SPAIN IS HUMBLE

Asks the French Ambassador to Make Overtures Looking to Peace.

Her Request Is Presented to President McKinley---No Reply Yet Made.

The Proposition Includes No Suggestion as to Terms---Armistice Is Not Asked.

President and Cabinet Officers Informally Consider the Message from Spain.

The Offer May Be Accepted, But Pending Negotiations War Will Be Vigorously Pushed.

Washington, July 27.—The Spanish government has sued for peace, not indirectly through the great powers of Europe, but by a direct appeal to President McKinley. The proposition was formally submitted to the president at three o'clock Tuesday afternoon by the French ambassador, M. Jules Cambon, who had received instructions from the foreign office at Paris

M. JULES CAMBON.

to deliver to the government the tender of peace formulated by the Spanish ministry. At the conclusion of the conference between the president and the French ambassador, the following official statement was issued from the white house:

"The French ambassador, on behalf of the government of Spain and by direction of the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, presented to the president this afternoon at the white house a message from the Spanish government looking to the termination of the war, and the settlement of terms of peace."

The First Overture.

This was the only official statement made public, but it sufficed to put at rest all conjecture, and to make clear and definite that at last Spain had taken the initiative toward peace. Although peace rumors have been current almost daily heretofore since the war began not one of them had the shadow of foundation, and until the French ambassador received instructions from Paris, last Monday night, no overtures of any kind had been received. Shortly before midnight Monday night a dispatch to the French embassy made it known to the embassy that the ambassador would be charged with the important mission of opening peace negotiations in behalf of Spain. The complete instructions, including an official letter from Duke Almadover Rio, Spanish minister of foreign affairs, were received Tuesday morning. Thereupon M. Thiebeaut, first secretary of the embassy, called at the state department and asked that an hour be appointed for a call by Ambassador Cambon on the president. The purpose of the call was not stated. It was arranged at the white house that the call should be made at three o'clock. M. Cambon first went to the state department, where he was joined by Secretary Day, and the two then proceeded together to the white house. The call lasted about half an hour, and after the first formalities had been executed by M. Cambon, the talk became general and quite formal, the president, the ambassador and the secretary of state discussing the outlook for a conclusion of hostilities.

Suggests No Terms.

The proposition submitted by the ambassador acting for the Spanish government was quite general in terms and was confined to the one essential point of an earnest plea that negotiations be opened for the purpose of terminating the war and arriving at terms of peace. The communication of the Spanish government did not suggest any specific terms of peace, nor was any reference made to Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico or other Spanish possessions. The evident purpose of the Madrid authorities was to first learn whether the United States would treat on the subject of peace, and after that to take up such terms as the two parties might suggest. Neither was there any suggestion from the Spanish government that an armistice be established pending the peace negotiations. It seemed natural, however, from the proposition that formal peace negotiations be entered upon and that pending their conclusion a cessation of hostilities would occur.

Owing to the importance of the communication the ambassador adopted the usual diplomatic procedure of reading the communication from the original, in French, the translation being submitted by M. Thiebeaut. In the conversation which followed the reading of their proposition neither the president nor the ambassador entered upon the question of the terms of peace. The instructions of the ambassador had confined him to the one essential point of opening peace negotiations, and it was evident that the president desired to consider the proposition at this moment before giving any definite reply. It was finally determined that the president would consult the members of his cabinet concerning the proposition, and after a decision had been arrived at M. Cambon would then be invited to the white house for a further conference and for a final answer from the United States government. Before the call closed a brief official memorandum was agreed upon, in order to set at rest misleading conjecture and to give to the public information on a subject which had advanced beyond the point where diplomatic reserve was essential.

Speculation as to Terms.

Naturally the plea of Spain to open peace negotiations opens up a wide field of conjecture on what the terms of peace will be. Thus far there is no official warrant for saying what terms Spain will propose or what terms the United States will offer or accept.

