

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

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POPE WANTS PEACE

Leo XIII May Try to Bring it About by Mediation.

VATICAN WOULD LIKE TO STAVE OFF WAR

Thinks Europe May Yet Be Able to Save Spain from Itself.

SYMPATHIZES WITH SUFFERING IN CUBA

Not Likely, However, to Succeed in Its Desired Object.

FRANCE THE ONLY FAVORABLE NATION

Feeling in Paris, However, Not Likely to Push the Country on to More Than Expression of Sentiment.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) LONDON, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—I can state on high diplomatic authority that the pope is energetically exerting himself to bring about European mediation between Spain and the United States. The pope is in constant communication with the queen regent through the Spanish ambassador. The Vatican has abandoned all hope of staying off war except by mediation, but it is highly significant that while, until the last few days, the papal view was adverse to Cuban independence, the Vatican's policy is now directed toward obtaining terms which will provide a financial solution and other conditions in return for Cuban independence which will save the face of Spain in the eyes of the world. The London Tablet, the organ of Cardinal Vaughan, publishes today a noteworthy editorial faithfully representing the changed attitude of the Vatican, while expressing sympathy with the queen regent. The Tablet says: "But there are no others in Cuba who have suffered worse sorrows and it is earnestly hoped the powers will unite to press on the Spanish government wisdom in accepting the inevitable without adding to the further evil of disastrous war. It is in the power of Europe to save Spain from herself. What she might decline to yield to armed humanitarians in America she could well afford to concede to the representations of European powers."

MEDIATION A FAILURE.

But all indications point to a failure to attempt to enlist mediation of the European powers. National rivalries may cause the press of different countries to express conflicting views, but in diplomatic circles it is recognized that no combination of powers is feasible for mediatory purposes, and as France is the only one sufficiently impelled by material considerations to take isolated action, it is not likely under the present circumstances to incur such a responsibility. And, moreover, the marked animosity of the Parisian press toward the United States does not truly reflect French public opinion so much as it proves the activity of Spanish agents in Paris in securing journalistic good will where friendship or interested motives it may be obtainable. But the British government will certainly not interpose in behalf of Spain. The continued absence of the British ambassador at Madrid in London during the present crisis is much resented by the Spanish government. The present tone of press comment here shows a tendency, with few exceptions, to give more thorough support to the American demands. The Standard, the most influential and independent of the ministerial organs, while sympathizing with Spain, shows plainly the futility of the United States relying on any undertakings Spain may give of restoring peace or security in Cuba and advises the regent and the Spanish people to "show the noblest heroism and the finest sense of dignity by preferring honorable peace to war which, whatever its incidents, must in the end be disastrously weakening to Spain."

The Fall Mail Gazette this evening, discussing the Spanish reply to the American note, says: "It is all too late now and it is clear Spain is chiefly anxious to gain time and financial aid. The prospect of threatened war is eagerly discussed in city circles, but today the belief is expressed that there will be no change and that American securities are not likely to be much affected by war in France, where Spanish agents are held largely, especially by financial houses. It is thought securities would be hit very hard and it is fully expected that an outbreak of war would have serious consequences on the Paris bourse."

ANTI-AMERICAN TONE.

The Paris Herald seems to be strongly infected by the anti-American tone of its Parisian contemporaries and its attitude constitutes a source of perpetual wonderment to Englishmen, who cannot understand the position of the journal, which almost invariably sides against its own country. It has just given the fullest prominence to a letter signed "Anti-American" in which a laborious attempt is made to turn the whole official report on the Maine disaster to the disadvantage of the American navy and its officers. In an editorial the same issue is made, suggesting that the insinuations of "Ancient Mariner" are sympathetically emphasized, treating as they do points decided by the board of inquiry. The letter raises quite a number of points with regard to marine explosions which do not seem to have been fully cleared up, yet certainly deserve the amplest elucidation in the interest of that peace that McKinley and the sober section on both sides of the Atlantic are striving to preserve. First, if the explosion was due to internal causes, are not other war ships liable to the same fate? Second, if the explosion was external, were the Weylerites or the Cuban insurgents responsible? Thirdly, was sufficient care exercised by the officers of the lost ship in view of its being stationed where two sections of the population, Weylerites and Cubans, had interest in wrecking it?"

