

THEY ARE NOT HERE TO FIGHT.

The Spanish Fleet Came to Raise the Blockade.

Has Supplies for Blanco--Madrid Has Heeded the Captain General's Call and the Fleet is Now Engaged in a Desperate Attempt to go to the Relief of Cuba by Landing at Cienfuegos--Other War News.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—An important conference was held at the department of state today between Secretary Day and the minister from Netherlands, D. G. Werscherlin. The subject under discussion was the landing of the Spanish fleet at Caracoa, where it is expected that the Spaniards took on coal, food, supplies and ammunition. Caracoa is in possession of the Netherlands and the latter nation was second in the list of foreign governments to declare its neutrality after war between the United States and Spain was declared. It is claimed that the Netherlands violated the neutrality laws in permitting Spain to make rendezvous for her fleet and her supply ships at Caracoa. Mr. Adie, assistant secretary of state, who is a recognized authority on international law and treaty stipulations, participated in the conference, which was clothed with most profound secrecy. Senators and Representatives who called to see Secretary Day were quietly informed to come back later, as the Secretary was engaged with the "Dutch minister."

It is claimed by the United States that recent developments show the Spanish had selected Caracoa as a base of supplies months ago. It is also contended that several large supply ships from Spain have been on the way for Caracoa by easy stages, over an unfrequented route, with the fixed purpose of meeting the Spanish fleet at that point. The President is now convinced that the Spanish fleet left the Cape Verde islands and came into Cuban waters for the sole purpose of conveying these supply ships to Cienfuegos. The selection of an out-of-the-way southern course, by way of Martinique, and recent developments at Caracoa all tend to strengthen this view of the situation. It is the intention of the Spanish fleet to go to the relief of Blanco and the Spanish forces in Cuba at all hazards and every effort will be taken to avoid meeting with Admiral Sampson's fleet or mix up with Commodore Schley's squadron. It is supposed that the Spanish fleet did not venture into the waters for the purpose of engaging in battle with the American fleet. The Spanish government owes sacred duty to General Blanco and the Spanish forces bottled up in the island of Cuba by the American blockade. The demand for supplies has been heard and heeded in Madrid, and the Spanish fleet is now engaged in a desperate attempt to go to the relief of Blanco by securing a landing at Cienfuegos. The Spanish admiral is not afraid to fight, but he would prefer to carry out his mission of relief before sacrificing his fleet to the superior forces of Sampson and Schley's squadrons. There is no disposition on the part of the President or the naval authorities to discount or underrate the fighting qualities of the Spaniards. They have demonstrated their courage in coming over in the face of unequal conditions, and their motive is first to reach communication with Blanco, if possible, and take the consequences of the effort whatever they may be.

THREE TAKEN AS SPIES

New York Defense Officers Suspect Them of Interfering With the Mines
New York, May 17.—Locked up in the guardhouse at Sandy Hook are three men who were discovered prowling about the Hook in a small catboat. They were captured by the coast patrol. The men could not give a satisfactory explanation of their presence in the forbidden waters near the fortifications and adjacent to the mine fields, and were therefore made prisoners and turned over to the authorities on the hook. One of the men said his name was Dennis Taylor, and all said they lived in Brooklyn. The names of the others could not be learned. One of them was described as a small, dark man, who resembled a Spaniard. The statements of the men have been taken and they are held pending an investigation.

There have been so many interferences with the submarine mines in the bay that the men on the patrol boats concluded to take no chances, and turned the prisoners over to the army officers in charge of the defenses, to be dealt with as they may see fit. The punishment that would follow a conviction by court-martial for spying upon the fortifications in the interest of the enemy would be death.

The herring catch in Lake Michigan for the past year was being 22,000,000 pounds, that of Lake Erie being about 2,000,000 pounds less.

Two Kansas Soldiers Hurt.

