

# WAR WITH SPAIN IS IMMINENT.



### Warships Are Active.

Following are some of the latest dispatches on the subject. They certainly point to approaching war with Spain: Washington Special: President McKinley's Cuban policy may be a decidedly pacific one, but it is none the less a fact that there has been quietly managed a concentration of warships such as has never before been seen on the Atlantic coast. A rumor was current on Wall street today that a ship of war had been ordered to the harbor of Havana, and as a result telegrams poured in here asking for particulars. The rumor was, of course, entirely without foundation, but the story simply reflects the fact that the stock speculators are at last waking up to the fact that the United States is ready to aid Cuba at short notice if need be. At the navy department it is said that the ships will be kept out of Cuban waters until they are needed, but there is no longer any attempt to conceal the fact that the strongest fleet ever put together in this country is today within a few hours' sail of Cuba, and ready to be put to work off Havana at a few days' notice.

### A Formidable Fleet.

The fleet which has just concluded its evolutions off Fortress Monroe consists of the double turret monitor Puritan, with 10 guns; the battleship Indiana, 16 guns; Massachusetts, 16 guns; Texas, 9 guns; Maine, 10 guns; Iowa, 18 guns; cruisers Brooklyn, 20 guns; New York, 18 guns; and the dispatch boat Dolphin. Admiral Sigsbee has under his immediate command, fresh from sea, one monitor, five battleships and two cruisers, with a total in the main batteries of 116 great guns, a force far in excess of anything Spain has in Cuban waters and quite sufficient to blow Havana into kingdom come. Besides these there are at New York the cruisers Cincinnati, Detroit, Marblehead and Montgomery and the monitor Terror, with a total of 45 big guns. At Norfolk, ready for use, is the monitor Amphitrite, with 6 guns. The cruiser Lancaster, with 12 guns more, is on its way to Boston from Montevideo. Of the light draft gunboats, the Nashville and Helena are on the Florida coast, the Annapolis is on its way, and the Wilmington is at Norfolk.

### New York Fleet Ready.

In addition to this fleet of heavy-weights there are now assembled at New York the torpedo boats Porter, Ericsson, Cushing, Foote, Silletto and Dupont. They and the ships of the North Atlantic squadron will be kept in West Indian and gulf waters during the winter months. If all is well they will cruise as usual, but if there should be a crisis in Cuban matters the American fleet would be "lying around loose" in the immediate vicinity. Navy department officials make no secret of the fact now that while there is no purpose of making the slightest threatening demonstration, care has at last been taken that the North Atlantic squadron should be today stronger in fighting ships than at any time since the war.

### HOW WE WILL FIGHT.

#### Course to Be Pursued by This Country in the Event of War.

New York Special: The news that Captain Jose Sobral, the naval attaché of the Spanish Legation, had been spying around our coast fortifications and navy-yards, has aroused the navy department to the formation of a plan of campaign against the fleet that Spain is bound to send in case war is declared.

In greater part it was worked out nearly one year ago at the Naval War college by Captain A. T. Mahan, now retired, Captain Henry S. Taylor of the battleship Massachusetts and Lieutenant Slinger, chief of the Bureau of Naval Intelligence. It has been brought to the last detail within the last three days by the staff of the naval intelligence bureau.

The North Atlantic squadron now cruising off the capes of Virginia will be the fleet to meet and do battle with the modern Armada of Spain. This squadron in point of armor, speed and weight of metal that can be thrown in broadside in a given time, is the strongest ever gathered under the United States flag, and it compares favorably with any squadron of the world's great powers.

#### The First Move in the Game.

The Secretary of the Navy knows at every hour of the day just where it is located, and the dispatch boat Dolphin lies at Washington with steam up all the time. If, for instance, war should be declared today, the Dolphin would go flying out with dispatches to Admiral Sigsbee sending him to Hayti, to the alternative ports (which are also coaling stations) of Samana Bay, on the east coast, or Mole St. Nicholas on the west coast. Both have cable communication with Washington for further orders.

Then the commerce destroyers, Columbia and Minneapolis, would be sent straight away to the coast of Spain, and the four American liners, St. Paul, St. Louis, Paris and New York, would be summoned to the Brooklyn navy yard to have five-inch guns placed upon the twelve platforms with which each is equipped. These six "scout" or observation ships would be told off to watch the ports of Cadiz or Terrol, the only

places in Spain where fleets can be utilized. They are not supposed to do any fighting. In fact, if any battleship come out after them they are to run out of danger and then return to their watch.