The question is discussed here whether the Atlantic cables would be cut by either belligerent in the event of war, but the general opinion is that they would not. The submarine telegraph convention expressly declares that freedom of action by the belligerents is not restricted by it. Besides, one cable company's line from Valencia to Halifax is on British territory at both ends. The United States, on the other hand, could, if deemed advisable, sever communication between Spain and Cuba, thus cutting Spain off completely from the island. Mean-

while, one of the most significant symptoms of state tension at Madrid is afforded by the severe censorship exercised over press dispatches. Some dispatches show twelve or fourteen hours delay by the censor, while internal evidence proves that they have been rigorously sub-edited to exclude all facts in the slightest degree distasteful to the Spanish ministry.

GERMAN OPINION IS CHANGING.

Sentiment is Now More Favorable to the United States. This, it is asserted, is partly due to the moderation of President McKinley and the conservative manner in which the United States minister, General Woolford, has dealt with the authorities at Madrid and partly to the bitterness engendered by the alleged wanton attack of a band of insurgents upon the German sugar refineries at Camsamba, in the Trinidad district of the province of Santa Clara, Cuba, and the murder of four persons connected with the refinery on March 18, which has taught Germany that Spain is unable to protect even the lives of foreigners in Cuba. As previously announced the German foreign office is demanding immediate and full redress for this outrage and a German war ship will soon be sent to Havana if satisfaction is not forthcoming in short order. The Spanish ambassador here, Senor Mendez de Vileo, has had lengthy conferences with Baron von Buelow, the German minister for foreign affairs, who convinced the ambassador that Germany intended to have complete satisfaction, including an indemnity for the property destroyed and for the lives taken. The ambassador was also informed that unless the redress was forthcoming Germany would itself act, secure damages, and punish the offenders. As an incentive to quick reparation, Baron von Buelow added that provisional orders had been cable to the commander of the German war ship Gier to sail in the direction of Cuba. The Spanish ambassador promised that he would exert himself to the utmost to comply with the German demands. The newspapers here are also changing their tone, and now concede in the main the justice of the American demands, acknowledging that Washington has acted with the moderation which many another government would not have shown under similar circumstances. The Cologne Gazette, the Vossische Zeitung, the Lokal Anzeiger, and other leading newspapers highly eulogize President McKinley's calm statesmanship, and express confidence that whatever he ultimately decides will be dictated by some good reason. The United States ambassador, Andrew D. White, in an interview said that thus far, acting under instructions from Washington, he has not formally inquired of the German government what its attitude would be in the event of war. He had, nevertheless, been repeatedly assured informally by Baron von Buelow that Germany will in no case assume an unfriendly attitude toward the United States, nor join in any possible combination of the powers having that end in view. In regard to Emperor William's personal views, Mr. White said his majesty has been greatly misrepresented by the foreign press. The emperor has repeatedly given Mr. White to understand that he felt most favorably disposed toward the United States, and his sympathies are with the United States in this crisis. It is learned on unexceptionable authority that so far from the London Sunday Special's dispatches from Berlin of Saturday last being Emperor William's views, the facts are that soon after the loss of the battleship Maine, during a dinner party, his majesty asked a number of admirals for their opinion as to the cause of the disaster. The admirals thought it was due to an internal explosion, whereupon the emperor briefly remarked that he differed with them. Since then he has repeated this opinion on several occasions. Ambassador White hopes to be soon so far recovered from his indisposition as to be able to go to Weisbaden. There is a curious condition of affairs in the Prussian cabinet, occasioned by Emperor William appointing Count Posadowsky, the minister of interior; Baron von Buelow, the minister for foreign affairs, and Admiral von Tirpitz to be members, in addition to the three cabinet ministers without portfolio, with the right to vote on all matters. This has changed the complexion of the cabinet materially. A lack of harmony has already developed, and serious doubts are expressed in parliamentary circles as to whether his majesty has not exceeded his constitutional rights in making the appointments. The agrarian leaders and their organ vigorously attack the appointments, fearing they will exert an influence unfavorable to agrarianism. Emperor William has given evidence of great gladness at the passage of the bill by his telegram appointing the grand duke of Baden a suite of the marine infantry, the appointment of Admiral von Tirpitz as minister of state, the conferring of many decorations and characteristic utterances verbal and in writing. His majesty has received many congratulatory telegrams on the subject, including one from Prince Bismarck, and messages from most of the German sovereigns. The officials of the United States embassy are preparing, under instructions from Washington, an exhaustive report on the currency question in Germany, giving its wealth and official data on the silver shrinkage, in addition to facts concerning the currency relations between Germany and other countries. The ex-empire of Germany has presented Von Weyler, the Milwaukee singer, with a diamond and emerald pin in recognition of the pleasure with which she has listened to his singing in the Episcopal church.

