

# THE DISPATCH.

VOL. 4. NO. 50.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., MAY 11, 1898.

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## 35 CENTS.

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### Boys' Blue Serge Pants,

—AT—  
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Supply your boys at once. You may never get such a Bargain again.

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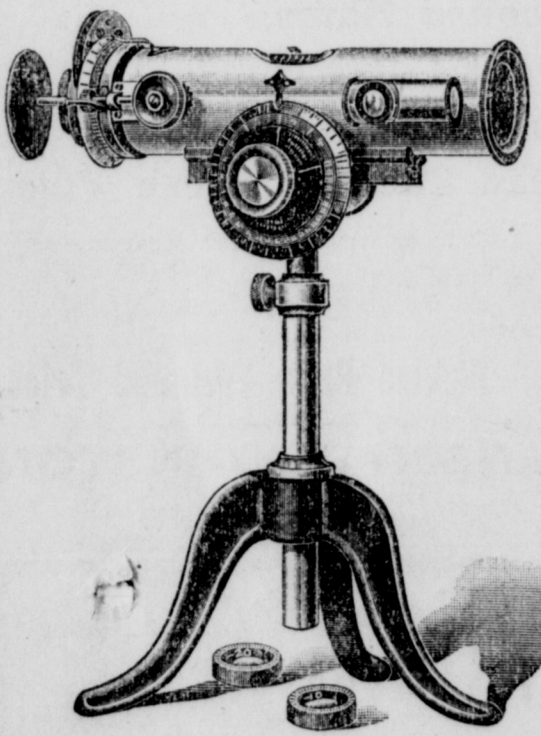
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Choice Pastry Flours.

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### THE HORRORS OF WAR.

As Detailed By a Correspondent of Manila.

No Serious Fighting since the Philippine Engagement.—News of Big Sea Battle Expected Every Moment.—The Spanish Admiral.

Porto Rico is the spot to which all eyes are directed just now. As is well known it is a sister colony and island to Cuba. Hayti, an independent republic lying between there. The capital of the island is San Juan, a city of considerable proportions. Port Rico is 108 miles long, and 37 broad in its broadest part. The principle products are sugar, coffee, and tobacco, cotton, rice, maise, oranges and coconuts are also in abundance. Cattle are raised on parts of the island, and exported. The principal minerals are coal, iron, copper and salt. The exports of Porto Rico are valued at nearly \$10,000,000 annually. It has been the generally accepted opinion that an engagement between the Spanish and American fleets will take place somewhere near Porto Rico.

Quite recently a meeting of the Red Cross Society was held in Toronto, when a lecture was given by Senor du Bosc, an attaché to Senor Polo, the Spanish minister at Washington before the war. It is only fair that the Spanish view of the question as given by the lecturer, should be made known.

Among other things Senor du Bosc said respecting the finding of the American Board of Investigation:—"This conclusion was founded upon the following piece of logic: The evidence of Capt. Sigsbee and the officers of the ill-fated ship, the parties principally concerned, showed that every precaution had been taken. Therefore the explosion could not have been from the interior, therefore it must have been from the outside. Therefore it must have been done by the Spaniards. Q. E. D."—The Americans refused to accept the Spanish offer to submit the whole question to the judgment of naval experts of the maritime powers, by whose verdict Spain agreed in advance to abide, and the proposal of Capt. Sigsbee to blow up the wreck was regarded as a thoroughly Yankee suggestion, by which evidence as to the actual cause would be destroyed. Senor du Bosc concluded his reference to this part of his lecture with the following words:—"Such, in brief, ladies and gentlemen, is the history of the most unjustifiable aggression on the part of a nation of seventy millions against one of seventeen that is recorded in history, and all this in the name of humanity. I imagine it will tax the credulity even of the greatest admirer of the United States to regard the bombardment of Manila as a humanitarian act on behalf of the sufferers in Cuba. May the blood shed be on the heads of those who have provoked this war."

There is no doubt about Commodore Dewey's complete victory off Manila. Reports vary as to the exact number of Spanish slain and wounded, but one hundred and fifty killed and as many more wounded is a fair estimate. The Americans lost none killed. It is probable that owing to their superior arms and ships, the Americans could engage the Spaniards, at a longer distance than the Spanish guns could carry with effect.