TOPEKA, Kan., May 17.—Charles A. Best and Carl Groom, privates in Company P, Twenty-second regiment, while scuffling, fell a distance of twenty feet from the southern entrance of the state house shortly before noon today. Best struck on his head and Groom on his side, on the hard gravel beneath. Both are badly injured. They were removed to a hospital. Best's home is at Clifton and Groom lives at Palmer. Both were recruited at Concordia.

Mississippi has only 1.28 per cent. of the railroad mileage in the country.

ALL EUROPE AROUSED.

Chamberlain's Speech Awakens Concern Nations Fear Alliance.

LONDON, May 17.—The speech of Mr. Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, has provoked an unusual amount of comment in every European capital, many papers regarding it as an unstatesmanlike display of the country's weakness by the admission that Great Britain is unable to cope with Russia without the assistance of an ally.

Others think it means dissensions between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain; but the preponderating opinion is that Mr. Chamberlain was used to make an announcement which Lord Salisbury, as premier and foreign minister, could not make without impropriety.

The London Daily Mail's Berlin dispatch says that Chamberlain's Birmingham speech is characterized by the German press in general as undiplomatic, acknowledging England's weakness in the face of Russia, and as an undignified bid for America's favor.

All newspapers which allude to the subject state that England will find no ally in Europe against Russia, least of all in Germany, which has no reason for quarreling with Russia's action in China.

Prince Bismarck's organ, the Hamburger Nachrichten, remarks: "It would be a deplorable error on the part of Great Britain to imagine that any continental power should have the strange idea of entering the lists at this critical juncture on the side of English arrogance and to bolster up exclusively English interests."

The Paris dispatch to the London Daily Mail says the Paris Temps, which saw in Chamberlain's speech only a bid for German alliance and a blow in the back to Salisbury, now discourses on the chance of an approaching war, and says that Chamberlain wishes to take revenge on the Niger river in Africa, for Port Arthur at the expense of France. It warns the secretary of the colonies not to go too far.

The London Daily Mail's Vienna dispatch says: Mr. Chamberlain's speech in Birmingham is dealt with at some length by the press here generally. The opinion is held that though it does not forecast immediate war, it augurs ill for peace should Mr. Chamberlain ever become premier.

GUSSIE DID NOT LAND.

Belongs Back to Key West the First Cuban War Expedition.

Key West, Fla., May 17.—The steamer Gussie, which left Tampa, Fla., May 10, with two companies of the First Infantry on board, in charge of 7,000 rifles and 200,000 rounds of ammunition, intended for the insurgents in the province of Pinar del Rio, remained off the coast of Cuba Thursday, Friday and Saturday, conveyed by the auxiliary gunboat Manning, in a vain attempt to land her cargo. Captain J. H. Dorst, of the staff of General Miles, and formerly United States military attaché at Vienna, headed the expedition, which returned here yesterday morning.

Captain Dorst says the failure of the expedition was due to the fact that the Cubans were unable to meet the landing party at the rendezvous and the Americans could not land supplies with no one to receive them. Captain Dorst is convinced that the Spaniards have a good system of communication along the coast, and that they can quickly raise enough troops to prevent the landing of a small force, such as the one he commanded, and the captain believes the only way arms and ammunition can be sent to the insurgents is to land them under the cover of warships with guns sufficient to beat off any attack. Then, he adds, the arms and ammunition should be conveyed inland by United States soldiers.

TROOPS ASSIGNED.

Kansas and Missouri Volunteers Sent in Three Different Directions.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Adjutant General Corbin made public yesterday the assignments of volunteer troops. Kansas is to send one regiment of infantry to Chickamauga, one to Washington, while the third will go to San Francisco to take part in the Philippines expedition.

Missouri is ordered to send three regiments and one battery of light artillery to Chickamauga and two regiments of infantry to Washington.

Chickamauga is to be the great concentrating camp. In all fifty-three regiments, eleven light batteries and thirty troops of cavalry are to be sent there.

LONDON IS PUZZLED.

The Course of the Spanish Fleet a Problem at the British Capital.