Bismarck's Alleged Statement.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) BERLIN, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Nothing is known here of the interview with Bismarck relating to the Maine disaster. I telegraphed to Hamburg, but received a reply that nothing is known there about it. Three weeks ago a statement appeared in certain German papers that Bismarck had proposed the pope as arbitrator between Spain and America. The statement is quite apocryphal. Naval Recruits from Northwest. ST. PAUL, Minn., April 2.—The first installment of naval recruits from the northwest, forty-one in number, left for the coast tonight. Twenty others have been enlisted and will follow later, with such others as may be accepted by the recruiting board now at work in this city.

GRASPS AT STRAWS

Spain is Glad of Any Excuse to Gain More Time.

WANTS PROOF OF INTERIOR EXPLOSION

Asks Captain Wylie of Wrecking Tug to Give Testimony.

OFFERS HIM MONEY TO TELL HIS STORY

History of Cuban Autonomists' Letter to President McKinley.

BLANCO FORCES THEM TO WRITE IT

Order Receiving Reconciliation Stipply a Play to the Galleries—Spain Has No Money to Spend for Food.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) HAVANA, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Spain is grasping at each straw possible to buttress her feeble claim for an interior cause for the Maine annihilation. This morning Spanish inspectors boarded the wrecking tug Underwriter as it lay careened against the mammoth barge Lone Star alongside the Maine disintegrating wreck. The Spanish press says that Washington or New York had cabled the authorities here that Captain Wylie of the Underwriter had stated at Newport News upon his return from Havana that he was convinced, upon a superficial examination, that the Maine blew itself up. So Perez and Puri boarded the tug, asked for the captain and requested him to appear before the Spanish investigating committee to reiterate his former statements and swear to them. It is understood that considerable consideration was offered. Captain Wylie refuses to say whether he still thinks the Maine disaster accidental or whether he will swear before the Spanish board. It is not likely that he will. To a Fern officer he said his Newport News remarks were misquoted. It is now intimated that he is convinced the Maine was blown up, as shown by the divers' and experts' evidence. The trials to which Spain is forced to secure any testimony on their side is shown by this attempt to secure alleged testimony from a tug captain who had only been in Havana harbor two or three days, and who is far from an expert on such matters. Two officers launched of Spain still keep close vigil and watch every movement. Havana newspapers are now proven guilty of deliberately falsifying the cabled synopsis of the board's report. The true suzerainty of the autonomic cabinet and weakness of the alleged Cuban autonomy was proven clearly and conclusively yesterday. I am conservatively informed from three good sources that Captain General Blanco called the council before him and commanded them to write McKinley a letter stating how free and independent is the present autonomic regime and how its officers (themselves) felt aggrieved at American interference in Cuban matters. They did so. They bowed down and their official, the excesses of the affair looms up when it is known that two of the six are rank rebels at heart and two more are on the point of resigning, and that the majority of the party they represent recently demanded real concessions and acknowledged present reforms to be little more than a farce. The Vizcaya and Oquendo are generally supposed to have gone to Porto Rico. Both are loaded below the regular load line and are supposed to have extra water and coal for the torpedoes fleet, if the same is prevented from touching at Porto Rico. I was politely received yesterday morning by Captain Eulate of the Vizcaya. When asked his destination he replied: "I have sealed orders. They are to be opened when we are clear out at sea. I do not know just when I start."

AUTONOMY A FARCE.

