

BRIEF WAR NOTES

CONDENSED SKETCHES OF ACTUAL HOSTILITIES.

Plain, Unvarnished Paragraphs Portraying Truthful News of Events as They Have or Will Happen—Movements of Army and Navy—Departmental Doings

Wednesday, May 18.

Up to last night 92,540 volunteers had been mustered into the service of the United States.

The torpedo boat destroyer Yankton and the torpedo boat McKee have been placed in commission and will be sent to Key West.

Reports from Key West show that the condition of the torpedo boat Winslow is worse than was supposed, and it is believed it will be necessary to send her to Norfolk navy yard for repairs.

The three battalions of the First Nebraska volunteers joined at Cheyenne early yesterday morning. Several of the boys have been slightly indisposed, but on the whole they are standing the journey well.

Every newspaper correspondent in Tampa, Fla., has been officially notified that in future no mention must be made of any small expedition similar to that of the Gussie last week until the success of the expedition has been assured by the return of the boat.

The blockade of Manila is extremely rigid and several foreign ships have been refused admittance. The rebels are useless as allies of Admiral Dewey. They are utterly disunited, quite half of them being in favor of Spain. The Cavite arsenal was found empty. Colonel Miguel of the artillery committed suicide because he discovered that the ammunition was not existent.

A Hong Kong special says: Consul Widman has returned here from Kowloon bay, where he took the insurgent leader, General Aguinaldo, and his cabinet on the Hugh Mculloch. Arrangements were made for the insurgents to storm Manila. The dispatch adds that it is absolutely necessary that more American warships and a strong military force be sent to Dewey's aid at once.

Thursday, May 19.

The Second regiment Nebraska volunteer infantry left this evening for Chickamauga.

Up to this morning 95,000 volunteers had been mustered into the service of the United States.

The First regiment Nebraska volunteer infantry reached San Francisco at 10 o'clock today and went into camp on the race track.

The Charleston, which was said to have sailed a week ago, did not leave San Francisco until yesterday. It carries supplies to Dewey.

The Spanish fleet at Cadiz, Spain, is ready for sea. The fleet is expected to sail for the Philippines before the end of the month with 11,000 troops.

Ohio's 200 naval reserves refused to go to the front unless they could go in a body, and consequently the government is looking elsewhere for that state's quota.

The battleship Alabama was launched from Cramp's ship yards at Philadelphia yesterday. The launching was private. Senator Morgan's daughter acted as sponsor.

The government has called for bids for the construction of three first class battleships, sixteen torpedo boat destroyers and twelve torpedo boats. The construction of these vessels is authorized by the passage of a bill a month or so ago.

After an illness of thirty years the Allegheny arsenal shops at Pittsburg, Pa., have started up, and a large force of men was put to work manufacturing leather goods for army use. Saddles, harness, belts, etc., will be turned out as rapidly as possible.

Secretary Long gave out the welcome information yesterday afternoon that the battleship Oregon had successfully completed her long trip from San Francisco. The secretary did not say whether the Oregon had joined Admiral Sampson's fleet or not.

Friday, May 20.

France is beginning to see her mistake in espousing the cause of Spain, and also forming an Anglo-Saxon alliance.

On account of a trivial accident to its condensers, the cruiser Charleston was obliged to put back to San Francisco for repairs. It will leave in two days.

Ex-members of Thurston rifles, who failed to pass the first examination, are now at work organizing the Junior Thurston rifle to be ready for another call to the front.

The strictest kind of censorship has been established at Tampa, and absolutely nothing pertaining to naval or military movements from that port will be allowed to be sent.

The Second regiment of the Nebraska volunteer infantry got away from Lincoln last evening at 6:30 o'clock. They left in battalions over the B. & M., Rock Island and Elkhorn.

A report came late last evening that the Spanish Cape Verde fleet had succeeded in reaching Santiago de Cuba. Today's advices confirm the report and a battle is believed to be imminent between it and Admiral Sampson's fleet.