If one of the Spanish boats should break down the whole armada would have to wait, for no boat would dare attempt limping back to Spain alone. One or two of our scouts could easily be spared in such emergency to send it to the bottom. The Spanish fleet will have to come straight across the Atlantic until it reaches about 55 degrees west longitude. Its coal capacity will prevent any tortuous or dodging course.

From there it has a choice of three lanes to Havana, or possibly Santiago de Cuba on the south coast of the island, where it must go for coal.

#### Scouts on the Lookout.

On the pointing of the armada for any of these three lanes the commander of the "scouts" will detach one by private long distance signal (about fifteen miles), and it will start off under full steam to the Admiral of our main or defensive fleet. Any one of our six could get to Hayti eighteen hours in advance of the Spanish fleet, and it would signal its news that the enemy's fleet, so strong, at such an hour, in such latitude and longitude, at such speed, was coming on such a course.

This scout would signal this about fifteen miles off port, saving from forty-five to sixty miles, and dash back at full speed again with whatever instructions the Admiral might give. Four or five hours later another scout would come in with fresher details, and a few hours later still another. Then the Admiral of the main fleet could get underway with the assurance of intercepting and engaging his enemies at just the point he might select.

In case the first battle should turn in favor of the Spaniards our coast

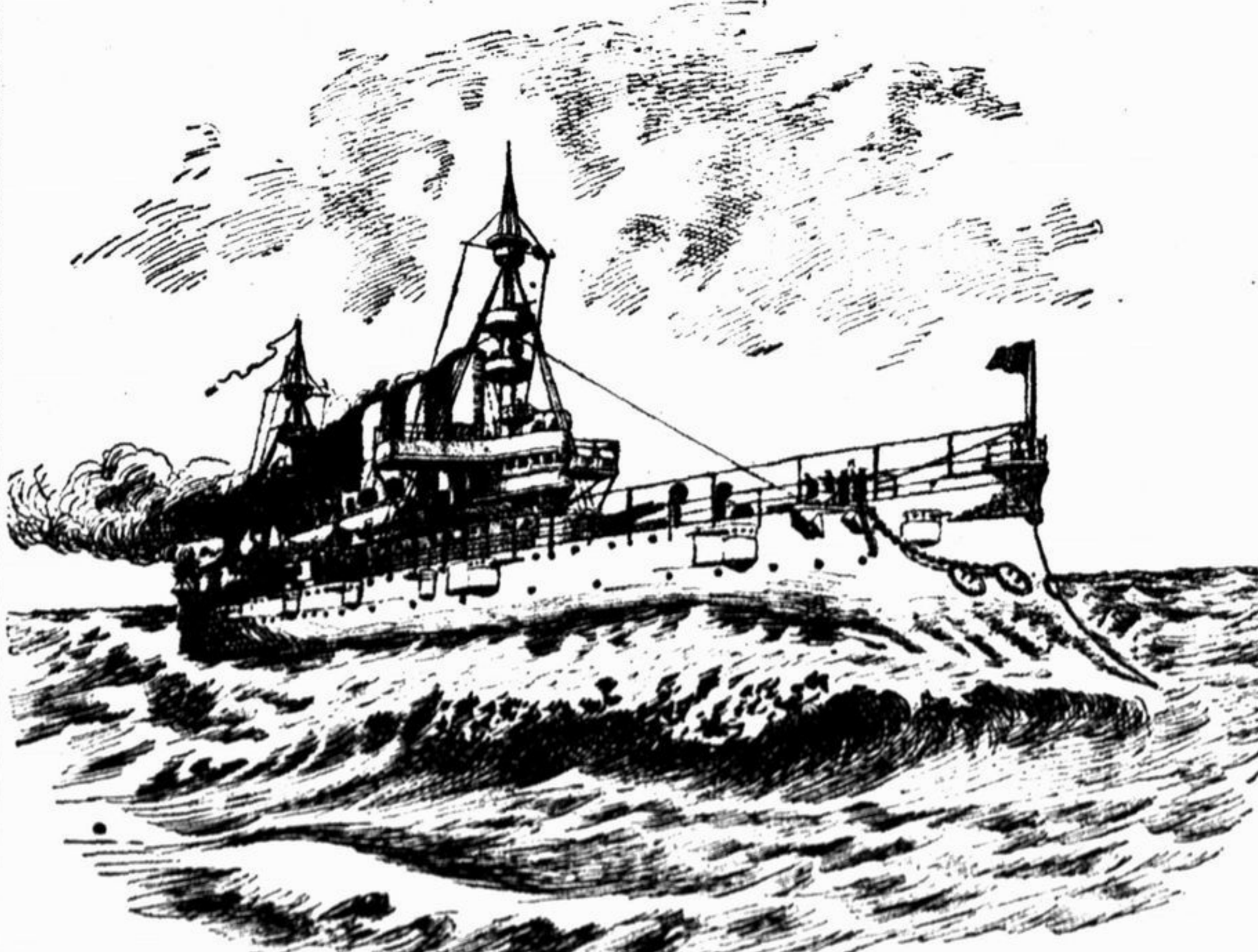
how we will keep soul and body together."