I then asked if he was going to Porto Rico. Eulate looked at the deck, said "No" and changed the subject. A rumor is also afloat that the ships are to make a northern trip. The secretary of the treasury yesterday afternoon paid \$2,000,000 for rations for the army and navy. I am informed that both services now have two months' rations. This information comes from headquarters. Again a large force of boiler makers is working on the Alfonso XIII. If the steam making apparatus is ever put in condition this cruiser now cleaned will be in very good shape. Although larger it carries about the same armament as the heavily gunned Montgomery. The floating dock is now in readiness for cleaning the Spanish transatlantic liner auxiliary cruiser Colon, one of the best boats of the company and of Spain's good merchant marine. HAVANA EXCITED. Havana is now excited over the news leaking from the palace that Spain will not accede to McKinley's demands. I am in a position to state that Blanco expects war and that recent preparations grow greatly hurried by provisioning. Blanco expects anti-American and anti-autonomy riots in Havana. Last night he called on all the consuls of the Havana volunteers, told them that in the troublous times now to come he relied upon their coolness and patriotism to suppress disorders. Inasmuch as Blanco is unable to secure for the volunteers arms such as a forlorn hope. The public shows symptoms of expectation of internal disorders. The rumor here that congress has given McKinley sixty hours to act aggressively has aided greatly in intensifying the present congested condition of affairs. The naval attaché of the Spanish legation at Washington, Carreza, stated Wednesday that Spain is now willing to give the Cubans everything but independence and that also in five years. He has just come from the Spanish court by mail steamer. The statement is regarded as semi-official. No business whatever is doing in Havana now. Leading importers have all advised their agents in the United States and Spain to hold orders temporarily. The Havana exchange is practically deserted after a few minutes of languid business each morning. Both Blanco's order abolishing reconciliation and the Mexican Spaniards' proffer of \$200,000 worth of food for starving Cubans are regarded only as time games. No further steps are yet known to have been taken to collect or ship the Mexican charity, while with the Spanish army, civil officials and

EXPECTS MORE TIME

Spain Thinks McKinley Will Show Further Forbearance.

MAY WAIT TILL THE CORTES CONVENES

Much Surprise and Disappointment in Official Circles.

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT HURRY EXPECTED

Foregone Conclusion that Spain Will Not Let Cuba Go.

QUEEN REGENT IS PREPARING TO FLY

Buya Fleet Yacht in Which She and Her Son May Sail Away if Hostilities Should Break Out.

THEY HAVE DOUBTS AS TO RESULTS.

Englishmen are Not Prepared to Pre-empt War or Peace. (Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.) LONDON, April 2.—The nervousness of the stock markets, which was emphasized by a sub-panic of three points in Spanish 4s at the opening of the Stock exchange, has been fully reflected in diplomatic circles, which have experienced almost as much difficulty as outsiders in extracting facts from the mass of contradictory statements regarding the Hispano-American crisis today. Beyond opining generally that matters were nearing a crisis, there was not a man in London of real weight who was willing to risk an opinion as to whether the outcome would be peace or war.

Even now there is a difference of opinion, but the distinctly warlike tone of the great mass of evidence, and the marked divergence of the United States' demands, and Spain's proposals, have led the majority to conclude that the parting of the ways has been reached, unless within a few hours Senor Sagasta is able to give assurances that the delay he asks for will insure the complete freedom of Cuba. It is not too much to say that all Europe regrets it, though for different reasons. Some because genuinely friendly nations are involved, and others because they dread that the war bacillus will spread and aggravate the feverish spirit of unrest already in evidence in the old world. To the last, therefore, it is hoped that a solution will be found, even when Spain is apparently intractable. The best informed persons believe Spain is only temporizing, as it is recognized there is difficulty in the Spanish government accepting, without demur, the demands of the United States, in view of the danger of a revolution, and the overthrow of the monarchy.

La Correspondencia and Correo say tonight that Spain is more than ever persuaded that European sympathies are entirely platonic. Even such usually moderate papers are very bitter in their criticisms on the supposition that McKinley will next week place a solution of the crisis in the hands of congress. There is no foundation yet in the rumors of preparations for the departure of the Woodford family. On the contrary, they have made an excursion of forty-eight hours to Toledo. MUCH SURPRISE.

