

**THE NORTHWESTERN.**  
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**NEBRASKA.**

Wymore has a home minstrel troupe that is giving creditable entertainments.

Mr. Chapman of Arlington, farmer treasurer of Washington county, and another man were at Washington to see about building and operating a separating branch of the Arlington creamery. They met with considerable encouragement.

Senator S. T. Caldwell of Edgar has succeeded in raising a company of forty men, has offered his services to the secretary of war and received the assurance that he will be called on to report for duty in case of hostilities.

The city council of Tecumseh passed an ordinance at their regular meeting placing an occupation tax of \$5 per annum on all fire insurance companies doing business in that city. The tax will be given to the Tekamah fire department.

William Church Bissell, the oldest man in Humboldt, died last week. He has been in poor health for a long while. He was sitting in his chair and some one of the family went in to wake him up, as they thought he was asleep, but found that he was dead.

The city council of Tecumseh at its regular meeting passed an ordinance giving the salaries of city officials a sweeping reduction. It is said that some of the incoming officers will not qualify, as they do not care to assume the responsibility and labor their offices will require for the mere pittance now offered in the salaries.

As B. & M. passenger train No. 2 pulled into Minden the other morning from the west it collided with a man named Chris Anderson, whose team was running away, smashing the wagon into kindling wood and killing the man instantly. The team escaped unhurt. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of unavoidable accident.

The officers at Fairbury now have a clue to Miller, the cattle thief, who broke jail in that place, which may lead to his capture. Not being able to get the Beatrice blood-hounds the next day after his escape the sheriff got the Lincoln dogs in the evening, but they would not carry the trail more than two blocks, when they would become dazed and give it up.

Max Sauer, a boy born and reared in Columbus, but who for the past three years has been in charge of the electric light department in one of the large lake passenger steamers plying between Duluth and Cleveland, has written his parents that he has enlisted in the United States navy for two years. He enlisted at Chicago and will be assigned for duty in the engineering service of the next boat named for the navy.

Samuel Smith, an old resident of Auburn, committed suicide by hanging. Despondency from continued ill health is supposed to be the cause. He went to the stable, telling his wife that he was going to hitch up the team, but instead of doing so took one of the horses out of the stall and hitched it to the fence outside. He then climbed upon the manger, tied a small rope around his neck, fastened it overhead and swung himself off.

The Lincoln blood-hounds, says the Journal, returned yesterday from Fairbury, where they went to track H. S. Miller, the cattle thief, who broke jail. The dogs had good success and traced him to a railroad crossing, where he must have taken a train. Since the advent of the dogs in Lincoln criminal business in which they can be used has been scarce. The animals are well trained and their work at Fairbury shows that they have not forgotten how to smell.

George Ritterbusch, who was sentenced a year ago to the penitentiary for three years for assault, pardoned and returned home to Valentine last week, committed suicide at Crookston by shooting himself. No cause is assigned, but it is supposed that the suicide was due to the fact that his affianced, over whom the altercation was had that sent him to the penitentiary, had married during his incarceration.

The cultivation of broom corn by a number of the farmers in the vicinity of Wymore will be one of the new features in the agricultural line during the coming season. The staple product requires a great deal of care and attention in the raising, but more than compensates the grower for his trouble, as it brings from \$40 to \$50 per ton. There has been but a very small acreage grown in Gage county, owing to there being no near market, but the recent establishment of good broom factories at Beatrice and Lincoln will create a brisk demand with profitable results.

The statement of the business of life, accident and miscellaneous insurance companies transacting business in Nebraska, for the year 1897 has been printed by order of Auditor Cornell. The report is compiled from the annual statements filed with the auditor. Thirty-four life insurance companies report as follows: Policies written, \$3,434,161; discontinued, \$5,531,334; in force December 31, 1897, \$37,642,379; losses incurred, \$391,494; losses paid, \$387,857; premiums received, \$1,143,079. In 1896 thirty-six companies of the same class wrote insurance amounting to \$4,678,225, of nearly \$1,000,000 less than in 1897. There was dis-continued in 1896, \$4,195,336; in force December 31, 1896, \$39,797,527; losses incurred, \$278,676; losses paid, \$355,545; premiums received, \$1,124,965.

W. W. Kemp's podder wagon was broken into at Fairmont and about \$10 worth of goods taken, consisting of ladies' underwear, shoes, calicos and canned goods.

Charles Horn, an employe of the Robertson elevator, Kearney, was fatally injured by being caught in a belt. Just how the accident occurred will never be known, as he was alone at the time, but it is supposed he slipped and fell on the belt while doing some repairing. His flesh was torn in a frightful manner, many bones were broken and he had to receive a hard blow near the base of the brain. He leaves a widow and four small children.