George A. Baynes of Chicago has tendered to President McKinley a full regiment of trained Canadian-American soldiers. Most of the men in the regiment have been connected with the British army. He states he has enough names to fill out another regiment if needed.

Colonel W. J. Bryan's regiment is nearly full, a sufficient number of companies having been offered. The Lincoln company was organized last night, Mr. Bryan being the first to enlist, which it was necessary for him to do in order to be colonel. The work of organizing the regiment is in the hands of the veteran General Victor Vilquin.

Although the prices of provisions at Havana are very high, it is calculated that there is food enough obtainable to last about five months, because, it is asserted, considerable stores were laid in before the blockade, and no provisions are allowed to be sent from

here to the interior towns. Eggs cost 10 cents each; a glass of milk from 20 to 25 cents, and the size of the loaf of bread has been reduced one-half. This, however, was done before the blockade began. There are thousands of men from the cigar, tobacco and other factories out of work, and the authorities are employing as many of them as possible on the fortifications. The number of men idle is a matter which causes the authorities considerable anxiety. Up to the present they have been provided with food in one way or another, mainly by their former employers, being compelled to contribute to their maintenance, but the time must come when these men will feel the pangs of hunger and their rioting is sure to follow.

Saturday, May 21.

Between 8,000 and 10,000 Spanish troops, drawn from Catalonia, Andalusia, Aragon and Valencia, are embarking at Barcelona for the Philippines.

Four hundred sixty stalwart Swedish-Americans in Chicago are anxious to join the 400 British-Americans there and form a regiment to serve Uncle Sam.

Complaints of the shoeless among the volunteers just brought into the army will soon be silenced, as the government has just placed orders for 200,000 pairs of soldiers' shoes.

At Montreal yesterday Senor Polo y Bernabe and his suite went on board the Dominion line steamship Dominion at a late hour. The ship sails early tomorrow morning. The ex-minister refused to talk to reporters.

Troop A, Captain Culvers cavalry, departed from the fair grounds at Lincoln last evening over the Missouri Pacific, bound for Chickamauga, Ga. The mobilization of troops in Lincoln is now only a reminiscence.

The regular daily departure of the Spanish fleet from Cadiz to the Philippines failed to be chronicled by the newspaper correspondents today. So far, according to them, no less than seventeen fleets have sailed from Cadiz.

Admiral Cervera, and his elusive Cape Verde squadron, has been located at Santiago de Cuba. If such is the case Admiral Cervera has entered a port from which he will not escape. But as it is very hard now to get authentic news of movements of the fleets, the chances are we will know more about affairs later on.

Preparations for the Philippine expedition go steadily forward. General Merritt is now on his way to San Francisco to take command of his forces. Additional regiments of regular army troops have been ordered to join his command, and the war department is showing a disposition to treat General Merritt with the utmost liberality in the equipment of his force.

Secretary Alger has sent to the secretary of the treasurer for transmission to congress supplemental estimates of appropriations, aggregating \$88,628,849 required by the war department for the support of the regular and volunteer armies of the United States for the first six months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899.

The principal items for which appropriations are asked are: Pay for volunteers, \$25,026,266; subsistence of the army, \$10,219,125; transportation, \$20,000,000; clothing and equipment, \$26,326,449.

Sunday, May 22.

Spain is making strenuous efforts to win the insurgents over.

Spain hopes for a general war. She thinks in that event she would have many allies.

A passenger train on the Chattanooga, Rome & Southern railroad collided with a train bearing the First Missouri regiment to Chickamauga park yesterday. One private was killed and several others injured.

Yesterday's papers contained scare heads of a battle between Sampson and Cervera, in which it was said twelve Spanish boats were sunk and two American boats were disabled. It is officially denied this morning.

Seventy-five women, all of prominent St. Joseph, Mo., families, met and adopted resolutions to neither buy nor wear French made goods, and to discourage the merchants whom they patronize from handling French products.