Much surprise and disappointment is caused by Washington telegrams putting the Spanish Memorandum in so different a light from what the people of Spain had been led to suppose by the inspired press, who styled the Spanish reply a proud rejection of American pretensions instead of a mild, dilatory document to gain time. The presidential decision is now expected with hourly increasing impatience and anxiety. Most of the papers reflect the general impression that it will be unfavorable. Some passages in official and diplomatic circles fancy President McKinley will grant Spain another delay until the Cuban parliament and the Spanish Cortes meet, though it is quite a foregone conclusion that neither would ever assent to the independence or sale of Cuba. All the papers say the government and statesmen attach great importance to the attitude of the Cuban insular government, whose volunteers, army and the Spanish party are resolute against foreign interference and treating with the insurgents as belligerents in any form. TORPEDO FLEET IN A GALE. Official telegrams confirm the report of a heavy gale in mid-ocean, which forced the torpedo squadron to disperse, each vessel taking for St. Vincent in the Cape Verde island as best it could. Captain Villamil reports that some of the torpedo vessels suffered, but can be repaired at St. Vincent. After a conference with Sagasta the minister of marine telegraphed Villamil to remain at St. Vincent for repairs and victualing and await instructions. Senor Moret and two other members of the cabinet were strongly inclined to make concessions to avert a conflict with America, whilst Count Xiquena, Senor Gullon and Groisert were enthusiastic for energetic resistance, under the impression that the Spanish attitude would make McKinley hesitate and also command the sympathy of European governments to whom Spain had communicated a memorandum of the ministers of war and marine. Both showed reserve, but joined the resistance party when Sagasta stated he believed it unadvisable to assent to the American pretensions, as the patriotic feeling of all classes was against a surrender. When Sagasta informed the queen of the divided opinion of her councillors she again, as at previous councils, showed much energy in advocating a defense of the rights of Spain, her ambition being to hand her son on his coming age, four years hence, intact all the territories his father left under the Spanish flag. The weary, preoccupied expression on her face was noticed at the opera house. The El Liberal states that the steamer Alfonso XIII, just arrived, brought from Cuba in iron nine prisoners, all natives of the colony, recently allowed to return home from exile in the Spanish penitentiary stations, where Weyler had sent them, and who

THE BEE-BULLETIN.

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Temperature at Omaha: Hope, Dew, Wind, Bar. 5 a. m. 24 1 p. m. 48 6 a. m. 20 2 p. m. 50 7 a. m. 20 3 p. m. 51 8 a. m. 22 4 p. m. 51 9 a. m. 27 5 p. m. 51 10 a. m. 41 6 p. m. 51 11 a. m. 45 7 p. m. 50 12 m. 40

no sooner reached Havana than they took part in a conspiracy to blow up the Spanish cruiser Oquendo in the harbor of Havana. El Liberal says a torpedo was found in their possession when arrested with two accomplices, still in a prison at Havana. ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON. QUEEN MAY FLEE. LONDON, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The queen regent of Spain has bought Hugh MacCallum's fast yacht Girelda for herself and her children in case they have to fly from Spain. This fact leaked out today when the men who negotiated the sale of that crack 1,200-ton steam vessel said: "None of the newspapers here, or so far as I know, in the United States, have appreciated the true significance of the purchase of the Girelda for Spain. I can tell you that though it was bought ostensibly for the Spanish government, the money for it was paid by the queen regent herself. The Girelda is not intended for ordinary war service. It is to be kept on the Spanish coast ready to put in at any port ordered and take on board the queen regent, the young king and his sisters in the event of an emergency. The queen regent and her advisers evidently apprehend either a Carlist or a republican revolution as a sequel to the loss of Cuba. The Girelda is not to undergo such alterations as would be necessary if it was intended for war service. It is sumptuously fitted inside, has six Maxim Nordenfeldt machine guns and 100 stand of Lee-Metford magazine rifles. TORPEDOES ARE A BIG FACTOR. If Well Used Will Cripple the Navy. (Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) LONDON, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Spain has a few fine war ships, but her most formidable naval arm is her torpedo destroyer flotilla. Those vessels can do immense damage if properly handled." So says an admiral of the British navy, whose reputation for practical and expert knowledge is world-wide, but he forbids the use of his name. The remark was made today in answer to an inquiry for his estimate of the fighting capacities of the American and Spanish navies. "As for Spain's big ships," the admiral continued, "unless I am greatly mistaken they will prove utterly ineffective, apart from the department difficulty of coaling, which is not insurmountable. The Spanish officers are quite inexperienced in big gun practice and can hit nothing with them unless by a fluke. "I can tell you from personal investigation that Spain has spent no money to speak of in training her officers to use these big guns. She can't afford it. Why, our navy spends more annually in gun practice than all the navies in the world together. Still, our handling of these weapons leaves, in my opinion, at least much to be desired. The Spanish sailors are courageous and fine seamen, but these qualities are of little avail if they are mere apprentices at utilizing the weapons in their hands. "I know both the American and the Spanish navies. I have been on most of the ships of both. I repeat, except for the Spanish torpedo destroyers, the American fleet will have no difficulty in asserting its unbounded superiority. If the torpedo destroyers were eliminated it would be an unequal contest as that between China and Japan, where the main reason for China's helplessness was inexperience in using the big guns."