LONDON, May 17.—It is considered in London that the Washington board of strategy has a difficult problem to solve on account of the mysterious movements of Admiral Cervera's squadron, every alleged detail of which is now regarded with the utmost suspicion.

It is recognized that the war will be more prolonged than was first expected, and that the invasion of Cuba may prove difficult matter.

BOTH FLEETS MOVING.

Sampson's Squadron Has Sailed Again—Passed Cape Haytien.

CAPE HAYTIEN, Republic of Hayti, May 17.—The United States torpedo boat Porter and the store ship Supply, which have been here awaiting orders, have sailed to join Admiral Sampson's squadron.

The squadron passed Cape Haytien yesterday. It is uncertain whether it will turn southward to meet the Spanish fleet or go first to Key West. New York, May 17.—A Key West dispatch to the New York Evening Post says: The blockaders upon the south coast of Cuba have been warned that the Spanish squadron is reported off Venezuela, bound northwest and to double their vigilance.

Powerful vessels, which it is not necessary to name, will be ready to aid the ships stationed there in resisting the progress of the enemy. And there is small chance that the Spaniards will be able to enter Cienfuegos, a fortified port desirable to them on account of the large coaling facilities and machine shops.

Both our squadrons are informed about the course of the Spanish flotilla.

New York, May 17.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Williamstad, Caracoa, May 15, says: The Spanish cruisers Vizcaya and Maria Teresa left this port at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Their destination is unknown.

The four other Spanish warships, which were off the harbor, disappeared about noon, but last night one of the torpedo boat destroyers was sighted again.

While here the two warships took on a small quantity of coal and provisions. Their departure was due to the Dutch government demanding them to leave as provided in the degree of neutrality.

There were no collisions with the fleet. Nothing is known as to their boilers. A rumor says there are some commercial ships in this vicinity.

A dispatch to the Herald from St. Thomas, D. W. I., says: The United States auxiliary cruiser Yale left this port at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon heading west. Her officers and crew were well.

Commander Wise was much elated over the capture of the Rita. He regretted that the Palina had escaped by dodging behind a reef off Cape San Juan and was escorted to San Juan by a transport, believed to be the Alfonso XII, which fired on the Yale.

The French cruiser Genouilly has gone to Martinique. The steamer Twickenham, with 3,200 tons of coal from New Castle, arrived here and received orders to go on to Martinique. The Pretoria has sailed for New York with forty passengers, the majority of whom are refugees. There were on board the families of Senors Van Sykel, Weiman, Azarates del Valle, Hanna, Jerez and Mariani. They are all Americans who were offered an opportunity and assistance to leave Porto Rico.

New York, May 17.—A dispatch to the New York World from St. Thomas, says: Captain General Macias and the government at San Juan are anxiously expecting the Cape Verde fleet to come to the rescue of the island. While putting a bold front before the people, the authorities are fearful of another disastrous onslaught by Rear Admiral Sampson's squadron and are hoping that Admiral Cervera will put in an appearance in the harbor.

Inquiries are made here from San Juan as to the probable location of the Spanish warships, and the dispatching news has been sent to Captain General Macias that a fleet is far away from the troubled capital. Macias sends word that he was victorious in the engagement with Sampson, that his loss in soldiers was trifling, that a few civilians were killed and only two guns were dismounted. The American ships, he declares, withdrew under a fire that was maintained until they were out of danger. The damage to his new battery was repaired over night and the brick and mortar of the ancient stone fortifications were merely shaken up.

The band played in the plaza the night after the bombardment, he declares, and the people gradually recovered from their fright and the bad effects of the bombardment. The apparent retreat of the Americans fleet cheered the volunteers. Before the battle a large portion of the citizen soldiery was disaffected and awaited an opportunity to revolt. They now believe that the Americans were defeated.

The French corvette de Genouilly, which lay in San Juan harbor, and suffered from shells thrown by the American ships, has sailed from Martinique. Her officers take the dangers to which he was exposed humorously, but there will certainly be no international episode growing out of the matter.

"Had we not been in range of the fire," said the De Genouilly's captain, "we would not have been hit."