After their arrival at Chattanooga, Tenn., the Second regiment Nebraska volunteers marched four miles to Chickamauga park. While in town, Company F (Lincoln Light Infantry) gave an exhibition trumpet drill that took the town by storm.

A Berlin dispatch says the German foreign office has received reports from Paris saying France is indignant at the Ancren cable cuttings, considering such action to be contrary to international law, and that she intends to ask the powers to protest against it.

The fact that the First regiment of Nebraska volunteers was supplied with ten day's rations has been a matter for congratulation ever since their arrival at San Francisco, for the simple reason that they have not had to worry about food as the other regiments are doing.

The modern monitor Monterey, stationed at San Francisco, is under orders to sail for Manila to reinforce Admiral Dewey's squadron. The Monterey is a tower of strength in herself and combines with her offensive and defensive qualities a phenomenal seaworthiness. She will start on the trip as soon as she is coaled.

Pat Ford, jr., of Omaha, who is said to have been on the Maine when it was blown, and who has since been serving on the gunboat Marblehead, had a fifteen-year penitentiary sentence wiped out Saturday by the governor granting him a pardon. Young Ford enlisted in the navy May 1, 1895, at Boston, Mass.

Monday, May 23.

The London Daily Times fails to see wherein Admiral Cervera showed himself a great strategist in going into the harbor of Santiago de Cuba where one or two vessels, which the American navy could easily spare, could bottle him up.

On a telegram from Washington the Carpenter steel works late last night sent 150 thirteen-inch projectiles, destined for Sampson's fleet. These weigh 1,200 pounds each and will go through anything Spanish afloat. Over 800 projectiles of somewhat similar size go tomorrow for San Francisco for Dewey at Manila.

Sherman Avery White, formerly major of the Second battalion, university cadets and now regimental quartermaster sergeant, First Nebraska, writes from San Francisco, stating that the boys are rather worn out after their long trip but are rapidly getting into good spirits again. The ride was slow and tiresome, hardback was poor stuff after the fare they had enjoyed in camp, and the weather was cold with snow falling part of the time. They expect to sail early this week on the City of Peking.

All the regiments in camp at Chickamauga have settled down to hard work and are undergoing practical training in the art of war. The businesslike methods being pursued by General Brooke will make the army available for service much earlier than many officers believed possible. Supplies of every description continue to pour in. Carload after carload of provisions arrive, and a vast amount of clothing and equipment is also being received. The indications now are that the entire army will be equipped during the next two weeks. Captain W. K. Wright, assistant quartermaster, received notice today that 4,500,000 rations, in addition to the first order, had been purchased and are now en route. Prosser, Lazard & Co have begun work on an immense bakery in the park. This firm has a contract to supply the army with 75,000 loaves of bread daily.

The chaplains of the various regiments have started a fight against the liquor saloons scattered all over the camp. They have a strong backing and the saloons will probably be abolished. The park army now numbers nearly 35,000 men and each day adds to it several thousand. The formation of the First army corps has been completed and today the formation of the First division of the Third corps was begun. During the last few days a number of serious deprivations have been committed by the worst elements of the volunteers. The miscreants have been so severely punished, however, that no further trouble is expected.

Tuesday, May 24.

Advices received late yesterday indicated the arrival at Key West of the battleship Oregon.

It is now believed the monitor Monterey will be towed clear across the Pacific, on account of her limited coal capacity.

A report was current yesterday in London financial circles of a forthcoming announcement of a Franco-Spanish alliance.

Spain is very mad over the fact that American ships sometimes fly the Spanish flag for purposes of deception. They call it "cowardly and iniquitous."

Company A, Third regiment, N. S. G., organized last night by electing H. G. Whitmore, a university graduate, captain, C. F. Schwarz first lieutenant and E. R. Morrison second lieutenant.

The Rome correspondent of the London Chronicle says he learns that the veteran's declaration of neutrality was due to a notification from Washington that no manifestations of sympathy with Spain would be tolerated.

