

pound, the tax per pound is the same—ten cents. Consequently the poor must pay 40 cents a pound for 30-cent tea, while the rich pay \$1.10 for \$1 tea, a tax of 33 per cent. on the poor man's tea, and only ten per cent. on the rich man's.

The same principle of taxing the rich at a lower percentage than the poor—this principle of "specific" taxes—is applied to cigars and alcoholic beverages. Upon the poor man's five-cent cigars and the rich man's 25-cent cigars, the tax is the same. If a rich man and a poor man were to smoke the same number of cigars, each would pay the same war tax, though the former smoked five times as much tobacco, in value, as the latter. Common beer is distinctively a poor man's beverage. Whether he ought to drink it or not is aside from the question. He does drink it. But his war tax upon it is the same as the war tax upon expensive beer, ale or porter. Let the value be five cents a schooner, or 25 cents a pint, there is no difference in the tax. The same species of discrimination in favor of the rich creeps up among the wine drinkers. Your rich man with his \$2 pint of champagne at dinner, and your poor man with his pint of vinegar Rhenish, or claret at a cheap table d'hote, pays, for pint, the same tax in support of the war.

Even in amusements the discrimination persists. Theaters of large capital, and ambitious little theatrical ventures, are taxed alike. To the one this tax is a trifling incident; to the other it is large enough to turn the scale between success and failure. Barnum & Bailey's great three-ringed circus, and the little old-fashioned, one-ring affair which survives in the back country, are taxed the same amount—an even \$100 for each. And the cheap second-hand billiard table of the small proprietor, is for purposes of taxation raised to complete equality with the expensive affair of the proprietor who caters to a rich trade. Five dollars is the invariable and undiscriminating tax.

A careful examination of the war revenue law strengthens the impression that Thomas G. Shearman's estimate regarding it is close to the truth. According to his estimate, only ten per cent. of the war tax falls upon the

class which lives exclusively upon accumulated wealth. Of the remaining 90 per cent., 30 falls upon people who live partly upon their labor and partly upon accumulated wealth; while 60 falls upon people who are dependent solely upon their daily labor.

That a more equitable system of raising war funds could have been adopted, no one can intelligently deny. Direct taxation, especially if it were levied upon land monopoly, would raise an abundant war revenue, without either placing the burden upon the poor or taking anything from the rich that belongs to them. But whether greater equity could be secured or not, the fact remains that under the existing law for raising war revenues, the burden of supporting the war, like the burden of fighting in it, falls chiefly upon the poorer classes.

NEWS

Two days of bloody land fighting and heavy sea bombardments before Santiago, culminating in the attempted escape of the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera, and its total destruction by Com. Schley, are the great war events of the week.

When last week's issue of The Public went to press, the front of the American army in Cuba, under Gen. Shafter, occupied an elevation to the west of the Guama river, about three miles east of the city of Santiago and some seven miles northeast of Morro Castle. This position had been carried, as narrated last week, by the advance from Sevilla beginning on the 24th of June and ending on the 26th, in connection with which the La Quasina skirmish occurred on the 24th, when the first American blood of the war was shed in battle. When our last issue appeared, no further movement was contemplated immediately, Gen. Shafter being anxious first to bring up his artillery, which was then on the way from Baiquiri; nor was any movement made in force until the morning of July 1st. Then the serious fighting began.

It is very difficult if not quite impossible to describe the battle with accuracy, owing to the hysterical character of the accounts as yet received. The efforts of the war correspondents seem to have been directed more to-

ward exciting emotion than to giving connected information. In this respect the reports from Santiago are in notable contrast with McCutcheon's luminous report of the battle of Manila bay. Nevertheless, the general features of the Santiago fight may be picked out.

Full preparations for the first day's battle were made on the night of the 30th, and at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 1st, Gen. Lawton, who commanded the right flank, moved toward El Gauy—mis-called El Caney in the newspaper reports,—an aristocratic suburb about three miles northeast of Santiago; while Gen. Duffield, in command of the extreme left advanced by rail toward Aguadores, on the coast to the east of Morro Castle. Gen. Wheeler commanded the center, with San Juan, to the southeast of Santiago, as its objective.