So far as this country is concerned it is the general impression that the complete evacuation of Cuba and Puerto Rico will be insisted upon as a sine qua non. There is not the same certainty as to the Philippines, Ladrones and Carolines, although the belief is growing that the terms of the United States will include coaling stations in these groups. On the part of Spain it is believed that she now has reached such a realization of her misfortune that she will readily consent to terms for the evacuation of Cuba and probably Puerto Rico. The Spanish desire is very strong for the retention of the Philippines, although there is little doubt that coaling stations there and at other points will be conceded. The matter of war indemnity is for future consideration, although there does not appear to be a disposition among the officials here to pile up a heavy war indemnity against Spain in her present helpless condition.

Talked It Over.

During the late afternoon and evening the president conferred with most of the members of the cabinet, and the Spanish proposition was thoroughly canvassed. Secretaries Day, Alger and Long were at the white house during the afternoon, and in the evening the president was joined by Secretaries Bliss and Wilson and Postmaster-General Smith. There was no cabinet meeting in the ordinary sense, but these talks with individual members served about the same purpose as a formal meeting

May Accept Offer.

3 a. m.—The conference of Secretaries Alger, Bliss, Wilson and Postmaster-General Emory Smith with President McKinley lasted until nearly midnight. At its conclusion Secretary Alger said that no special cabinet meeting had been called for to-day, and he saw no prospect of one. Probably no regular session of the cabinet will be necessary for the president to determine upon his answer to the French ambassador. In fact, from what was said by members of the cabinet who have consulted the president, it seems practically determined to accept the offer to open negotiations. It was stated that in effecting a settlement some beginning had to be made. The offer made Tuesday was such a beginning. Nothing could be known about the terms upon which the negotiations will be conducted or proposals to be made until there had been a further conference by those having the matter in charge. Secretary Alger again stated when he left the white house that there would be no change in the plans of campaign and the war would go forward with vigor.

Plans Not Made.

In case the peace negotiations are opened the means by which they will be carried on are not determined, nor have they been officially considered. It is understood, however, that one means likely to be proposed is to authorize direct negotiations between Spain and this country, Spain being represented by Senor Leon Castillo, the Spanish ambassador at Paris, and the United States by Gen. Horace Porter, our ambassador to France. Senor Castillo is one of the foremost diplomats of Europe, and since the war began his chief mission has been to go from capital to capital and endeavor to awaken foreign intervention in behalf of Spain. Failing in this, he has turned his attention to the peace movement as the last chance for saving his country. Castillo is a linguist, speaking English, so that the negotiations could proceed with facility.

The earl of Minto has been appointed governor-general of Canada in succession to the earl of Aberdeen.

THE FLAG IS RAISED.

The Americans Capture the Puerto Rican Town of Guanica.

A Skirmish in Which Not an American Is Killed---Troops Are Landed---Gen. Miles' Action a Surprise to War Department.

Washington, July 27.—The war department at 11:30 p. m. posted the following:

"St. Thomas, July 26, 9:35 p. m.— Secretary of War, Washington: Circumstances were such that I deemed it advisable to take the harbor of Guanica first, 15 miles west of Ponce, which was successfully accomplished between daylight and 11 o'clock. Spaniards surprised. The Gloucester, Commander Wainwright, first entered the harbor; met with slight resistance; fired a few shots. All the transports are now in the harbor and infantry and artillery rapidly going ashore. This is a well-protected harbor. Water sufficiently deep for all transports and heavy vessels to anchor within 200 yards of shore. The Spanish flag was lowered and the American flag raised at 11 o'clock to-day. Capt. Higginson, with his fleet, has rendered able and earnest assistance. Troops in good health and best of spirits. No casualties.

"MILES,
"Major General Commanding Army."

Capture of Guanica.