A St. Johns, N. F., dispatch says the captain of an English warship has urged Sir Herbert Murray, governor, to advise the United States to send one of its fastest cruisers to patrol the grand banks for a week, or more, that the cruiser, on sighting Spaniards might warn United States.

The First regiment of California volunteers embarked on the City of Peking at San Francisco yesterday. The Second Oregon and one battalion of the Fourteenth infantry United States regulars will embark today on the City of Sydney. Both boats will depart for Manila as soon as supplies are taken on board.

The soldier boys do not appear to be in very good odor with the residents of Chattanooga. Several rowdies have disgraced themselves by insulting ladies on the streets and this has angered the citizens. Needless to say that none of the N. S. G. boys seem anything like this. All the boys seem to value their reputations and that of the state which they represent and Colonel Bills places his trust in their actions to such an extent that they want to keep it.

As the train approached Chattanooga the Nebraska boys manifested the greatest interest in Lookout mountain. They saw a mountain covered with thickly growing trees, the top surmounted by a hotel, railroad track and other modern conveniences. Colonel Bills pointed out the spot where General Hooker and his troops climbed up on their journey to the clouds and where the stars and stripes were planted. A few miles further on Missionary Ridge was observed. Both these scenes were inspected closely by the Nebraskians.

Col. John P. Bratt of the First Nebraska regiment of volunteers has telegraphed from San Francisco the amount which he finds by the pay roll is due to officers and enlisted men now with him. The amount is \$6,199. Telegraphic instructions will be given Colonel Bratt to draw on the state for the money. The same order will be telegraphed to Colonel Bills of the Second Nebraska regiment. The work of checking over the Second regiment pay roll will be completed today. The total for that regiment including pay of those who were rejected is over \$75,000.

The boys of the Second regiment, Nebraska volunteers, arrived in Camp Chickamauga Sunday. They were pretty tired but otherwise were o. k. On approaching Chattanooga the first section bearing the first battalion narrowly missed being run into by a passenger train. The two trains stopped within 100 feet of each other. The first battalion arrived in historic Murfreesboro at 7:15 a. m. Saturday. A few miles north it passed the cemetery where the bodies of the veterans who fell at the battle of Stone river lie. The sight quieted the boys immediately. A few minutes later they were singing "On the Banks of the Wabash," "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Dixie." The first carried them back to their homes where it has been so popular. The latter songs aroused in them a purer, more friendly feeling for the land into which they were journeying. At Murfreesboro the train stopped for a few minutes and the boys in the coaches availed themselves of the opportunity to lay their faces in the cool waters of Stone river.

CARLOS OR REPUBLIC?

DECIDED MOVEMENT ON IN SPAIN AGAINST QUEEN.

The War Not so Popular as Americans Believed—Many Spaniards Think the Loss of the Colonies Would Benefit the Country.

NEW YORK, May 25.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Madrid says: The situation in Spain is much more serious than it is generally said to be. Black clouds are gathering over the peninsula and it will be impossible to avoid the storm which will burst with terrible effect and sweep away everything in its path.

Spain is just now passing through a very serious economic crisis. It is the result of an extraordinary rise in exchange on France, which one day reached 115 per cent. Taking advantage of the exchange, French and Belgian corn factors have bought up all the wheat in Spain, which they at once exported, realizing considerable profits, and when the Cortes passed a bill prohibiting the export of cereals, the stock of corn and wheat had already crossed the frontier, leaving Spain without food for her own people. It, therefore, became necessary to buy flour abroad at ruinous prices to meet immediate needs. In Madrid the rise in the price of bread has not yet made itself felt, because the mayor promised to indemnify the bakers out of the municipal funds, but the credits for this purpose are not large and when they are exhausted the Madrid bakers will also be obliged to raise their prices.

What will happen then? The people, already in such straits, will inevitably join the numerous political and other malcontents, and the result may very well be civil war.