Gen. Weyler is heedless of the condition of the desolated provinces. Instead of trying to remedy the situation he has issued orders, which I have read, to destroy utterly the towns of La Sierra, Arimao, Las Auras, San Anton, Los Guanos, Arriete, and Punta Gorda, in Santa Clara Province, all in the neighborhood of the City of Cienfuegos. The only reason he gives for this barbarity, which will leave homeless thousands of people, is that the Spanish troops cannot defend those places against the raids of the insurgents. It is the beginning of Weyler's policy to reduce Cuba to ashes before surrendering it to the Cubans.

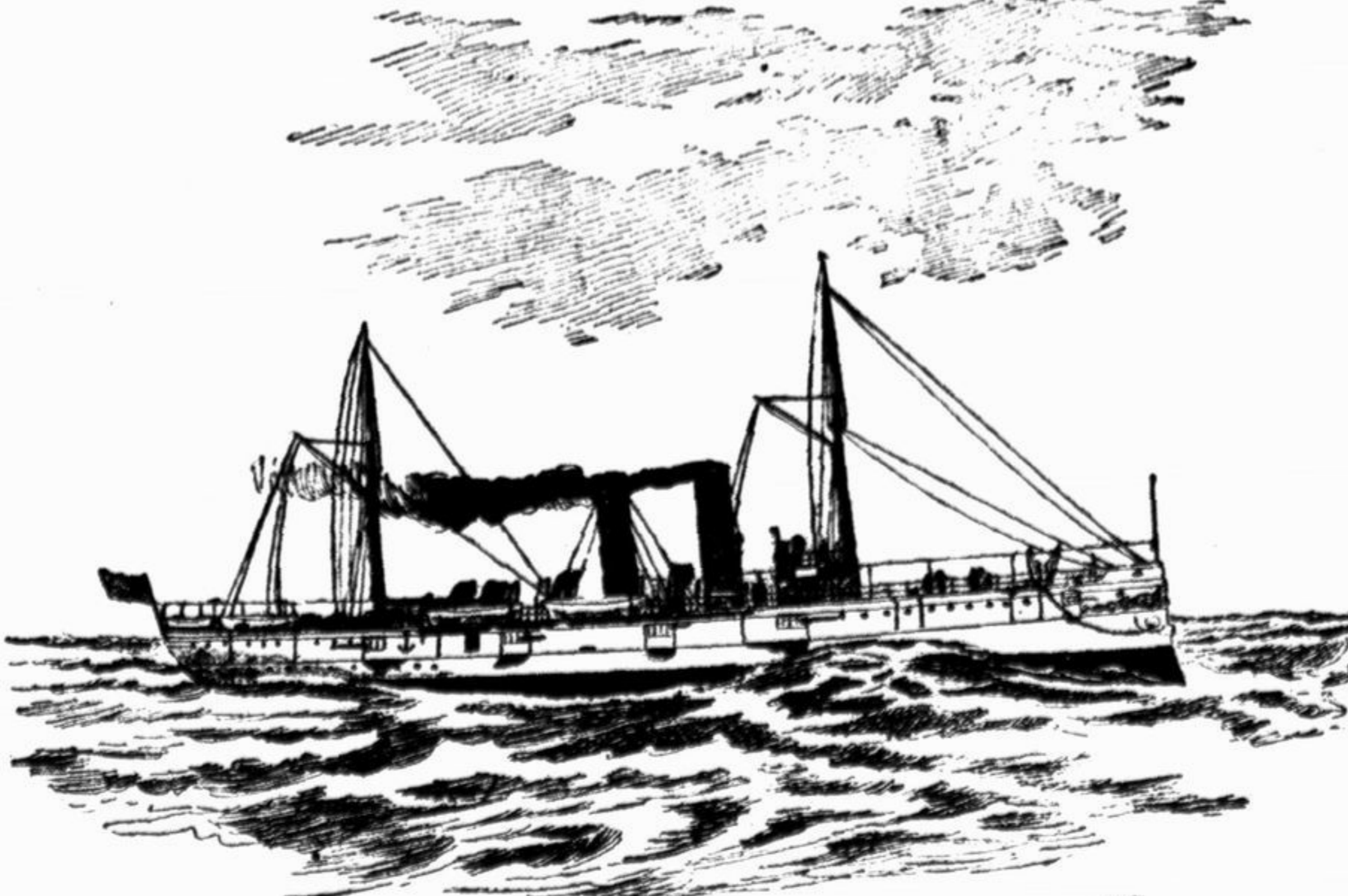
At Josa, Matanzas Province, another train has been blown up with dynamite, the armored car being shattered by the explosion. Ten Spanish soldiers were killed. The other cars were sacked by the Cubans.