At sunrise on the 1st, Capt. Capron, father of the young officer who had been killed at La Quasina a week before, opened fire with his battery, which occupied a steep bluff about a mile and a half from El Gauy; and by 6 o'clock the battle at this point was raging. A retreat of the Spaniards from El Gauy was cut off by Cubans under Garcia and Castillo, in a short but hot fight, the Spaniards falling back again upon Gauy and renewing their resistance to the American advance. Meanwhile Gen. Lawton had been moving rapidly upon Gauy. Coming within range he was met by a fierce rifle fire from the intrenchments. His men spread out to the extreme right, taking advantage of every tree and bush for shelter, and firing whenever a mark appeared. But every move was forward, and by the time that Capron had battered down the stone fort at the edge of El Gauy, the infantry had reached the outskirts of the village. Here they divided and advanced in two directions, firing as they maneuvered. Showers of bullets met them from every side, but they pressed on until the defenses were cleared and the town captured.

While Gauy was being fought for at the right, Gen. Duffield, supported by the navy, made a feint upon Aguadores at the left, and then retired. The bombardment from the ships in connection with this feint was terrific.

It was at the centre, however, that the bloodiest fighting occurred.

Grimes's battery, planted at El Paso, on the eastern side of the San Juan river, opened fire early upon San Juan. The enemy answered sharply but his batteries were soon silenced, and a detachment was ordered to take the position. This detachment consisted of the "rough riders," the 10th regulars, which is a colored regiment, and the 1st cavalry. Their advance brought on the bloodiest fight of the day. The men were received with a destructive fire. They charged into the open and up a hill in the face of sheets of bullet-laden flame. Soldiers were dropping everywhere, but the ranks closed up and marched on. Roosevelt's horse was shot under him. The troops fired as they marched. The shooting of the negroes of the 10th is described as the best ever done in such conditions. More than half of the "rough riders" were wounded. As the Americans advanced the Spanish retreated, and their block house was taken. The Americans pushed after them.

At the center, also, the 71st New York volunteers, and the 6th and 16th regulars, were hotly engaged. These regiments made a charge,—with Co. F, Capt. Rafferty, of the 71st New York, in the lead,—which drew a disastrous fire from the enemy's breastworks. But they charged through it, across an open and up a hill, until coming in sight of the enemy they returned his fire with deadly interest, and drove him from the trenches. Then the Americans charged farther up the hill in the face of another withering fire, and at the summit cleared the trenches, captured the Spanish colors and made many prisoners. But the retreating Spaniards reformed in other trenches, until driven in turn from them, and so on for hours. The loss was heavy. Nearly every man of Co. F, 71st New York, was hit.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the "rough riders" and the colored 10th came up, along with other regiments which had been operating at different points on the field, and every Spanish position in front of the American center was carried but one—San Juan itself, the key to the whole Spanish position at Santiago. An hour later a general assault was made upon that point, up the steepest and best defended hill of all. Here the slaughter of the advancing force was paralyzing. The firing came from both sides and the front. But the American troops

moved on, decimating the Spanish ranks as they advanced, until San Juan was in their possession.

At the close of the first day, July 1st, the American battle line extended from San Juan at the south to Gauey at the north, and within half a mile of Santiago. Behind it lay a bloody field of hills and valleys, two miles and a half in width, which had been painfully won.

The battle of Santiago did not end with the first day's fighting. On the morning of the 2d of July, an American battery advanced to within 400 yards of the Spanish lines and began shelling the city, but was driven back by Spanish infantry fire. Fighting continued throughout the day, though intermittently and with less fury and loss of life than on the day before. The Spanish made repeated attempts to recover San Juan but were repulsed each time. The Americans were chiefly engaged in strengthening their entrenchments and securing the positions they had already gained.

Gen. Shafter was now master of the situation at Santiago, and on the 3d, in the morning, he demanded its unconditional surrender, at the same time giving warning that in case of refusal he would begin a bombardment on the 4th at 10 o'clock in the morning. The demand was curtly refused by the Spanish commandant. The bombardment did not take place, however, for the foreign consuls at Santiago appealed to Shafter for time to get women and children out of range, and Shafter granted a delay of 24 hours on condition that no military operations on the part of the Spanish continue meantime. The bombardment was afterwards still further postponed, in consequence of the destruction of the Spanish fleet, which gave a different, though not less satisfactory, phase to the situation.

The Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera was destroyed on Sunday, the 3d, just nine weeks after the destruction of the other Spanish fleet under Admiral Mantejo, in Manila bay. Cervera's fleet, it will be remembered, appeared off Martinique while Sampson was bombarding San Juan at Puerto Rico, and was chased through the Carribbean sea by Com. Schley from whom it took refuge in Santiago harbor. It was this fact that made Santiago important as a point of

attack. To securely confine Cervera's fleet in the harbor, Lieut. Hobson and his men, at the risk of almost certain death, sank the Merrimac across the channel, though not in a position, as now appears, to completely close the harbor. On the first day of the battle of Santiago, the fleet did effective work in resisting the American attack upon Santiago by land, but on the second day it was hardly heard from. The reason, doubtless, was because Cervera, hopeless of the city and dreading either the surrender or destruction of his ships in the harbor, was preparing to escape. He attempted to execute his intentions on the following day, the 3d.

The American fleet had no intimation or suspicion of Cervera's purpose. They were lying apparently at ease on the 3d, far out toward the horizon, and Admiral Sampson had gone ashore to hold a conference with Gen. Shafter. About half past nine Cervera's flagship the Cristobal Colon, passed the sunken Merrimac and at full speed made for the open sea. She was followed by the Almirante Oquendo, the Vizcaya, the Infanta Maria Teresa, and the torpedo boat destroyers Furor and Pluton. But Com. Schley was alert. His vessel alone, the Brooklyn, was in position to attack the Spaniards as they left the harbor, and steaming directly toward them he engaged them all. The Oregon, the Iowa, the Indiana, the Texas, the Vixen, and the transformed yacht Gloucester, quickly joined the Brooklyn. They closed around Cervera's ships and rained shells upon them. In Sampson's absence the fleet took orders from Schley. Cervera with his flagship, the Cristobal Colon, made a dash through the American squadron. He was followed by Schley's flagship, the Brooklyn, with the Oregon in her wake. While these vessels were chasing the Cristobal Colon, the Indiana attacked the Oquendo, driving her upon the beach in flames. The Infanta Maria Teresa was struck at the water line and sunk near the shore. Meantime the Furor and the Pluton had been wrecked by the transformed yacht Gloucester, and the Vizcaya had hoisted a white flag. Only the Colon remained, and the Oregon and the Brooklyn were chasing her, followed by the Massachusetts and the Texas after they had participated in destroying the rest of the Spanish fleet. The chase was a long one, but it ended at 2 in the afternoon. Cervera's ship

caught fire from the shells that struck her, and running her upon the rocks, he and his crew surrendered. In less than five hours from the appearance of the Colon at the mouth of Santiago harbor, the Spanish fleet had been annihilated and the admiral with 1,300 of his officers and men were prisoners. His loss in killed and wounded was large. The American loss was one man killed and two wounded.

The disasters to the Spanish navy last week were not confined to the destruction of Cervera's fleet. A conflict occurred on the 2d off the southern coast of Cuba, which would have been accounted an important action, but for the greater one near Santiago harbor. Three boats of the American mosquito fleet—the Fish, the Hornet and the Wampatuck—destroyed a Spanish gunboat near Cape Cruz in the morning, a Spanish war vessel off Manzanillo in the afternoon, and worried through an engagement meanwhile near Manzanillo with nine Spanish vessels supported by land batteries, destroying one, injuring three others and sinking another. The only casualties to the mosquito boats was a temporary injury to the Hornet. An unconfirmed report is also at hand that the Spanish warship Alfonso XII., while trying to run the blockade from Havana, had been destroyed by an American cruiser.

The only remaining Spanish fleet, Camara's, which was last week at Port Said awaiting admission to the Suez Canal for an ostensible expedition to the Philippines, was reported on the 5th as having at last entered the canal. The Pelayo, Carlos V., Patriota, Rapido, Buenos Ayres, Isla de Panay, San Francisco, Isla de Luzon, San Augustin and San Ignacio de Loyola were the ships reported as having done so. Two Spanish colliers, which went into the canal at Port Said on the 1st, were reported at Suez, the southern terminus, on the 2d.