After this revolution, which the army will be powerless to put down, will Don Carlos come into power or will a republic be proclaimed? It is very difficult to prophesy on this point. It is certain, however, that the queen regent does not enjoy much sympathy among the people. She is blamed for several things, the chief of which are that she too frequently follows the advice of her mother, the Archduchess Elizabeth of Austria, when a difficulty arises, and that she too ostentatiously surrounds herself with cardinals and bishops, who are sovereign masters at court. Spaniards also blame the queen regent for always remaining in retirement when there is question of her presence at any great fête. They do not know her, and consequently can have no sympathy for her.

The young king is never in question. An Andalusian senator, who is an out and out Royalist, said: "The queen regent began by losing the friendship of her people, and then their sympathies. Now she is on the way to lose their respect."

The queen regent was not present at the patriotic "grand corrida," the receipts from which were destined for the national subscription, the other day, because she feared a hostile demonstration, which certainly would have occurred had she passed through the streets.

As regards the war the people do not entirely share the opinion of the queen regent. The loss of Cuba and Porto Rico and the Philippines would cause the Spanish people to rejoice. Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines were three milk cows of the ruined granaries of Spain, and the Spanish people were overwhelmed with taxation to keep them up.

"Let the Americans rid us of Cuba and the Philippines. It would be the greatest good they could do us. They ought to have been given to them without war."

That is what I have heard at least 200 times from the mouths of the Spanish people, and I am convinced an immense majority think this now.

In government circles there is a conviction that Europe will intervene and this is the last hope which seems to keep them up.

TO SEIZE ALL COLLIERIES.

The United States Will Regard Coasting Vessels at Sea as Enemies.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Notice has been given to all the powers that, pending the present hostilities, the United States will not hold coal to be contraband of war, but vessels carrying it will be regarded as enemies. In other words, if the vessels in the fleet off Cuba or in West Indian waters discover a collier cruising that cannot give a very clear account of herself, no matter what the flag she is flying, she will be taken prisoner and the ship and cargo libeled as any Spanish vessel would be, and she is liable to be fired into and sunk if discovered outside of the international limit at sea.

No Tobacco Trust Formed.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 25.—It is understood that the deal for the consolidation of the plug tobacco factories in the United States has fallen through. It is claimed that the terms were too low, and the owners of the plug factories considered that the American Tobacco company was getting the better of the bargain.

Texas Wheat Badly Damaged.

DALLAS, TEXAS, May 25.—Reports from a dozen or more counties in the North Texas wheat belt state that fully one-half the wheat crop has been destroyed by the tornado of Friday night and the severe rains and winds that followed. Other grain suffered correspondingly.

To Take Castillo's Place.

MADRID, May 25.—Duke Almedovar de Rio has accepted the portfolio of minister for foreign affairs, offered to and declined by Senor Loayza Castillo, the Spanish ambassador at Paris.

MORE TROOPS ARE NEEDED

Spain Will Stay in the Fight Until She is Utterly Routed.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—A dispatch to the New York Tribune from Washington says:

Another call for volunteers is under serious consideration by the military authorities, although it may not be issued for at least a week or two, or, at any rate until the invasion of Cuba has begun and the necessity for additional troops is clearly demonstrated. The unexpected and extraordinary drain on the regular and volunteer force by the Philippine expedition, necessitating at the outset 15,000 men, together with the prospect that Spain will not be influenced by European powers to abandon her futile struggle, but will wage war until her resources are exhausted, is causing the military authorities considerable anxiety regarding the sufficiency of the present force of the government for carrying out the responsibilities which have been undertaken.

The simple task of freeing Cuba has been increased, though the necessities arising in the Philippines are through the probability of being compelled to maintain an army of occupation in Cuba several years is beginning to assume tremendous dimensions. If Porto Rico is added to the scales eventually, as the Philippines were, the magnitude of American responsibility will be materially increased, and further increase of the army will be compulsory. Many public men are beginning to express the conviction that the forces of the United States will be as difficult to withdraw from Cuba as those of England have been from Egypt, although there is no modification up to this time of the resolution to make Cuba a free and autonomous republic and not a mere dependent territorial acquisition. With regard to the Philippines and Porto Rico, however, a disposition is already manifested to regard them as fruits of victory, and in view of the notorious incapacity of the inhabitants for self-government, to take permanent possession of them and provide them with complete colonial establishments. Eventually they may become in part self-governing, but the strong arm of the United States may have to be exerted indefinitely to preserve their peace and prosperity.