**WAR IS TO BE DECLARED**

The President Will Recommend to Congress that a Formal Resolution Pass.

WILL SEND A SPECIAL MESSAGE.

This Action is Deemed Necessary as a Matter of Self-Protection.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—A resolution formally declaring war against Spain will be introduced in the congress of the United States today. The decision to do so has been reached after due deliberation, after safeguarding the interests of the United States. Questions pro and con were discussed this morning by President McKinley, Attorney General Griggs, Assistant Secretary Day and Senators Davis and Hale, and on the conference breaking up, announcement was made that congress tomorrow would be asked to declare what it is held already exists. This was the most important Washington development on the first war Sunday.

The president will send a message to congress to be delivered immediately after its convening setting forth the facts in the case and asking congress to formally declare war in order that there may be no misunderstanding on the part of other nations.

The most important point of the message, from a news point of view, will be the announcement that Spain has made formal reply to our ultimatum. This reply has not been given to the public, and it was supposed none had been received. The document is a formal acknowledgment by Spain, and also an acceptance by that country of the ultimatum as a virtual declaration of war. Congress will therefore be asked to recognize this condition of affairs and to declare it to the world, using Spain's concession as a reason for it.

The war resolution has been prepared, and it is understood that the two committees having in charge the foreign affairs of the two houses of congress will be prepared to report upon it very speedily—probably immediately after the reading of the message.

An effort will then be made to have the resolution taken up and passed forthwith and it is not now believed that there will be any formidable opposition to this course in either house.

Secretary Alger came with his daughter to the department early, and the latter, with the president, attended divine services at the Metropolitan Methodist church. Secretary and Mrs. Gage also drove to the white House and accompanied the president and Mill Alger to the Metropolitan. Mrs. McKinley has not yet returned from her trip to New York City.

General Corbin and Secretary Alger conferred in the afternoon respecting the arrangements for calling on the governors of the states and territories for the quota of troops they are to furnish under the president's proclamation asking for 125,000 men. The number of men in each branch of the service—infantry, cavalry and artillery—remain to be settled, besides many other matters of detail. In the State, War and Navy departments many of the officers were at their desks directing the execution of

policies heretofore determined upon. Neither Secretary Alger nor Secretary Long were on hand, but Assistant Secretary Mieklejohn and Secretary Roosevelt were on duty for several hours. Mr. Mieklejohn has already received a large number of applications from newspapers to permit their representatives to accompany the army, but, as stated in the circular issued yesterday, the number to be accorded the privilege will be limited.

The assistant secretary is busily engaged in supervising the general preparations for the transportation of the troops overland, and also to Cuba, for which a large number of vessels will be chartered.

In the quartermaster's office nearly the whole clerical force was on hand. The details are far from complete, but Quartermaster General Ludington believes everything will be in readiness by the time the troops are ready to move.

**Situation Affects Wheat.**

CHICAGO, April 25.—Wheat has been nervous during the last week, but at the close Friday July option showed an advance of 3/4 cents, while May gained 5/4 cents. War prospects which culminated on Friday, largely controlled values. Speculators held widely diverging opinions as to the ultimate effect of war upon grain values in the United States. Liverpool quotations advanced steadily, and enormous quantities were sold for direct export, cable offerings being accepted with avidity. But when ocean freight rates took a sudden jump on Friday, the bears flooded the pits with offerings. Their theory is that with advancing ocean rates and higher prices at Liverpool prices on this side must seek a lower level at the present time, or at least until the question of privateering has been settled. July, which sold a week ago at 84 1/2 cents, touched 90 cents at the opening on Friday; but after a short period of steadiness dropped to 88 1/4 cents and closed one-eighth of 1 cent from the bottom. Favorable crop news and seasonable weather generally had considerable influence on distant options.

May wheat did not feel the effects of these considerations, and closed the week at an advance of 5/4 cents. Higher prices at the northwest and steady acceptance of all the cash wheat offered abroad influenced the near month entirely.

**Two More Captures.**

KEY WEST, Fla., April 25.—The United States gunboat Helena captured the Spanish ship Miguel Jover yesterday morning. The Jover's cargo is composed of cotton and staves. The prize is estimated to value \$400,000, its cargo alone being worth \$150,000.

The Helena did not sail with the fleet on Friday morning, but remained her until yesterday, when it steamed out to sea. It was cruising about 150 miles in a southwesterly direction, when the Jover, steering a southeasterly course, hove in sight early this morning. The Helena fired a blank shot and the Spaniard instantly hove to. The gunboat then put a prize crew of twelve marines, and engineer and sixteen blue jackets on board the Jover, under command of Ensign McClellan, who had with him Ensigns Davis and McFarland. The gunboat conveyed the prize in port. The Jover was bound from New Orleans for Barcelona by way of Havana.