PARIS, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Admiral Fremantle, a high French naval authority, asked today his opinion as to the respective fighting capacity of the American and Spanish navies, replied: "I still doubt war will ensue, but if it does I consider the Spanish navy more than a match for the American. The great weakness of the latter is want of cohesion, owing to the mixture of nationalities among its sailors. Spanish sailors have immense patriotism and will enter war with the same ready spirit as they showed ten years ago when the Caroline incident threatened war. Spain will fight under the disadvantage of being cut off from a base of coal supplies, but the war will be the affair of torpedo destroyers largely and if Spain makes effective use of its fine flotilla at the outset of hostilities the United States navy will be crippled."

Flotilla at Cape Verde Islands.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) ST. VINCENT, Cape Verde Islands, April 2.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Spanish torpedo flotilla, bound from Cadiz for Porto Rico, under command of Captain Villamil, has put in here. New Torpedoes Ready to Sail. NEWPORT, R. I., April 2.—The new torpedo boats Gwyn and Talbot went into commission today. It is expected the boats will sail for Key West soon.

WHAT IT WILL COST

Estimated Expense of Fighting with the Spaniards.

ONE HUNDRED MILLION PER MONTH

Figures Prepared by Secretary Gage and Chairman Dingley.

THINK WAR MIGHT LAST SIX MONTHS

Will Ask an Appropriation of Six Hundred Million Dollars.

GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION CONTINUES

Washington Officials Harbor Much Anxiety as to Probability of an Impending Clash of Arms.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(Special Telegram.)—How long would war with Spain last is a question heard in every public place in Washington these stirring times, and every person has a different idea as to its duration. President McKinley, his cabinet and some of those enjoying the confidence of the president on Capitol hill, however, have about reached the conclusion that it would not be ended under six months and would cost \$100,000,000 a month.

That this vast sum is fixed as a minimum of what it would cost monthly to go to war with Spain is said to have been reached by Secretary Gage and Chairman Dingley of the ways and means committee, the proposition being to ask congress to appropriate \$600,000,000 as a war measure, after which plans will be formulated as to the manner in which to raise this enormous amount, whether by a horizontal levy in customs duties or by taxation on internal commodities such as beer. For the first time since the civil war information as to the movements of the vessels of the American navy was not to be had today, and Captain Crowninshield, chief of the bureau of navigation, said that the bulletin board which has usually chronicled the movements of our war ships would probably continue bare until after the present crisis had passed. SITUATION IS GRAVE. The gravity of the situation continues, the grave faces of those in high command in the Navy department telling their own story of what is thought about an impending conflict. Captain Crowninshield, head of the navigation bureau, was in consultation with Secretary Long much of the day, preparing plans for increasing the fleets at Hampton Roads and Key West. Commodore Sampson, in command of the fleet at Key West, was ordered to complete the coaling of his ships at the earliest possible moment and be ready for any emergency. Late this evening there was a rumor that Spain had presented another proposition to the president through Minister Polo, but confirmation could not be had. In the event of the army taking the field it is confidently believed that Colonel Humphrey, depot quartermaster and a soldier well known to many people in Omaha, would be assigned to duty at the base of operations and would have sole charge of that important branch of the military arm of the service. Captain J. D. Gage of Lincoln, who is in the city, has tendered his services to Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn in case of war and says that he is anxious to smell powder once more. JUST WAITING FOR THE WORD. Situation at Washington is Reported as Unchanged. WASHINGTON, April 2.—The situation between the United States and Spain remains the same, no communications having any bearing on the matter having passed since Thursday night, when Minister Woodford transmitted the reply of the Sagasta's ministry to the president's propositions of two weeks ago. Both governments appear to accept this issue as made up and are shaping their course accordingly. This being the case, the view is universally entertained, even by representative men of the administration, that congress upon receipt of the president's message early next week will take action, which it is almost universally expected must result in the severance of relations between the two countries. This was in part foreboded by the action of the senate committee on foreign relations today in agreeing to a resolution favorable to the independence of Cuba and for armed intervention if necessary to secure independence. With the crisis so near at hand it is believed that if any European mediation is to come it is to be within the next two days. It is said, however, at the State department this afternoon that no offer of European mediation had yet been officially transmitted to this government. It was the general understanding that friendly overtures of this kind were looked for at any time from France or Austria, and it was reported during the day that the presence in Washington of Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland was in connection with mediation from Rome, but it was said on high authority at the State department that no overtures of this character had taken official form, nor was the State department advised that any such steps were in contemplation. It is the understanding in official circles, based upon information, that the recognition of Cuban independence would not in itself be regarded by Spain as a casus belli. But at the same time there is little doubt that such recognition of Cuban independence would be followed by the withdrawal of the Spanish minister and his entire suite from Washington, and the termination of Spain's diplomatic corps at Washington. It is probable that the withdrawal of the Spanish minister, following the recognition of independence, would be not so much an indication of war, as it would be an emphatic protest by the Spanish government against

