premature to suppose that the political consultations now proceeding foreshadow the resignation of the Liberal cabinet when peace is concluded. The Conservatives have so constantly and loyally supported Sagasta throughout the war that no factious opposition need be feared from them."

**SAGASTA'S CONFERENCES.**

Madrid, August 4, 6 p. m.—Senor Sagasta, the premier, conferred to-day with the presidents of both chambers of the cortes, and is now conferring with Marshal Campos and the Duke of Teiuan, minister of foreign affairs in the last cabinet of the late Senor Canovas.

Until the official account of the peace negotiations is published the utmost secrecy will be observed.

Washington, August 5.—When the President closed his official work to-day he had not received the reply of Spain nor any intimation as to how soon the reply might be expected. The French ambassador had not been heard from throughout the day, and he, as well as our government officials, was waiting for Spain to give the final response. Two days have now passed without a word officially from Spain, either in the way of inquiry or response. From this it is clear that the Spanish cabinet fully realizes that the time for argument, counter proposals or modification has gone by, and that there is only one simple issue to be met, namely:

whether the American terms will be accepted as a whole or rejected. There is, indeed, reason to believe that the Spanish government has been directly advised that the stage of negotiations is past, and that only the matter of an answer, favorable or unfavorable, remains. That the answer has not come quickly is no matter of surprise to the officials here, for they realize the tremendous responsibility which Premier Sagasta must assume in making these peace terms sufficiently palatable to the Spanish populace and the political leaders to permit their acceptance without an internal convulsion.

**PEACE CONFERENCES IN MADRID.**

Madrid, August 5.—Noon.—The conferences between the political leaders on the subject of the peace terms continue. Senor Silvela, the Conservative leader, acting on behalf of Senor Castellar, the Republican leader, who was prevented by illness from being present, has conferred with the premier, Senor Sagasta, on the subject. He said that Senor Castellar, although an advocate of peace, was of the opinion that in negotiating its conclusion the government should remember the Virginius affair, when the energy displayed by Spain in dealing with the United States saved Spanish interests, and he thought every effort should be made to preserve Spanish sovereignty over Porto Rico.

Senor Silvela added that he personally did not favor any change of policy.

To-day the Liberal, moderate Republican, publishes an interview with Marshal Martinez de Campos, who is quoted as saying: "I openly favor peace. Everything that happened in this war could have been foreseen, but the most pessimistic could never have imagined that our misfortune would be so great—the destruction of Montojo's and Cervera's squadrons, the surrender of Santiago and the rapid and unresisted occupation of Porto Rico. No one could have imagined it, even taking into consideration the superiority of the United States. Neither the present government nor any other can change our situation. It would be mad to think of rejecting President McKinley's condition. The Liberal party can bring about peace, but Sagasta should not be asked to sign it. Such a course would not be prudent, and another Liberal cabinet should be constructed."

**Gen. Wade's Expedition.**

Washington, August 3.—In consonance with the declared purpose of the President at the beginning of peace overtures, the conference is not operating to restrain military operations in any degree. Orders went out to-day for a conference of leaders of the regiments to accompany Gen. Wade to Porto Rico, and within twenty-four hours some of the troops of this expedition will be boarding the transports at Newport News. It is felt that even should an armistice be declared before these troops see active service at the front, it will be beneficial for them to have made the trip, for otherwise there was danger of the morale of the troops being destroyed through their craving to get away from the big concentration camps and at least see the shores of Cuba or Porto Rico. Profiting by the experience of the last expedition, Gen. Wade's expedition is to be the most complete in detail of any that have yet left our shores, and the soldiers will be protected in their health and comfort to the utmost degree. Secretary Alger has himself conducted an inquiry into the conditions that led up to the fearful experience of the wounded soldiers who returned to the United States on the Concho, and he has taken the necessary steps to prevent a repetition of the bad management exhibited in that case. Thus there may be some delay in getting the troops away with Gen. Wade, in view of the determination to have everything ship shape before the men are on board, and, as the transportation department was taken somewhat by surprise by the suddenly announced decision of the Secretary of War to start this expedition, some days must elapse before the necessary transports can be gathered at the ports of transportation.

The following regiments have been designated to constitute Gen. Wade's provisional division for service in Porto Rico:

First Rhode Island, First North Carolina, First New Hampshire, First New Jersey, Second Texas, First Maine, Fourth Missouri, First Alabama, First Vermont, First West Virginia, First Kentucky, Third Tennessee, Twenty-Second New York, First Arkansas, Fifty-Second Iowa, Third Virginia, First Delaware and First Maryland.

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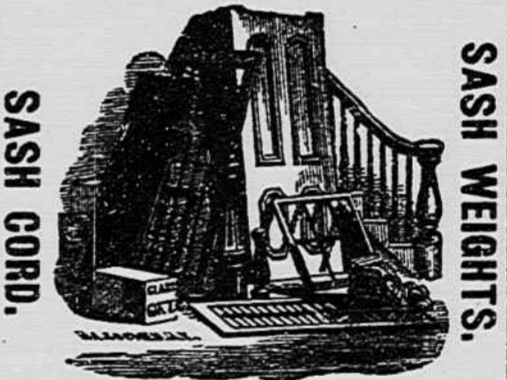
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OFFICE OF REGISTRATION, SUMTER COUNTY.

Sumter, S. C., May 1, 1897.  
Notice is hereby given that in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, the books for the registration of all legally qualified voters, and for the issuing of transfers, &c., will be open at the court house, between the hours of 9 o'clock a. m. and 3 o'clock p. m., on the first Monday of each month, for three successive days, until thirty days before the next general election. Minors who shall become of age during that period of thirty days, shall be entitled to registration before the books are closed, if otherwise qualified.

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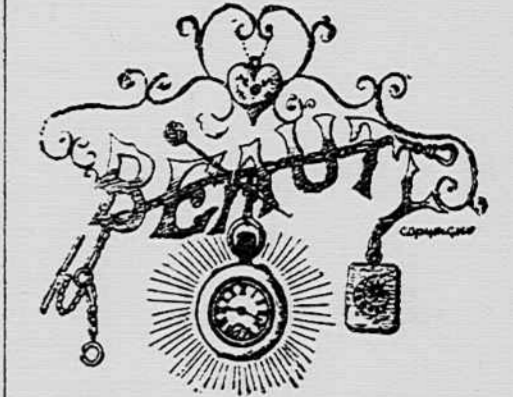
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