The Stillwater, Minn., Mirror has suspended publication after a prosperous career of a dozen years. It was published in the state penitentiary, and the suspension was unavoidable because there are no printers stopping there at present.

**THE BLOCKADE IS LEGITIMATE.**

It is So Recognized by the Great Powers.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Members of the diplomatic corps say that no question can be raised as to the right of the United States to declare a blockade. This being conceded, foreign powers will accept it as binding. In speaking of the blockade, the military attaché of one of the leading foreign establishments here said:

"The right of blockade is clearly recognized, and this blockade of Cuba will be universally respected by foreign powers. The limited extent of the blockade of Cuba is doubtless due to the necessity of making the blockade effective. Unless effective a blockade is not binding, and with the extended seacoast surrounding Cuba it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to maintain an effective blockade of the entire island. The blockade will have the effect of stopping all commerce even in neutral ships to and from the ports covered by the president's proclamation. But at the same time it should be understood that a neutral ship may take its own chances of running the blockade. In that case it acts at its peril and can under no circumstances expect indemnity from either of the belligerent powers."

This military aide, who is recognized authority on war strategy, also pointed out the two strategic moves open to the Spanish navy, one or the other of which, he believed, would be adopted. He said: "The first, and probably the best strategic naval move by Spain would be to concentrate and hold its fleet at the Cape Verde islands and the Canaries, and wait until the American fleet came to them. They would then have the advantage of position, base of supplies and ample coal. It would be a waiting game, but it would promise much better results than seeking a decisive naval engagement far away from the base of supplies and from coal. The only serious difficulty would be that it would necessitate the abandonment of Cuba and Porto Rico."

Whether the Spaniards are willing to make so great a sacrifice as a strategic move for ultimate naval success, remains to be seen. If not, then the Spanish navy must choose the other strategic move of making a dash to this side and risking everything on the chance of a decisive victory at the outset. It would be a desperate move, but if successfully executed it would prove of inestimable value, not only in its material results, including the defense of Cuba and Porto Rico, but also the sentimental influence of encouragement inspiring enthusiasm. But it would be a most hazardous move, as the Spanish ships would have the Atlantic between them and the home ports, with little or no chance of replenishing their coal supplies. What course the Spanish strategists will now adopt I do not know, but all things considered it seems to me likely they will adopt a waiting game and a retirement of their naval forces until the United States fleet, eager for a contest, goes in quest of them."

The representatives are beginning to feel much uneasiness over the situation of foreign subjects residing at Havana and other points covered by the blockade. So long as the blockade is peaceful the foreign residents are not likely to suffer. But in case of a bombardment the foreign element might be put in jeopardy, along with the native population, unless ample time were given to foreigners to withdraw. For that reason earnest inquiries are being made at the emissaries and legations as to what notice the United States will give for foreigners at Havana and elsewhere of the bom-

bardment. There is no doubt this government would give ample time for foreigners to withdraw, and in case of non-combatants, it is usual to give at least twenty-four hours' notice of a bombardment but there might be serious difficulty in the way of such notice, in case the Spanish forts open fire on American ships, as it is hardly to be expected that the ships would remain under fire for twenty-four hours without returning the fire. Under the existing circumstances, members of the diplomatic corps are looking for a notification giving ample time for the withdrawal of all foreign colonics.

**THE CALL IS NOW OUT.**

The President Asks for 125,000 Volunteers.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The president has issued a proclamation calling for 125,000 volunteers to serve two years, if not sooner discharged. Following is the full text of the proclamation:

Whereas, By an act of congress, entitled "An act to provide for the increasing of the military establishment of the United States in time of war and for other purposes," approved April 22, 1898, the president was authorized in order to arise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the army of the United States.

Now, Therefore, I, William McKinley, president of the United States, by virtue of power vested in me by the constitution and laws, and deeming sufficient occasion to exist, have thought fit to call for and hereby do call for volunteers to the aggregate number of 125,000, in order to carry into effect the purpose of the said law, the same to be apportioned as far as practicable among the several states and territories and the District of Columbia, according to population, and to serve for two years, unless sooner discharged. The details for this object will be immediately authorized through the war department.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at Washington, this 23d day of April, 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

(Seal.) WILLIAM M'KINLEY,  
JOHN SHERMAN,  
Secretary of State.