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Washington Officials Harbor Much Anxiety as to Probability of an Impending Clash of Arms.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(Special Telegram.)—How long would war with Spain last is a question heard in every public place in Washington these stirring times, and every person has a different idea as to its duration. President McKinley, his cabinet and some of those enjoying the confidence of the president on Capitol hill, however, have about reached the conclusion that it would not be ended under six months and would cost \$100,000,000 a month.

That this vast sum is fixed as a minimum of what it would cost monthly to go to war with Spain is said to have been reached by Secretary Gage and Chairman Dingley of the ways and means committee, the proposition being to ask congress to appropriate \$600,000,000 as a war measure, after which plans will be formulated as to the manner in which to raise this enormous amount, whether by a horizontal levy in customs duties or by taxation on internal commodities such as beer. For the first time since the civil war information as to the movements of the vessels of the American navy was not to be had today, and Captain Crowninshield, chief of the bureau of navigation, said that the bulletin board which has usually chronicled the movements of our war ships would probably continue bare until after the present crisis had passed. SITUATION IS GRAVE. The gravity of the situation continues, the grave faces of those in high command in the Navy department telling their own story of what is thought about an impending conflict. Captain Crowninshield, head of the navigation bureau, was in consultation with Secretary Long much of the day, preparing plans for increasing the fleets at Hampton Roads and Key West. Commodore Sampson, in command of the fleet at Key West, was ordered to complete the coaling of his ships at the earliest possible moment and be ready for any emergency. Late this evening there was a rumor that Spain had presented another proposition to the president through Minister Polo, but confirmation could not be had. In the event of the army taking the field it is confidently believed that Colonel Humphrey, depot quartermaster and a soldier well known to many people in Omaha, would be assigned to duty at the base of operations and would have sole charge of that important branch of the military arm of the service. Captain J. D. Gage of Lincoln, who is in the city, has tendered his services to Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn in case of war and says that he is anxious to smell powder once more. JUST WAITING FOR THE WORD. Situation at Washington is Reported as Unchanged. WASHINGTON, April 2.—The situation between the United States and Spain remains the same, no communications having any bearing on the matter having passed since Thursday night, when Minister Woodford transmitted the reply of the Sagasta's ministry to the president's propositions of two weeks ago. Both governments appear to accept this issue as made up and are shaping their course accordingly. This being the case, the view is universally entertained, even by representative men of the administration, that congress upon receipt of the president's message early next week will take action, which it is almost universally expected must result in the severance of relations between the two countries. This was in part foreboded by the action of the senate committee on foreign relations today in agreeing to a resolution favorable to the independence of Cuba and for armed intervention if necessary to secure independence. With the crisis so near at hand it is believed that if any European mediation is to come it is to be within the next two days. It is said, however, at the State department this afternoon that no offer of European mediation had yet been officially transmitted to this government. It was the general understanding that friendly overtures of this kind were looked for at any time from France or Austria, and it was reported during the day that the presence in Washington of Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland was in connection with mediation from Rome, but it was said on high authority at the State department that no overtures of this character had taken official form, nor was the State department advised that any such steps were in contemplation. It is the understanding in official circles, based upon information, that the recognition of Cuban independence would not in itself be regarded by Spain as a casus belli. But at the same time there is little doubt that such recognition of Cuban independence would be followed by the withdrawal of the Spanish minister and his entire suite from Washington, and the termination of Spain's diplomatic corps at Washington. It is probable that the withdrawal of the Spanish minister, following the recognition of independence, would be not so much an indication of war, as it would be an emphatic protest by the Spanish government against