A large number of cattle have been seized by the insurgents near Bacino, Santa Clara Province. The Spanish Battalion of America was escorting them, and its lieutenant-colonel has been court-martialed by orders of Weyler.

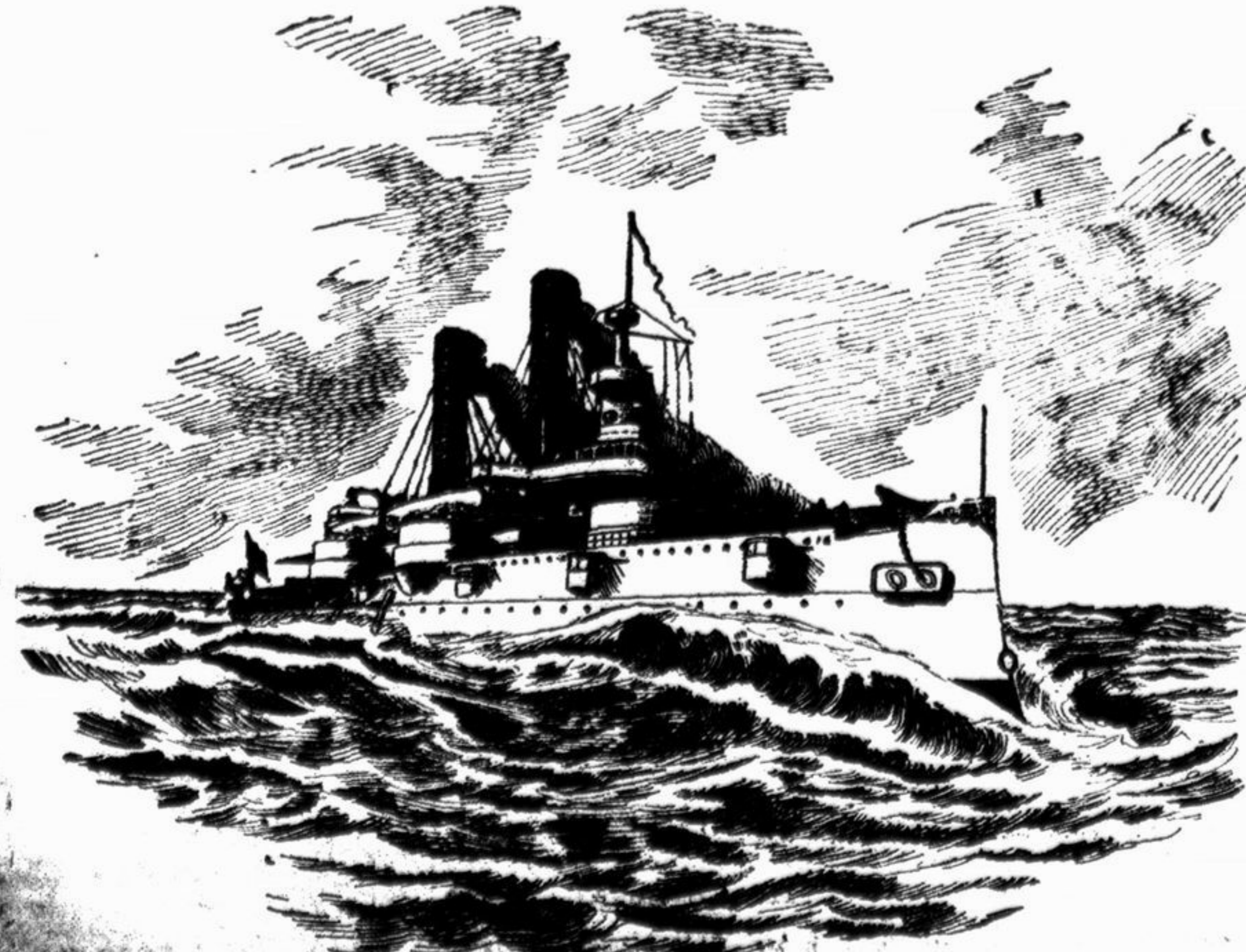
At the Tunicu river, near Sancti



THE ARMORED CRUISER NEW YORK.



THE ARMORED CRUISER DETROIT.



THE BATTLESHIP INDIANA.

fleet, mobilized at Key West, could keep them from following up the success. This fleet would include the double turreted monitors Amphitrite, Terror and Minatonomoh, the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius, the five vessels in the torpedo boat flotilla, and the light draft gunboats Helena, Wilmington, Nashville and Annapolis.

The heavy monitors alone, fresh for service, could keep back the short-coaled and battle-weakened Spanish battleships.

If our main fleet should defeat the Spaniards in the first battle this coast squadron would be sent across the straits of Florida to engage the fortifications of Havana.

#### CUBA ALMOST IN ASHES.

Weyler Issues Orders to Destroy Seven Towns in Santa Clara.

Havana, via Key West, Special: At Los Palacios, Pinar del Rio Province, thirty-two persons died from hunger on last Saturday. The majority of the population are starving and crowd the streets, demanding relief from the Spanish authorities. Los Palacios, before the war, had at least 2,000 inhabitants. Now there are not over 800.

The same awful condition exists over all the Province of Pinar del Rio. Reports from the capital of the province are no less terrible. A magistrate of the Audiencia (Judge of the Superior court) writes thus to a friend in Havana:

