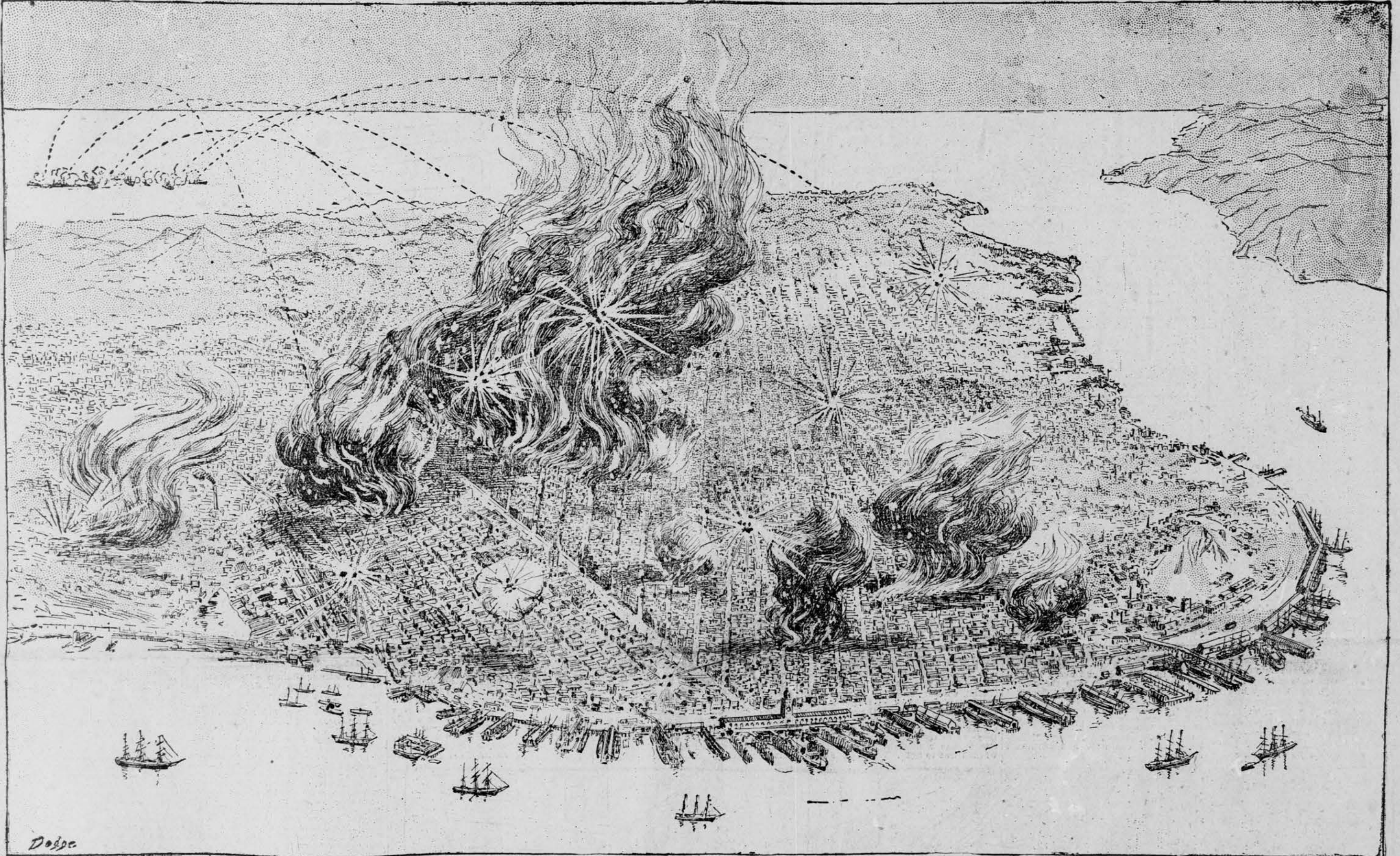


SAN FRANCISCO, SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1898.

## WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO SAN FRANCISCO IN THE WAR---IF



WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO SAN FRANCISCO IF COMMODORE DEWEY DID NOT HAVE THE SPANISH FLEET IN CHECK IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

"While this strategic play was going on, San Francisco would be threatened. A couple of fast cruisers, heavily armed, would bring up one morning just outside the Golden Gate, opposite the ocean beach. A formal demand would be made upon the Mayor of the city for indemnity—or bombardment. The sum demanded might be anything the enemy fancied—ten, twenty, fifty or one hundred million dollars. The mint alone could furnish a mighty sum. The city would be given scant notice—probably twelve hours—to furnish the sum; if not, the shells would begin to crack over the housetops."

**C**OULD San Francisco be bombarded by our Spanish foe?

It is a question which affects vitally every dweller in the great center of California commerce, for if a blow is ever struck at this coast our city will obviously have to bear the brunt of it. Nowhere on this side of the Pacific is to be found such an aggregation of wealth, such richly stocked warehouses, such treasure-filled bank vaults.