A Lasting Struggle.
"I don't believe in long engagements," said Robely. "I say get married and have it over." "Marriage," murmured Henry Peck, "is one long engagement; a sort of a running fight, with the husband always in full retreat."—Philadelphia North American.

Evangelists to Go to Cuba.

TAMPA, Fla., May 17.—When the United States troops at Tampa embark for Cuba they may be followed soon after by some of the most famous evangelists in the United States. General O. O. Howard, U. S. A., retired, now an evangelist, arrived at Tampa yesterday, accompanied by Maj. D. W. Whipple. As most of the regiments here are without chaplains, the sending to Cuba of several noted divines to work among the soldiers is contemplated. General Howard and Major Whipple spoke at the Tampa heights camp grounds last night.

MR. GLADSTONE IS DYING.

His Physician Says Death is Near—Only a Few More Hours.

HAWARDEN, May 18, 5 p. m.—An official bulletin just issued says: "Mr. Gladstone has taken a serious turn for the worse. His death may be expected in twenty-four hours."

When offered medicine at half past 1 o'clock this morning Mr. Gladstone exclaimed: "No, no." Apart from this he has seldom spoken, except to



WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

renounce a prayer. He is practically unconscious.

Mr. Gladstone's physician said this morning: "The end is now near. Mr. Gladstone has taken little nourishment. He breathes heavily for a few minutes and then his breathing is hardly perceptible. Mrs. Gladstone is with her distinguished husband. She and others of the family do not leave the room for more than a few minutes at a time."

WAR REVENUE INCREASE.

Senate Committee Reports Bill—Liquor Dealers Hit Hard.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The debate upon the war revenue measure was begun in the Senate yesterday. The opening statement for the committee on finance was made by Mr. Allison of Iowa, the ranking member in the absence of Mr. Morrill of Vermont. It was estimated that the bill, as it came from the House of Representatives, would raise about \$100,000,000 a year. As reported from the Senate committee, Mr. Allison estimates that it will raise \$151,497,056. Appended is a recapitulation of the amount of revenue to be derived by the government under the present law and under the bill as it was reported from the Senate committee on finance; it will be noted that the estimates include the amounts raised under the present law and the increases proposed in the pending bill.

Distilled liquors, \$58,000,150; tobacco and snuff, \$22,810,000; cigars and cigarettes, \$16,502,465; tobacco manufacturers and dealers, \$307,102; bankers, \$2,394,600; exchange brokers and pawn brokers, \$1,500,700; commercial brokers, \$113,094; theaters, circuses and other exhibitions, \$1,420,447; bowling alleys and billiard tables, \$166,967; stocks, bonds, merchandise, etc., \$19,000,000; bank checks, \$5,000,000; inland bills of exchange, \$1,500,000; foreign bills of exchange, \$900,000; express and freight, including all bills of lading, \$10,000,000; life insurance, \$1,777,000; mortgages, \$2,041,500; all other articles in schedule A, including tax on receipts, \$28,000,000; proprietary preparations and perfumeries, \$20,000,000; chewing gum, \$1,000,000; legacies and successions, \$9,275,475; total, \$214,045,829.

Add to this the revenue to be derived from articles not included in the pending bill, on the basis of receipts of 1897: Spirits, \$82,008,545; brewers (special tax), \$169,927; retail dealers in malt liquors, \$191,971; wholesale dealers in malt liquors, \$278,801; oleomargarine, \$1,034,029; billed cheese, \$12,992; miscellaneous receipts, \$375,487; total estimated revenues, \$308,115,559; less revenues for 1897, \$146,619,593; revenue provided by Senate bill, \$151,497,056.

HIS FIRST VETO.

The President Unanimously Upheld by the House.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The House yesterday received its first veto from President McKinley and voted unanimously to sustain the executive. The veto was on a bill conferring upon the court of claims jurisdiction in private claims case of long standing. The day was given to consideration of bills under suspension of the rules, the measures of chief importance being one ratifying an agreement for the allotment and opening to settlement of the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache lands in Oklahoma; and to establish an assay office at Seattle, Wash.