From Admiral Dewey in the Philippines, it is learned that the American transports City of Sydney, City of Peking and Australia, convoyed by the Charleston, arrived at Cavite June 30. The Charleston had taken Guam, in the Ladrone islands on the 21st, and left a garrison there. She had captured the Spanish officers and men, 6 of the one and 54 of the other, and brought them to Cavite. The Ladrone or Marianne islands are a group

of about 20 islands some 700 miles east of the Philippines, and of an area of 1,254 square miles. The Spaniards there did not know, until they were captured, that Spain was at war with the United States. In addition to this bloodless capture, the Spanish gunboat Leyte, which has been wandering among the Philippine group, has surrendered to Dewey. She had exhausted her ammunition and food in fighting the insurgents. Her crew comprised 52 officers and 94 men.

It was with no little difficulty that the people of Chicago learned of the stirring events narrated above. Such information as they obtained, came through papers from other cities and private dispatches. The regular dailies of Chicago, morning and afternoon, suddenly suspended publication on the 1st and did not resume until the 6th. The immediate cause of the suspension was a dispute with the local stereotypers' union. Stereotypers had been receiving \$3.25 for a day of 8 hours, with 50 cents an hour for overtime. They had been hard-worked getting out extras, after the war broke out, and in conformity with their contract, they gave 30 days' notice of an intention to demand \$4 for a day of 7 hours, with 75 cents an hour for overtime. The publishers refused on the 30th to consider the proposition. One day more was granted by the stereotypers, but without effect. The publishers of the city united in an agreement to meet the demand of the stereotypers by suspending publication until non-union stereotypers could be employed. Part of their agreement bound them to refrain from putting out war bulletins, as they had been doing for two months, and in all other ways to withhold from public knowledge such news as they received. They refused offers to supply their patrons with papers from other cities, and used their influence to keep papers from other cities out of Chicago. But Chicago was soon supplied with out-of-town papers, though at prices ranging from five cents to 20, and on the 6th the Chicago papers resumed the display of bulletins and began the publication of four-page papers, all printed in the same establishment. The total increased expense to all the papers of Chicago, had they conceded the stereotypers' demand, would have been about \$40 a day.

The exciting events of the American war have made other news tame.

This is especially the case with foreign news. So important a matter as the program of the new French ministry the appointment of which we chronicled on page 10 last week, has passed almost without notice. Yet it is so revolutionary as to indicate that the socialists are virtually at the head of government in France.

M. Brisson, the French premier, outlined this program to the chamber of deputies on the 30th. After expressing in general terms the intention of the cabinet to carry out the democratic desires of the people as expressed in the recent elections, he proposed two principal reforms, namely: (1) The substitution of a graduated income tax for the present taxes on personal and real property; and (2) the establishment of a system of pensions for working men. Other reforms were mentioned, and the ministry pledged to them. Upon the presentation of the program a vote of confidence in the new ministry prevailed—316 to 230. An amendment excluding the graduated income tax from the program was defeated—271 to 314. The great significance of this program and the vote of confidence it secured, lies in the fact that in France the graduated income tax is regarded as a socialistic assault upon property. The spirit of the program rather than its specific propositions, makes it revolutionary.

Uruguay has just passed through a revolution of the more violent order. It broke out on the 4th in the capital of Uruguay, Montevideo. The only indications of its character are given by the report that the 4th regiment of light artillery mutinied, and that the revolution was a military revolt against the government. The city was put under martial law, and citizens were called to the government's defense. The fighting was severe while the revolt lasted, sixty persons being killed and 300 wounded. But it lasted less than two days; on the 5th the revolutionists capitulated.

An awful disaster occurred on the 4th to the French line steamer La Bourgogne. She was run into by the British ship Cromartyshire, in a thick fog, 60 miles south of the Sable islands. Of the 716 persons on board, 553 were lost. All the women were lost but one. Among the persons saved, 110 were of the crew. Only 53 were passengers. Stories of extraordinary and cruel selfishness are reported, but the