Already it is rumored that the Spaniards are going to send gunboats to the Alaskan coast to prey upon the gold vessels coming out of the Klondike. We may take this rumor for what it is worth; probably it is but an idle shipman's tale. The Spaniards, just at present, have their hands full in Manila, and cannot afford to detach ships for such distant service. But one thing is certain, however. Should the news ever reach this coast with a hostile expedition all the gold ever brought out of Alaska would be a mere bagatelle compared to the ransom which could be wrung from defenseless San Francisco.

A few figures will illustrate the vast amount of wealth concentrated in this city. The assessed value of personal property in the city last year was \$82,251,831, while the real estate roll showed the enormous total of \$275,334,255. Of course landed property could not be much injured by a bombardment, but its owners would have to bear their share of the burden laid on the city.

Still more important, as holding forms in the most accessible of all forms, are the banks and the United States Mint and the sub-treasury. There are sixteen commercial banks in San Francisco, having a total paid up capital of over \$18,000,000. The premises owned by these banks are alone worth nearly \$2,000,000, and they have deposited with them sums which range, according to the state of the money market, from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000. Of course the banks do not keep all this money in their strong rooms; much of it goes out on loan. But they always have on hand at least \$10,000,000 in solid cash, and at times the amount rises to \$14,000,000. To be exact, on the 31st of last July the total amount of solid cash on hand was \$12,296,579. Here is a splendid prize for any national robber who may have the power to take it.

This is by no means all. We must not omit the savings banks. There are ten of these institutions doing business here, and owning bank premises and other real estate worth more than \$5,000,000. In their vaults these banks store away some \$2,500,000 in cash, the property of poor, thrifty depositors, to whom its loss would be a terrible blow.

Then there is the city treasury. The Auditor's report shows a balance on hand of a million and a half dollars, and at times this sum may rise to over two million dollars.

Next, the Mint, which must undoubtedly be the objective point of any treasure-seekers. The authorities here are not communicative; they guard Uncle Sam's financial secrets too well. As a high official pointed out to me, it is not considered advisable to issue a detailed statement of the treasure hidden in the vaults of this great building. But he admitted that there were some fifty million dollars in silver in the strong rooms, to say nothing of a million or two in gold waiting for coinage. Thus the Mint is worth anywhere from fifty to sixty million dollars to any one who can take it.

The secrets of the various safe deposit concerns are still more carefully concealed. No one, even the official in charge, knows the amount of the treasure hidden in these burglar and fire proof vaults. But it must be many millions, for men of substance are wont to keep bonds there, and their destruction would be almost a national calamity.

Many people are familiar with the United States Subtreasury on Commercial street. On the outside it is a plain, unpretentious business-like building, rich one. Behind the counters men are to be seen all day counting gold eagles and silver dollars. The big strong room at the back is crammed with coin. Here is the official statement of the money stored in these vaults on Tuesday last:

Currency	\$ 715,903 00
Gold coin	15,814,015 50
Silver coin	26,024,659 90
Nickel and bronze coins	12,732 21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,567,361 61</b>

If it were necessary one could continue at great length this list of the city's wealth. It is needless, however, to tell the world that this city is a purely cash basis, finds its way through this institution, and last year the monthly clearances ranged all the way from fifty-five to seventy-five million dollars.

It would be absurd to assume that all these riches are at the present moment in any practical danger. The strategic factors in the situation are many, and Uncle Sam's ships would

have to get very badly beaten in several oceans before the Don could make their raid on San Francisco.

It is not to our fortifications, but to our navy, the first-line of defense, that we must look for protection. And, strangely enough just now, it is our fleet in Eastern waters, though so many thousand miles away, which is really guarding San Francisco. As long as our ships predominate in the Philippines, so long will the Spaniards be helpless to do harm to the Pacific Coast. It is quite possible, indeed, that the first great naval battle of the war will be fought in the East and not in

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Real estate	\$275,334,255
Personal property	\$82,251,831
Commercial banks	14,000,000
Savings banks	2,500,000
The Mint	55,000,000
United States Subtreasury	42,500,000
Safe deposits	10,000,000
Private hands	5,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$486,586,125</b>

the West. The American and Spanish squadrons may meet near Manila any day, and upon this battle the fate of the Philippines and, in a lesser degree, of the Pacific Coast cities depends.

There is no doubt that Commodore Dewey will be able to easily dispose of the Spaniards, but if such an improbable disaster as an American defeat should come about, then the whole ocean would be at the mercy of the Spanish cruisers.

The ships of the United States would disappear from the face of the Pacific, and a descent in force would undoubtedly be made on this coast. Nothing but the coast defense squadron would stand between San Francisco and destruction. Fortunately, there are some strong vessels available for the purpose—the monitors Monterey and Monadnock, the protected cruisers Baltimore, Philadelphia and Charleston, to say nothing of a host of mosquito craft, which would prove invaluable for scouting purposes.

This fleet would be more than a match for the strongest squadron Spain could send here, and only in the event of their being drawn off by a feint could this city suffer.

It would undoubtedly make a false attack one of the Puget Sound cities, or perhaps on San Diego, to the south. The coast squadron would issue forth to battle, and the Spaniards might easily, by a pretended flight or other subterfuge, keep the fleet occupied for a few days.