Correspondent in Hard Luck.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The British embassy was requested recently to secure information concerning the Porto Rican correspondent of the New York Herald, named Halstead, a British subject, who was said to be undergoing torture at San Juan. On inquiry of the London foreign office, the embassy is informed that Halstead was convicted of making photographs of the Porto Rican forts, and was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment.

Following the Cables.

New York, May 18.—The Commercial Advertiser yesterday said: In the game of hide-and-seek which is going on between the American and Spanish squadrons in the Caribbean sea, the cables are playing an important part. They are numerous and reach many out of the way points where the battleships might touch to get information from home. The cutting of the cables near Cienfuegos the other day was only a beginning, and Blanco yesterday was still in cable communication with Madrid and with the island of Caracoa, where the Spanish fleet was Sunday.

SPANISH FLEET IS HEMMED IN.

In Tight Quarters at Cervera--Can Hardly Get Away.

American Ships Ready to Pounce Down Upon the Spaniards at the Very First Opportunity—Enemy Hopes to Do Some Lively Dodging to Avoid a Decisive Engagement—Many Treacherous Maneuvers.

THE OREGON HEARD FROM.

Knows All About the Spanish Fleet—Close to Caribbean Sea.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The Oregon, the Marietta and the Buffalo, on the way up the South American coast, have been heard from again. They know of the presence of the Spanish fleet in the Caribbean, and may reach the north part of South America in time to take part in operations. Two auxiliary cruisers are as far south as Martinique. The cruises Montgomery is said to have left the fighting squadron and to have gone southward. These latest movements seem to look to the formation of a fourth squadron in West Indian waters, with the Oregon, the Marietta and the Buffalo, as soon as they leave the South American coast and start for Barbadoes.

With the flying squadron watching the passages, the fighting squadron hunting him in the Caribbean, the Oregon and her collection of warships between him and the Atlantic, the Spanish admiral may find his policy of evasion a difficult one to maintain. Meantime the operations against Cuba by the blockading squadron go on. The Oregon should be to the eastward of the Caribbean in two or three days' more of steaming.

New York, May 18.—A copyright dispatch from Santa Lucia, West Indies, to the New York World, says: "A large strange warship was sighted last night lying off the west coast of this island. Others were also seen to the northward of Santa Lucia. These vessels are believed here to be a Spanish squadron watching for the United States battleship Oregon, which may pass close to this island on its way to Key West."

Santa Lucia is a British possession about 500 south of San Juan de Porto Rico and 190 miles west of the Barbadoes, where it was expected that the Oregon would coal.

Later, when the rainy season sets in, fast blockade runners, both Spanish and foreign, will undertake to carry ammunition and provisions to Cuba and Porto Rico.

A dispatch from Kingston, Jamaica, says the report has reached that place that three war ships, the nationality of which it was impossible to make out, were seen last evening off Moran point, at the eastern extremity of Jamaica. The ships were taking a southerly course.

CAPE HAYTIEN, Hayti, May 18.—Two Spanish cruisers or gunboats are making their base of operations at Badiquiri, or Guantaumo bay. They are known to move every night in the western waters between Hayti and Cuba.

A Haytien schooner plying between the Mole St. Nicholas, Jean Rabel and Glatinaque reports, through an agent of the Cuban insurgents at Port de Paix, having met Spanish vessels several times. The Spaniards are supposed to hide in the Cuban ports during the day and go out cruising at night.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 18.—The ships of the American blockading squadron are keeping a vigilant watch for the appearance of the Spanish fleet and will not be taken by surprise should the Spanish men-of-war round Cape Antonio, the westernmost point of Cuba, and swoop down upon Havana. All our ships have been warned by Commodore Watson of the possibility of such a move, and sailors are kept constantly in the tops, where they can sweep the horizon for thirty miles, looking out for the first signs of a hostile ship.