Port of Guanica, Island of Puerto Rico, July 25, via the Island of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, July 27.—The United States military expedition, under the command of Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army of the United States, which left Guantanamo bay during the evening of Thursday last, July 21, was landed here successfully to-day, after a skirmish betwen a detachment of the Spanish troops and a crew of 30 belonging to the launch of the United States auxiliary gunboat Gloucester, formerly Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's steam yacht Corsair. Four of the Spaniards were killed, and no Americans were hurt. The troops were pushed forward promptly in order to capture the railroad leading to Ponce, which is only about ten miles east of this place.

Plans to Surprise Spaniards.

The voyage from Guantanamo bay to this port was uneventful. At noon Monday Gen. Miles called for a consultation, announcing that he was determined not to go to San Juan cape, but by the Mona passage instead, land here, surprise the Spaniards and deceive their military authorities. The course was then changed and the Dixie was sent to warn Gen. Brooke at Cape San Juan.

Early Tuesday morning the Gloucester, in charge of Lieut. Commander Wainwright, steamed into Guanica harbor in order to reconnoiter the place. With the fleet waiting outside, the gallant little fighting yacht braved the mines which were supposed to be in the harbor, and found that there were five fathoms of water close in shore.

The Spaniards were taken completely by surprise. Almost the first they knew of the approach of the army of invasion was in the announcement contained in the firing of a gun from the Gloucester, demanding that the Spaniards haul down their flag, which was floating from a flagstaff in front of a blockhouse standing to the east of the village.

Raised "Old Glory."

The first couple of three-pounders was fired into the hills right and left of the bay, purposely avoiding the town, lest the projectiles should hurt women and children. The Gloucester then hove to within about 600 yards of the shore and lowered a launch having on board a Colt rapid-fire gun and 30 men under the command of Lieut. Huse, which was sent ashore without encountering opposition. Quartermaster Beck thereupon told Yeoman Lacy to haul down the Spanish flag, which was done, and they then raised on the flagstaff the first United States flag to float over Puerto Rican soil.

Spaniards Open Fire.

Suddenly about 30 Spaniards opened fire with Mauser rifles on the American party. Lieut. Huse and his men responded with great gallantry, the Colt gun doing effective work.

Almost immediately after the Spaniards fired on the Americans the Gloucester opened fire on the enemy with all her three and six-pounders which could be brought to bear, shelling the town and also dropping shells into the hills to the west of Guanica, where a number of Spanish cavalry were to be seen hastening toward the spot where the Americans had landed. Lieut. Huse then threw up a little fort, which he named Fort Wainwright, and laid barbed wire in the street in front of it in order to repel the expected cavalry attack. The lieutenant also mounted the Colt gun and signaled for reenforcements, which were sent from the Gloucester.

Spanish Treachery.

While the Mausers were peppering all around, Lieut. Commander Wainwright called to a correspondent and said: "They fired on us after their flag was down and ours was up and after I had spared the town for the sake of the women and children. The next town I strike I will blow up."

Four Spaniards Killed.

Presently a few of the Spanish cavalry joined those who were fighting in the street of Guanica, but the Colt gun barked to a purpose, killing four of them. By that time the Gloucester had the range of the town and of the blockhouse and all her guns were spitting fire, the doctor and the paymaster helping to serve the guns.

Soon afterwards white-coated galloping cavalrymen were seen climbing the hills to the westward and the foot soldiers were scurrying along the fences from the town. By 9:45 with the exception of a few guerrilla shots the town was won and the enemy was driven out of its neighborhood.

Landing the Troops.

After Lieut. Huse had captured the place he deployed his small force into the suburbs. But he was soon reenforced by the regulars, who were followed by company G, of the Sixth Illinois, and then by other troops in quick succession. All the boats of the men-of-war and the transports were used in the work of landing the troops, each steam launch towing four or five boats loaded to the sails with soldiers. But, everything progressed in an orderly manner and according to the plans of Gen. Miles. The latter went ashore at about noon, after stopping to board the Gloucester and thank Lieut. Commander Wainwright for his gallant action.

Gen. Miles said: "Guanica and Cinga are in the disaffected portion of the island. Latteo, the insurgent leader, lives at Yauco, a few miles inland. Had we landed at Cape San Juan a line of rifle pits might have stopped our advance."