"Within a week all our resources will be exhausted, and then I don't know

Spain. In the same province, Spanish forces of the Battalion of Arapiles had an engagement with the insurgents on Saturday, both sides claiming the victory.

At San Pualas, Santa Clara also, another fight took place the same day between the Spanish forces under Gen. Montaner and the insurgents under Col. Smiley. After three hours the insurgents retreated. Losses on both sides were heavy and the Spanish Major Vilar was seriously wounded.

A decisive victory was won on Sept. 9 near Artemisa, Pinar del Rio, by the insurgents, under Gen. Pedro Diaz, over the Spanish battalion of Vergara. The battle was fought at a place called Damasco Campo. After a heavy fire the insurgents charged the Spanish lines and a hand-to-hand encounter ensued, with the complete defeat of the Spaniards. The Spanish retreated in disorder to San Jose and the Cubans followed them to within sight of the town.

Cattle are being sent into Havana from Punta Rosa, Fla., to supply the capital.

All the reports about the election of president of the Cuban republic are considered here to be premature. The general assembly of representatives held at Gualymarillo, Puerto Principe, agreed before voting for the president to decide first about the reforms to be made in the constitution and the new powers to be bestowed upon the president himself. This discussion was a matter of several days, and if the election has taken place the results are not yet positively known.