All the naval officers on the blockade station are anxious for a meeting with the Spaniards, and when informed that the latest reports placed them off the coast of Venezuela they jubilantly declared that the enemy could be hemmed in between the Windward Islands and the Yucatan channel, to be destroyed. The only fear expressed was for the safety of our ships blockading Cienfuegos. But they do not doubt that precautions have been taken for the safety of the ships now on the southern coast of Cuba. The torpedo boats and fast yachts of the auxiliary fleet keep the blockading ships in constant communication with Key West, whence the movements of the vessels are being directed.

HOW SPANIARDS FIGHT.
A Derelict Floated to Destroy American War Vessels.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 18.—The United States cruiser Wilmington, when about thirty miles east of Havana yesterday, fired four shells into a Spanish trap in the shape of a derelict, sinking it, and thus doing away with another piece of Spanish trickery. The commander of the Wilmington had been warned by dispatch boats that some dangerous wreckage was drifting about the spot mentioned, and the cruiser steamed in that direction to investigate the reports. An old Spanish schooner, with her deck loaded to the rails with rusty iron, ear wheels, etc., closely packed together, was found floating in the track of torpedo boats and dispatch boats. The iron laden schooner had evidently been sent out of Havana harbor in the hope that a torpedo boat or small craft of the blockading force would crash into it.

THE SCRIP LAW UPHELD.

The Kansas Court of Appeals Practically Abolishes Company Stores.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., May 19.—The Kansas court of appeals of the Southern department yesterday sustained the ruling of Judge Simons. The law very materially affects the large coal miners, its object being to prohibit the issuance of scrip to miners in payment for their work, and it thereby has the effect of practically abolishing company stores.

SEVEN LIVES LOST.

Quebec Convent Burns—Two Hundred in the Building.

St. HYACINTHE, Quebec, May 18.—A disastrous fire occurred here early yesterday, when the Materie St. Joseph was burned, causing the loss of seven lives and the injury of a number of the inmates, of whom there were 200 in the institution, by jumping from windows. There are also five persons unaccounted for. The cause of the fire is unknown. Three sisters were burned to death.

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A FLAG OF TRUCE.

Under It the Uneat Entered Havana Harbor.

New York, May 18.—A special dispatch from Key West says: "The World correspondents imprisoned in Fort Cabanas, in Cuba, are saved. General Blanco has courteously acceded to representations made to him by United States special government agent, Lieutenant Brainard, U. S. N. As quickly as two Spanish officers can reach Key West they will be taken to Havana under a white flag to be exchanged, and the World correspondents will be brought back to Key West by the same special steamer."

The London Times' war correspondent, Knight, and the British consul, Gollan, acted vigorously in the matter. It is believed that had Lieutenant Brainard's instructions been more sweeping he could have brought them back on the Uneat. Lieutenant Brainard reports that the docks of Havana were lined yesterday with angry people. Mr. Knight was advised by consul Gollan not to land for fear of mob violence because he was brought over by a United States man of war.

ANGERED BY BRITAIN.

Chamberlain's Speech Has Aroused the Spanish Hatred for All English.

New York, May 18.—The Madrid correspondent of the New York World says:

The burst of wrath against England throughout Spain in consequence of the speeches of Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Salisbury is hard to describe. Every Spaniard, from the highest to the lowest, is quite as much exasperated against everything English now as he is against the Yankees. England is denounced as mean, perfidious, selfish and base.

The wave of indignation against England and the United States is such that the Spanish jingoes of the press and the people loudly find fault with the queen and her government for not immediately rushing into the arms of Russia and France, for not offering to Germany any bait in the Philippines short of Manila and Luzon island that could make the Kaiser the basis of a continental coalition against the Anglo-Saxon countries.

A Frenchman Wants to Fight.

RICHMOND, Va., May 18.—The Count de Chambord, who is on a visit to this city, today addressed a letter to Governor Tyler, offering his services to fight for Cuba, and expressing a desire to aid in planting the American flag on Moro castle and the towers of Madrid. Governor Tyler replied, thanking him.