The authorized strength of the army a month ago was 250,000 men. It has now been increased to 150,000 and of the latter number 100,000 will be actually under arms and in the field before June 1. Of this increase, by the expansion of the regular service through its reorganization under the three battalion formation, 30,000 men have been added, the other portion having been supplied through the call for volunteers and by means of the enlistment of two brigades of Indians and one of engineers.

It is already the prevailing belief that the execution of the regular service, though completed only for the duration of the war, will be permanent, and that the standing army will never again fall below 50,000. The latter number, in the opinion of General Miles, is essential for operation in Cuba next summer, although most of the invading force will necessarily consist of volunteers.

The rapid development of the Cuban invasion project is given another indication of the increasing necessity for additional volunteers. In its inception months ago the programme contemplated force of only 50,000 men to establish a base of supplies from which the Cuban troops were to be armed, clothed and fed and their campaign against the Spaniards supported as occasion required. This plan was based on the assumption that reports regarding the insurgent strength which had been received from American consuls and others for the last two years were accurate, and that the ability of General Gomez to crush the Spaniards and shut them up in the coast cities had not been exaggerated. For nearly two years positive assertions had been made that the Cubans, with merely the moral encouragement of the United States through a reorganization of beligerency, would quickly accomplish their own independence. Within the last month the faulst of these assertions has been demonstrated to the complete satisfaction of the authorities here, and through the reports of regular army officers who have made reconnaissance in the island. It is now definitely known, little or no assistance from the vaunted "armies of liberation" need be expected. On the contrary, the latest information, which is of undoubted trustworthiness, indicates conclusively that had so small a force as at first contemplated been landed in Cuba the rapid concentration of Spanish troops against it would have caused its speedy retreat or resulted in its annihilation.

The radical disillusionment of those enthusiasts who predicted Spanish abandonment of Cuba as the part of the United States, and the fact that accounts for the precautions and delays which are now apparent in the preparations for invasion. The numerical strength of the advanced guard is now placed at nearly 20,000, with the assertion that no movement will occur until twice that number are equipped and ready to respond instantly to any call for reinforcements which may be imperatively demanded.

MONTIJO REPORTED SHOT.

Rumor in Madrid That the Admiral Was Court-Martialed for Negligence.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 25.—A Madrid dispatch to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: The rumor is again current here to-night that Admiral Montijo has been court-martialed and shot at Manila, by order of Captain General Agusti. It is impossible to obtain any confirmation of the news, but it generally believed to be true.

If this is really the case his fate will not be regretted, for the enthusiasm which at first prevailed here with respect against overwhelming odds has given way to a feeling of profound exasperation, caused by his incredible lack of preparation to resist Admiral Dewey. Officers here declare that he was guilty of the most criminal negligence in having no lookout kept for American squadron, which was known to be on its way to Manila, and not even having steam up on board his ships.

Such negligence is considered to demand a court-martial, and it is quite possible that the court-martial may have been held and the admiral punished by death.

Central Branch Is Sold.

ATCHISON, Kan., May 25.—The Central Branch Union Pacific railroad, or that portion of it extending from Atchison through Northern Kansas to Waterville, a distance of 100 miles, was sold at Atchison yesterday under a foreclosure decree of the United States circuit court.

Mrs. Leslie Carter Hurt.

LONDON, May 25.—Mrs. Leslie Carter is severely injured last evening while playing in "The Heart of Maryland" at the Adelphi theater.

More Troops for Ceuta.

GIBRALTAR, May 25.—Yesterday afternoon the Spanish steamer Rabat, of the Compania Transatlantica line, embarked a battalion at Algeciras, on the west side of the bay of Gibraltar, and sailed for Ceuta, Morocco, opposite Gibraltar.