**Gladstone Sinking Fast.**

LONDON, April 25.—The newspapers say Mr. Gladstone is sinking fast. A change for the worse was observed last night and Dr. Habershon and sir Thomas Smith, surgeon extraordinary to the queen, were hastily summoned to Hawarden and spent the night there. It is considered significant that no bulletin was issued today from Hawarden and that Mr. Gladstone's family has been summoned.

**Morro Fires on the Fleet.**

ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP NEW YORK, off Havana, April 25.—Morro Castle opened fire on the squadron of the United States at 11 o'clock last night. About ten shots were sent in the direction of our ships, but not one of them took effect and no shots were fired in return.

The state auditor of North Carolina finds that nearly \$12,000 was paid to the employes of the last state senate, this being larger than the amount paid senators.

The flame of devotion is kindled at the altar of prayer.—Ram's Horn.

**TAXES TO CARRY ON THE WAR.**

Beer, Cigars, Tobacco, Patent Medicines, etc., to Be Taxed.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—By the war revenue bill introduced in the house it is estimated that it will produce about \$100,000,000 in revenue. The tax on beer and fermented liquors is increased from \$1 to \$2 a barrel, but no rebate for unused beer and destroyed stamps is allowed. The tax on tobacco snuff is increased to 12 cents a pound, upon cigars \$4 per 1,000 weighing more than three pounds per thousand, and \$2 on cigars weighing less than three pounds per 1,000; \$4 on cigarettes weighing more than three pounds per thousand, and \$2 on cigarettes weighing less than three pounds. A compensating tax of half that amount, which is the amount of the increase on the stock of cigars and cigarettes on hand. The following licenses are placed on tobacco dealers: Dealer in leaf tobacco whose sales do not exceed \$10,000 shall pay \$24 license; whose sales exceed \$10,000, \$48; dealers in tobacco whose sales do not exceed \$10,000, \$1.50; in excess of that amount, \$12.

The provisions of the stamp act include proprietary medicine and similar preparations, a tax of 1 cent on all packets, boxes bottles, etc., which retail at 25 cents or less; 2 cents between 25 and 50 cents, 3 cents between 50 and 75 cents, 4 cents between 75 cents and \$1, and for each 50 cents or fraction thereof above that amount an additional 2 cents. The same schedule applies to perfumery and cosmetics. Chewing gum is to pay 1 cent per package sold at 5 cent and 2 cents for packages exceeding 5 cents. Ginger ale and mineral waters are to pay 1 cent per pint and wines 2 cents per pint.