#### Driven Away by the Tank Method.

Listerville, W. Va., has discovered a new cure for drunkenness which has struck terror to the hearts of the old soaks and the young soaks. It is claimed that this method shows a bigger percentage of cures than any other remedy ever offered to an anxious public. Whenever a resident of Listerville gets his package, he is hauled to an old gas tank on the outskirts of the village. Into this he is shoved ungraciously and then the boys of the village troll the tank about the streets for an hour or so, beating campaign tunes on the tank with able bodied clubs. When the subject is removed from the tank he is thoroughly sober, very repentant and ready to take any sort of a temperance pledge the good citizens of Listerville may shove at him.

#### Effective Fies.

"Oh, my friends," exclaimed the walking delegate, who had turned evangelist, "let me entreat you to shun the raging fires of hell. There isn't a pound of honest, union-made brimstone burned in Satan's entire kingdom."—Chicago Tribune.

"Why do they call that little Miss Flirtly a sleight of hand performer?" "Because she has refused a dozen suitors or more."

### NEW-ECONOMY.

#### A Tennessee Community That Lives as One Big Family.

A Tennessee community, apparently founded on institutes drawn from the precepts of Ruskin, has just established a college, to which they gave the name of that rhapsodist, the New Economy. The town they have built up in the last three years. The community now numbers 213, and possesses property valued at \$80,000. When it started each head of a family put in \$500, and the increment represents what they have earned in the interval beyond their living expenses. The settlement lives as a single family; its standard of value is an hour's labor; in its home commerce it has no money and needs none—a certificate that labor has been performed takes its place. A pound of tea costs eleven hours' work; seventy hours' pay for a pair of shoes; two and a half for a pound of crackers, and so on. Everybody works and all—men and women alike—receive the same wages. They have heretofore worked ten hours a day, but expect soon to reduce it to eight. They have a kindergarten, an adequate education, machinery, music, languages and a limited technology being taught in addition to the regular branches. The majority of the communists are agnostics. There is no church, but those who like can go to church outside. Of the great number of similar communities first and last founded in this country few survive. The most do not outlast a decade, and it would not be safe to predict a longer term for this one, though its institution of a college shows that it has so far no misgivings on that score.—New York Tribune.

#### Throwing Rice and Slippers.

In the Ladies' Home Journal Edward W. Bok notes the abuse of the pretty custom of casting a small parcel of rice or a dainty slipper after a departing bride and groom—an unspoken Godspeed. "The dainty slipper," he also says, "has been transformed into the old shoe of doubtful origin, and thrown with force and accuracy, causing no end of discomfort. And this is what two pretty customs have degenerated into. They have been vulgarized, and, therefore, the sooner they pass into disuse the better. The sentiment of the custom has been lost. Rice and shoes are no longer omens of good luck. The modern thrower of them has transformed them into missiles with which to annoy and mortify the bride and groom. The better class of people have already begun to substitute a shower of rose petals, and this new and far more beautiful idea is rapidly being followed. We might have preserved the old customs, but we have not. Henceforth, promiscuous rice-throwing and the casting of old shoes at weddings will be left to the bores of our modern society, into whose hands these acts have fallen, and who seem happiest when they can convert the graceful customs of olden times into practical jokes."

#### His Fame with Both Enemies.

From the Washington Post: General Robertson tells a story of the late General Benjamin F. Butler which is new to me, and as the old hero himself told it to General Robertson it may be new to you as well. It happened one time when General Butler was in Portland. A great reception had been arranged in his honor, and the largest hall in town was engaged to hold it in. The place was lavishly decorated, and one white muslin banner especially attracted the general's attention. On it was painted in large black letters: "General Benjamin F. Butler, the hero of Five Forks." And beneath the big letters somebody had written: "And goodness only knows how many spoons."

#### Minister to Russia.

Mr. Hitchcock is a great grandson of the famous Col. Ethan Allen of revolu-



MINISTER HITCHCOCK.

tionary days, born in Alabama, educated in Connecticut, and identified with the business interests of the west. He is well acquainted with Russian customs, having spent some time in that country and in China. He has been identified in politics only in business way.

#### In This We Are Tardy.

It is strange that while this country is so far advanced in electrical railways it should be behind Europe in the pneumatic tube system of transmitting messages and small packages. Some of the largest cities of Europe, such as London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Paris and Berlin, have been provided with pneumatic tubes for transmitting messages for forty years.—Philadelphia Record.

Shallow men believe in luck, believe in circumstances. Strong men believe in cause and effect.—Emerson.