Preparing for the Enemy.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., May 25.—Lieutenant Meyler and a number of his volunteers will to-day begin planting submarine mines near the harbor entrance and they will all be in place by Wednesday.

NEW RUMORS OF VICTORY.

London Rumors Denied by the Navy Department.

LONDON, May 25.—Persistent rumors were in circulation here early to-day to the effect that a great naval battle has been fought in the vicinity of the Windward passage, between the eastern end of Cuba and the westward part of Hayti, in which both the American squadrons closed in on the Spanish Cape Verde squadron, commanded by Admiral Cervera, and completely destroyed the Spanish ships.

A dispatch from Kingston, Jamaica, to Rutter's Telegram company, said news had been received there of a reported battle in the Windward passage, adding that no American or Spanish war ships have visited Jamaica's ports since the beginning of the war.

MADRID, May 25, noon.—It is officially announced that the squadron of Admiral Cervera was still at Santiago de Cuba yesterday. Secret orders have been given to Admiral Cervera as to what course to pursue in the event of the Americans attempting to cut communications between Cuba and Spain.

Americans continue to occupy stations outside of Havana, Cienfuegos, Cardenas and Santiago de Cuba. There are now nineteen American warships before Havana.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 25.—The movements of the United States fleet, which are known here, make it absolutely certain that no battle has yet occurred, but an engagement is expected to take place this week. The Spanish fleet has been definitely located.

NEW YORK, May 25.—A Key West correspondent telegraphs to the New York Evening World that he has information from an unimpeachable authority that the Spanish fleet is still at Santiago.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Notwithstanding persistent rumors in circulation to the effect that a great naval engagement had been fought in the Windward passage resulting in the destruction of the Spanish fleet, it can be stated positively that the Navy department has had no information that tends in the slightest to confirm these rumors. Unless the improbable happens, there is no immediate prospect of a naval engagement of any magnitude, in the opinion of the navy department officials.

The unanimity with which the best informed express this view almost warrants the conclusion that it is based upon knowledge that the hostile fleets are again far apart. Indeed there is no certainty that Admiral Cervera is not already homeward bound, providing he has succeeded in securing a supply of coal, for he could not make the run back to the Canaries with less than 2,000 or 3,000 tons.

SPAIN SCOLDS ABOUT US.

The European Powers Asked to Notice Alleged Violations of Law.

MADRID, May 25.—In the Senate yesterday Count Almenas vehemently protested against the alleged action of some American warships in displaying the Spanish flag in order to deceive the garrison of Guantanamo, as announced on Saturday last in a dispatch from Captain General Blanco, who added that the American ships were "immediately recognized and repulsed." The count asked if the government had notified the powers of this incident.

The minister of the interior, Senor Capdepon, replied that he had notified the powers, and described this reported action as "cowardly and iniquitous."

Count Almenas said that, in view of America's manner of making war, Spain must immediately decree privateering, in order utterly to destroy American shipping.

To this the minister of the interior replied that the government had deliberated upon the matter, "and had even taken certain decisions, which would shortly be known."

Count Guendulain said the Americans' act of piracy was admitted by certain theorists as international law.

Senor Martinez Pacheco remarked that it was doubtful whether such an act was legal. "But," he added, "in face of the Americans' conduct in the war with Spain we must not show consideration for them." Continuing, the speaker protested against Spain's adherence to the Geneva convention, whereupon the minister of the interior replied that Spain had not yet entered the convention.

Senator Conde, professor of international law at the Madrid university, warmly denounced what he was pleased to term "the base proceedings" of the United States, declaring that, if Washington authorized such acts, "it did not deserve the name of a civilized government."

The professor then proceeded to unfold a lengthy indictment of the alleged war methods of the Americans, insisting that they have shown "no respect for the right of peoples in the capture of merchantmen, and in bombardments," reiterating that the acts of the United States are not those of a civilized country.

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