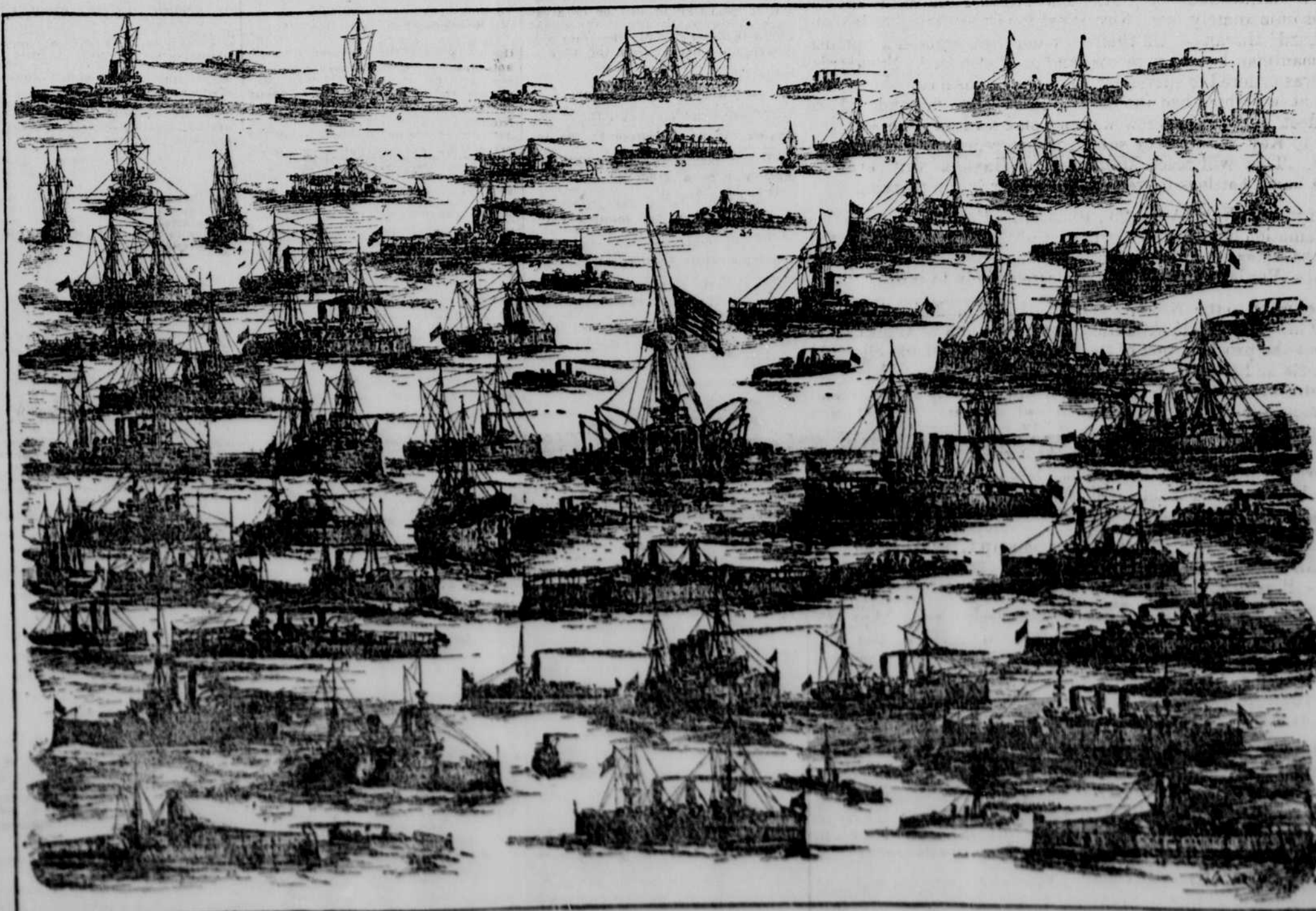
Bonds, debentures or other certificates of indebtedness after June 1, issued by any association, corporation, etc., are to pay 5 cents on each \$100 or fraction thereof issued, and on all transfers of shares or certificates of stocks 2 cents on each \$100 of face. On bank checks and drafts exceeding \$20 2 cents. Bills of exchange drafts at sight, or promissory notes for circulation, not exceeding \$100, 5 cents; between \$100 and \$250, 10 cents; between \$250 and \$500, 15 cents; between \$500 and \$750, 20 cents; between \$750 and \$1,000, 40 cents; \$1,000 and \$2,500, \$1; \$2,500 and \$5,000, \$1.50, and for each \$2,500 in excess of \$5,000, \$1. Foreign bills of exchange, letters of credit, including express money orders, to pay the same rate as bills of exchange or promissory notes except when they are drawn in sets of three or more, when each bill of each set where the sum payable does not exceed \$150, 3 cents. Above that there is a gradual scale running from \$1 to \$7,500 and 30 cents for each \$2,500 additional. Bills of lading, receipts for goods, merchandise, etc., for export, 10 cents each; express packages, 1 cent upon all such as pay not to exceed 20 cents; between 25 cents and \$1, 2 cents; in excess of \$1, 5 cents. Indemnifying bonds, 50 cents; all other bonds required in legal proceedings, 25 cents; certificates of damage or otherwise issued by a port warden, 25 cents.

**Proclaim Neutrality.**

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The state department, today received information that the governor of Hong Kong had issued a neutrality proclamation as to the United States and Spain. It is similar in terms to those already proclaimed by Jamaica and New Zealand.

In Moscow physicians are paid from \$1.50 to \$2.50 for ordinary visits.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY AS IT IS TODAY.  
(From the New York Ledger.)



1. Massachusetts, 2. Rhode Island, 3. Connecticut, 4. New York, 5. New Jersey, 6. Pennsylvania, 7. Delaware, 8. Maryland, 9. Virginia, 10. North Carolina, 11. South Carolina, 12. Georgia, 13. Florida, 14. Alabama, 15. Louisiana, 16. Mississippi, 17. Texas, 18. Arkansas, 19. Missouri, 20. Illinois, 21. Indiana, 22. Ohio, 23. Michigan, 24. Wisconsin, 25. Minnesota, 26. Iowa, 27. Kansas, 28. Nebraska, 29. Oklahoma, 30. Colorado, 31. Wyoming, 32. Montana, 33. Idaho, 34. Utah, 35. Nevada, 36. Arizona, 37. New Mexico, 38. California, 39. Oregon, 40. Washington, 41. Alaska, 42. Hawaii, 43. Puerto Rico, 44. Guam, 45. Philippines, 46. Cuba, 47. Porto Rico, 48. Virgin Islands, 49. American Samoa, 50. Northern Mariana Islands, 51. Guam, 52. Northern Mariana Islands, 53. American Samoa.