Officials Surprised.

Washington, July 27.—The news of the landing of Gen. Miles at Guanica, on the southeast shore of Puerto Rico, came as a genuine surprise to the war department. It had been all carefully planned that he was to make his landing at another point, as remote as possible from the place where he actually landed, so there was little wonder that the officials received the first news of the landing with incredulity, and even went to the length of supposing that the story had been put afloat in order to distract attention from the point which had been selected. Just why Gen. Miles made this wide departure from the plans of the department is not known, but it is supposed that he gathered some information since he left Siboney that induced him to make the change. The result, however, has been to perplex the department officials deeply and to considerably derange their carefully prepared programme for the remainder of the expedition. It will now be necessary to intercept the sections of the expedition already at sea heading for certain selected points on the coast of Puerto Rico and to advise them of the change in the plans.

Gen. Wilson's brigade is now approaching the island, being due there to-day, and reinforcements will follow at intervals of one or two days until the whole force of 30,000 men is landed, unless events connected with the peace negotiations make it expedient to stop further movements. However, it is a matter for congratulation to the war department that Gen. Miles has managed to set foot on Puerto Rico before the first overtures for peace and thus to place the island in the same position as Cuba and the Philippines, namely, as territory at least partially in the possession of the United States at the beginning of the negotiations.

[Guanica, the point of debarkation of the Puerto Rican expeditionary force, is a small town of 1,000 inhabitants on the southern coast of the island. On a rough calculation it is less than 20 miles air line distant from Ponce and 65 miles from San Juan, against which the assault is to be directed. Guanica is about six miles south of Yauco, of which city it forms the port, and with which it is connected by a good road. The town is situated on a bay of the same name, which forms one of the best ports in the whole island. The banks to the right are steep and form a good natural wharf. Three vessels can lie alongside and unload by means of gang planks. Vessels of 30 feet draft can enter the bay easily and proceed close in shore. The conspicuous advantage of this port, aside from the excellent harbor facilities for the transports, is the utter absence of fortifications or mines.]

Admits the Landing.

Madrid, July 27.—An official dispatch from San Juan de Puerto Rico confirms the report of an American landing at Puerto de Guanica. The Spaniards had one officer killed and three soldiers wounded. The Americans, with strong artillery forces, have established themselves on shore.

CASUALTIES AT SANTIAGO.

Gen. Shafter Sends a Detailed Report of the Dead and Wounded in the Battle.

Washington, July 27.—Gen. Shafter's detailed report of the American casualties in the battle of Santiago has been received at the war department and is now being prepared for publication. The total number of casualties was 1,595. Recapitulated, the American losses were: Killed, 23 officers and 208 enlisted men; wounded, 80 officers and 1,203 men; missing, 81 men. The missing are supposed to be dead, as, so far as known, the Spanish forces took no prisoners.

Milwaukee Woman Suicides.

San Diego, Cal., July 27.—Mrs. Alice Aiken Brewer, of Milwaukee, who arrived here six months ago, for her health, committed suicide by shooting herself through the head with a revolver. Her husband, Hugo Brewer, a prominent retired real estate dealer, of Milwaukee, joined her about three weeks ago. No cause is known for the suicide.

A GLORIOUS RECORD.

Remarkable Work During the Three Months of War.

Gen. Shafter Issues a General Order Praising His Troops — Achievements Recounted and Bravery of His Men Extolled.

Washington, July 25. — With the week just closed the United States saw the end of the third month of the war with Spain, and the responsible officials, from the president down to the lowest employe who has to do with shaping the course of events, feel nothing but satisfaction at the progress made. An army of 250,000 men has been mobilized, armed and equipped, and much of it has seen service. The battles preceding the capture of Santiago have been remarkable in many respects, and in the opinion of military experts have covered the United States army engaged with imperishable glory. Modern warfare of a type developed in these engagements was absolutely new and untried not only to the United States army but to the world.