It was reported, Monday, that 17 Spanish vessels had been seen off Porto Rico. Rear Admiral Sampson of the American fleet had announced his arrival off the coast of Hayti. He has with him a force which the U. S. authorities believe will easily be able to destroy the Spanish force, even should it be reinforced by the armored cruiser Carlos V., which has not been heard from for some time. He has under his command the armored cruiser New York, the battleships Indiana and Iowa, the monitor Puritan, the cruisers Detroit, Montgomery and Marblehead, and several patrol boats and auxiliary men-of-war. He has instructions to keep in close communication with the department, so that any information it may obtain can be transmitted at once to him.

So far as the protection of northern ports is concerned, the authorities are confident that the junction of the flying squadron and the northern patrol squadron will form a fleet which will defeat the Spanish squadron should it make its appearance along the coast. Commodore Schley commands.

The Spanish fleet is in command of Admiral Villamil, who is regarded as one of the great naval experts of Europe. The Boston Herald contains a description of Admiral Villamil, which is evidently meant to belittle him. It is given by a Cuban "patriot." The facts

as stated in this article are here reproduced. The remainder of it, is devoted to showing what a puny creature the admiral is, alongside of the most petty officer in the U. S. navy:—"Commodore Villamil was born in the province of Castile 54 years ago. His family was one of honor and wealth. His father was Gen. Villamil, and his ancestor bore a conspicuous part in the peninsular war. His mother was the daughter of Count Gristic, a court favorite. His father, Commodore Villamil, inherited rich estates in Navarre and Aragon. These estates, by mismanagement, have declined to an appreciable degree, though they are still sufficient to satisfy the reasonable wants even of a high officer in the service of Spain. In stature Commodore Villamil is very small. He weighs only about 110 pounds, and is about 5 feet 6 inches tall. His hair is gray and thin, and there is a bald spot at the crown of his head. He is smoothly shaven, with the exception of a little mustache. When he reaches American waters, he will be the subordinate of Admiral Monterola at Havana."

It is now announced that as soon as the before breakfast job of demolishing the little admiral, and his playships is done, the Americans will proceed to take Porto Rico, probably doing that before they occupy Havana.

The blockading squadron around Havana has been greatly weakened by the departure of the vessels with Admiral Sampson, and although there are still about 45 American ships in the neighborhood of Cuba, the return of Admiral Sampson with the rest of the fleet will be awaited before attacking the city. Several important changes will also be made in the army now gathered in the vicinity of Tampa before the invasion of Cuban territory. The war department wants to feel confident that the troops will be able to defeat the Spaniards in one quick and decisive battle. Gen. Shafter, Col. W. H. Lawton and Capt. Dorst held a conference on Saturday at Tampa, when the entire Cuban situation was carefully talked over and the plans for landing the troops decided upon. Capt. Dorst went into the interior of Cuba and made arrangements with Gen. Gomez for the co-operation of the United States and Cuban land forces.

There is strong probability that the invading army will be in two divisions. Gen. Lee will undoubtedly command one of these divisions, and either Gen. Copping or Gen. Wade the other. The entire army will be under the command of Maj.-Gen. Shafter with respect to the Manila engagement.

Later reports say.—The losses of the Spaniards include 10 warships, several torpedo boats, two transports, navy yard and nine batteries. Including the losses ashore, about 1200 Spaniards were killed or wounded.

The estimated value of the Spanish property destroyed or captured is \$6,000,000. On the American side the total loss is eight men wounded and \$5000 damage to the ships. One reliable writer says, and it gives a vivid idea of war:

Eighty Spanish bodies were found unburied on Monday night, and we gave them burial Tuesday morning, calling in a Roman Catholic priest to read the burial service over their remains. The bodies presented a horrible sight. One had the head almost wholly carried away. Another had been struck in the stomach by a large projectile, cutting everything away to the backbone. One very large man, apparently an officer, was not only mangled, but burned, and all the bodies were frightfully bloated. To add to the horror of the scene, several lean, wolf-like dogs had discovered the bodies before we had.

Two American gunboats were decoyed, after a Spanish schooner, near to Morro Castle, and they narrowly escaped being demolished by the heavy fortress guns.

There is nothing important in the way of news at the time of going to press (Tuesday afternoon) but startling events may be recorded at any time.