The policy of the Spaniards would be to avoid a decisive action, for their distance from their base of supplies would make the result disastrous. Even if the Spanish vessels were not captured, they would be damaged to an extent which would render it impossible for them to find their way home across the

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whole danger could be avoided. A few heavy gun batteries, planted among the sandhills between Point Lobos and Lake Merced, would completely protect the city. Their cost would be but thousands while the cost of a bombardment to San Francisco would run into millions. It is the one weak point in our system of defense, and it should be seen to.

Those who saw Paris shortly after the Prussian siege will realize the damage which can be done, even by shells of moderate caliber. The Prussians, during the bombardment, fired over ten thousand shells daily into Paris, and of these at least five hundred went right into the heart of the city. Great buildings crumbled into ruins, streets were torn up and fires were of constant occurrence.

Since then the science of high explosives has made marked progress, and what happened to Paris in 1871 would be slight compared to the damage which a few ten or twelve-inch guns, firing high explosives, could effect on San Francisco.

Even so far back as 1882, when the British fleet bombarded Alexandria, the damage done was very severe, though the fire was directed only at the fortifications. The city suffered terribly, a large portion of it was burned, and the demoralizing ruin resulted in the downfall of Arabi Pasha.

would attempt to force its way through the Golden Gate.

But, unfortunately, though the harbor is so well protected, the city is absolutely defenseless. Between Point Lobos and Lake Merced there is a space of ocean commanded by no heavy gun. There is nothing to prevent an enemy anchoring there and bombarding the city at its leisure; the range of modern weapons is more than equal to the task.

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If the Spanish fleet was strong

would be formed into regiments, brigades and divisions under officers of sufficient rank in the regular army. Most of the volunteers, when they reached the rendezvous, would be found to be imperfectly clothed and shod, and also, in many cases, entirely ignorant of the simplest features of the life of a soldier in the field. These men must be taught to know what is expected of them on the march and in camp, and what they must do to preserve their health.

### OUTFITTING THE ARMY.

It is related of Von Moltke that when awakened in the dead of night with the announcement that France had declared war against Germany, he remarked: "Look in my cabinet, file A, drawer 23; send off the telegrams you find." Then he turned over and went to sleep again.

An army is like a snake; it has great length of body and a small head. The head is the fighting part, and one of its most important duties is to protect the body, which consists of wagon trains and lines of supplies; for if the body be injured the head becomes powerless.

In time of war, or in preparing an army to take the field, a vast amount of supplies, forage and equipment must be constantly on hand or in easy reach. While the provisioning of a company, battalion or regiment of a thousand men is perhaps not a difficult task, the supplying of a meat for 100,000 men is a far different matter; and it is absolutely essential that transportation from the base of supplies should at all times be uninterrupted and subject to no delays. For this reason the Government would assume control of such railroads and vessels as might be necessary, and they would be run temporarily as an adjunct of the army, private business being permitted only so far as it did not conflict with military necessities.

If war should be suddenly declared, and it became necessary to put an army in condition to take the field, the general in command, upon an order from the Secretary of War, would at once recruit the regular military establishment up to its full limit of efficiency.

These men, together with the volunteers who have been requisitioned from the Governors of the various States, or had been raised by direct enlistment, would be assembled at some convenient point where they

would be formed into regiments, brigades and divisions under officers of sufficient rank in the regular army. Most of the volunteers, when they reached the rendezvous, would be found to be imperfectly clothed and shod, and also, in many cases, entirely ignorant of the simplest features of the life of a soldier in the field. These men must be taught to know what is expected of them on the march and in camp, and what they must do to preserve their health.

With an army in the field hardly one day in thirty is given to fighting. The other twenty-nine days of waiting must be lived through in order that everything may be in readiness for the one day of work. It is not the one day of fighting which turns the hair of an officer gray, but the twenty-nine days of anxiety for his men, the supply of their food and clothing, and the maintenance of health and good spirits among them. Men do not fight well in battle on empty stomachs, and yet the ordinary soldier rarely takes care of the provisions which are issued to him for forced marches. He eats them all at once or throws them away on account of their weight, and at the end of a long day's march he is hungry, with nothing to appease his hunger. Then comes the trouble. He does not reason; he grumbles and expects to be supplied with more.

In outfitting an army other things must be looked to besides the men. Horses and mules for carting, artillery and transport service have to be supplied and trained. A cavalry horse differs in weight and general character from one which is to serve with the artillery, and as much knowledge is required in choosing animals for military service as in selecting men.

Medical officers also have to be commissioned and instructed in the peculiar duties which will devolve upon them, and supplies of drugs, medicines, hospital equipment and tents must be arranged for. Where many new and unseasoned men are gathered there is sure to be more or less call for the services of a doctor. All that pertains to the medical department of the army is under the charge of the surgeon general. The drugs are all supplied by contract.

Soldiers expect to be paid, no matter how much they are fired by patriotism, so the paymaster general and the officers of his department must, through requisition on the treasurer of the United States, see that the private soldier receives his \$13 every month.

In short, every department and every officer fulfills certain duties, and it is on the prompt and accurate adjustment of all the wheels of the complicated machine that it goes and performs the duties for which it was created.