No such charge is recorded in history as that made upon the stone fort and the blockhouses crowning the hills of El Caney. There have been engagements between trained troops and savage races in the jungles of India and on the hills of South Africa of late years that conveyed in a slight manner the possibilities of modern weapons. But these battles fought by the Fifth army corps have been the first in which large bodies of troops of civilized nations on both sides have been engaged with all the implements of modern warfare, and the result is bound to be highly instructive to the military student and to extort admiration for the splendid fighting qualities of the United States soldiers from the most unwilling critics.

Shafter's Words of Praise.

Santiago, July 25.—Following is Maj. Gen. Shafter's order, just published:

"Headquarters United States Troops in Cuba, Santiago de Cuba, July 19.—General Order No. 26: The successful accomplishment of the campaign against Santiago, resulting in its downfall and the surrender of the Spanish forces and the capture of large amounts of military stores, together with the destruction of the entire Spanish fleet in the harbor, which, upon the investment of the city, was forced to leave, is one of which this army can well be proud. This has been accomplished through the heroic deeds of the army, and to its officers and men the major general commanding offers his sincere thanks for their endurance of hardships heretofore unknown in the American army. The work you have accomplished may well appeal to the pride of your countrymen, and has been rivaled upon few occasions in the world's history. Landing upon an unknown coast, you faced dangers in disembarking and overcame obstacles that, even in looking back, were insurmountable.

A Record of Bravery.

"Seizing, with the assistance of the navy, the towns of Baiquiri and Siboney, you pushed boldly forth, gallantly driving back the enemy's outpost in the engagement of La Quasina and completed the concentration of the enemy near Sevilla, in sight of the Spanish stronghold at Santiago de Cuba. The outlook from Sevilla was one that might well have appalled the stoutest heart. Behind you ran a narrow road, made well-nigh impassable by rains, while to the front you looked out upon high foothills covered with dense tropical growth, which could only be traversed by bridle paths terminating within range of the enemy's guns. Nothing deterred, you responded eagerly to the order to close upon the foe, and, attacking at Caney and San Juan, drove him from work to work until he took refuge within his last and strongest entrenchments, immediately surrounding the city. Despite the fierce glare of a southern sun and rains that fell in torrents, you valiantly withstood his attempts to drive you from the position your valor has won. Holding in your vise-like grip the army opposed to you, after 17 days of battle and siege, you were rewarded by the surrender of nearly 24,000 prisoners, 12,000 being those in your immediate front, the others scattered in the various towns of eastern Cuba, freeing completely the eastern part of the island from Spanish troops.

Mourns for Dead Heroes.

"This was not done without great sacrifices. The death of 250 gallant soldiers and the wounding of 1,234 others shows but too plainly the fierce contest in which you were engaged. The few reported missing are undoubtedly among the dead, as no prisoners were lost. For those who have fallen in battle with you, the commanding general sorrows, and with you will ever cherish their memory. Their devotion to duty sets a high example of courage and patriotism to our fellow countrymen. All who have participated in the campaign, battle and siege of Santiago de Cuba will recall with pride the grand deeds accomplished and will hold one another dear for having shared the sufferings, hardships and triumphs together. All may well feel proud to inscribe on their banners the name of Santiago de Cuba.

"By command of Maj. Gen. Shafter,
"E. J. M'CLERNAND,
"Assistant Adjutant General."

Wine for Sick and Wounded.

New York, July 23.—A firm of wine-makers at Rheims, France, has offered the United States government 1,200 bottles of champagne for the sick and wounded soldiers. The surgeon general of the army referred the offer to the secretary of the treasury, who has issued orders that the wine be admitted free of duty. Part of the wine will be sent to Santiago and the rest to other ports.

Sails to Join Miles.

Washington, July 26.—Maj. Gen. Brooke, commanding the First army corps, sailed Monday from Newport News to join Gen. Miles at Puerto Rico.