### Setting Out Trees.

There is a disposition among many of our citizens to beautify, not only their homes, but the streets on which they live. Such an inclination should be encouraged in every way. Why should not Woodstock be as pretty as Houlton? There is no reason in the world that it should not, and that it is not so, simply reflects upon the good taste of our people. It was said at the town council meeting on Friday evening that some of the property owners on Elm street, wished to put out trees between the sidewalk and the street, and only wanted the consent of the council to do so. The consent was given, with the proviso that the work should be done under the supervision of the road committee. It is to be hoped that residents on other streets will take up with the idea of beautifying their localities.

### SHOULD BE DONE AT ONCE

No More Evidence Needed as to Necessity of Gaol Reform.

Why Does Not The Committee go Ahead? Is it Waiting for Another Grand Jury to sit on the Matter?—A State of Affairs That Should be Quickly Ended.

Delay seems to follow delay in the matter of making the needed improvements in the gaol, and in the meantime the prisoners must suffer. Prisoners are supposed to suffer the penalty which the law prescribes, but unhealthy surroundings is not part of the punishment. Cuban gaols, they say, are wretched from a sanitary point of view, but Cuban and Canadian gaols are different. Before a committee of the county council, a county physician says that "the gaol in its present condition is not a fit place in which to confine a human being." Human beings are confined there. The county council delays action till the grand inquest of the county speaks. The grand inquest, represented by an unusually competent lot of men, speaks in unmistakable language. It recommends the introduction of a water supply system, a drain from cellar to a new cesspool, that the gaoler's family be found quarters in a new annex to be built, that a yard be enclosed in which work may be done by prisoners. And to crown all, the inquest represents that these alterations and improvements be done at once. It was moved by Mr. Mallory seconded by Mr. Phillips "that action be taken on these matters at once." The motion was carried.

Now what more red tape is necessary? Is there a delay until the view of the grand jury are conveyed to the council's, and will there then by a further delay, until the view of the June council is laid before the next grand inquest? If so, when will this by-play cease?

The county council must surely be in earnest. It appointed a gaol committee composed of A. Henderson, Geo. W. White, and Albert Bell. After what the council said and after what the grand jury said, and after what the doctors said, and after what every body knows of the condition of the gaol, in humanity's name what more stimulus does the committee need to go on with the work?

There are those who think a new gaol should be built, and built in the town, but whether they are right or wrong, the gaol in its present state is a dismal disgrace, and something by way of reform should be done, as the grand jury says, at once.

The hot weather now at hand, is the hardest on those confined in our beautiful gaol. Let us leave to Cuba the unhealthy dungeons.

### THE RISE IN FLOUR.

Groceries Take a Big Upward Boom.

There is a rapid rise in many lines of groceries, due in some considerable measure to the Spanish American war. Flour which a year ago was selling at about \$5.50 a barrel is now retailed at \$7.50. The wholesale price by carload landed in Woodstock of the best Manitoba hard wheat, which includes Hungaria and Fine Roses is \$7.33. Dealers in Woodstock have not, generally, large stocks on hand. Flour rose \$1.70 a barrel in three weeks, and it is more than likely, will be retailing, presently for \$8.00. Wheat has already reached the \$1.50 mark. The advice of the local Government to our farmers to raise their own wheat was timely. With flour at its present price, this should be a large increase in the home production of wheat. Molasses, another staple, has jumped. It is retailing at from two to three cents a gallon more than a month or so ago. Sugar, granulated, a while ago was sold at the rate of 20lbs for a dollar. You are lucky now, to get 17lb. for a dollar. Cornmeal has jumped 60cts. being retailed at \$2.90 a barrel, and oatmeal is in full sympathy with the rise. Altogether groceries are high, and it looks as if they will be higher. Canned goods are moving up rapidly.

With regard to the wholesale prices of farm produce in town, a list is below given.

Hay pressed.....	\$6.50 to \$7.00
Hay loose.....	6.00
Oats.....	.30 to .32
Butter.....	.17
Eggs.....	.9 to 1.0
Buckwheat.....	1.25 per cwt
Potatoes.....	1.00 per bbl.

### Burned Out.

Leonard Doucette of Knowlesville lost his house and barns by fire on Sunday last. Besides the buildings almost all the contents were destroyed, including his farm machinery. He saved his stock. The loss is put at \$3000. There was no insurance. Children playing with fire is said to have been the cause. Mr. Doucette by hard work had made himself very comfortable, and his buildings were in good repair. Hearty sympathy is extended him.