

LACK OF DESTROYERS.

NAVY IN NEED OF TORPEDO BOAT WRECKERS.

Spain Well Supplied—Purchase of Tupy from Brazil is About Assured—Reported Sale of the Varese by Italy to the Dons is Denied.

The purchase of the torpedo boat destroyer Tupy from the Brazilian government is now practically assured. The Tupy, with two sister craft, is being built at the Armstrong works at Elswick, England, where the Amazonas and her counterpart were constructed, and not at Kiel, Germany, as previously stated. Much gratification is felt by the naval administration over the prospect of securing the Tupy and others of her class, for torpedo boat destroyers are needed badly. A number of torpedo boats have been added to the effective force of the navy, but not one destroyer has been built or contracted for.

Spain Has Torpedo Destroyers.

Spain is fairly well supplied with these terrible water witches, which are dangerous alike to the big battleship and the little torpedo-boat. They have attained a speed of more than thirty knots. The Spanish flotilla now held of the Canaries, pending the adjustment of the diplomatic question relating to its assignment to waters adjacent to the United States, includes some of these destroyers. They are more feared by naval officers than battleships and armored cruisers, and every energy is being shown to get some of them ready-made abroad to offset the Spanish contingent.

Need of Armored Cruisers.

It was pointed out the other day that the naval administration wanted more battleships, armored cruisers, torpedo-boat destroyers and torpedo boats. This was the conclusion reached by the war board, of which Assistant Secretary Roosevelt is chairman. As no more armor-clads except the Carlo Alberto, owned by Italy, appear to be

of the unprotected ships now with Admiral Sicaud. It has been determined to armor the larger of these vessels with a band of steel extending around the sides and near the water line, for the protection of the vitals, machinery and magazines to be improvised. This armor will consist of two inches of nickel steel, and will be four inches less in thickness than on the armored cruisers New York and Brooklyn. It is equal to the protection afforded the machinery by protective decks on some cruisers, and would render the vessels fairly safe from six pounders and light-fire guns.

Engineers Urged to Hurry.

Orders have been issued to many of the army engineers in charge of coast fortifications to hurry the work now in progress. Preparations are already under way for placing in position the new coast defense guns purchased in England. It is expected that they will be delivered at New York within ten days. The guns are thirty-two in number, and are of the latest rapid-fire pattern. The new pieces are fully mounted, and are provided with about 300 rounds of ammunition. They are of comparatively short range, and will be used in harbors and channels, on the northern coast principally. Contracts were made by the war department Saturday for the delivery of a large quantity of armor piercing and deck piercing steel projectiles of large caliber.

Ships for Auxiliary Fleet.

By order of the secretary of the navy Lieutenant Commander Reeder, commander of the school ship St. Mary's, and Passed Assistant Engineer Danforth, assigned to duty at the Brooklyn navy yard, sat the other day as members of the board of auxiliary cruisers. These additions were made to the board because it had been reported to Secretary Long that the board was not large enough to do the work expected of them speedily enough. The steamships Orizaba, Seneca, Saratoga and Yamuri, of the Ward line, were carefully inspected. Unofficial information was to the effect that all four of these vessels would be recommended for lease as auxiliary cruisers, should an

deal with that of Boutelle, and the result is that Senator Perkins of California, a practical ship owner and sailor, has been placed in charge.

Hawley is Patriotic.

The only eastern man at the present time actively at the head of a committee which has directly to do with war matters is Senator Hawley of Connecticut, who, fortunately for the country, is progressive and patriotic, having been the first one to take a step to strengthen the army by providing for two new artillery regiments. To cap the climax of western influence in the present crisis, it is worth noting that the two committees on foreign affairs which supervise the diplomatic negotiations leading up to hostilities and which would have direct control of a proposition to declare war are under the leadership of Senator Cushman K. Davis of Minnesota and Representative Hitt of Illinois.

Took General Lee's Advice.

The return of the cruiser Montgomery to Key West has caused much speculation, which the authorities have declined to end by giving reasons. The real reasons are interesting, and show how grave the situation is. The accuracy of this statement cannot be questioned. The Montgomery was ordered to return from Havana harbor at the suggestion of Consul General Lee. He pointed out to the authorities that the retention of the cruiser in Havana harbor was the source of circulation of rumors, and a menace rather than a protection in case of an outbreak. She could not land sufficient force to be much, if any protection to American interests, while she was not sufficiently powerful to cope with the guns of the forts and the Spanish warships, in case of a sudden declaration of hostilities. In view of these circumstances General Lee recommended the withdrawal of the Montgomery and the substitution of the Fern, or some other vessel of the same character. The Fern can perform equally good services as the Montgomery in the event that General Lee or other Americans have to leave Havana in a hurry, and the Fern stands in less danger of being fired on than would a vessel of war.

Why the Iowa Was Held Back.

General Lee recommended the sending of the Iowa to Havana to bring back the court of inquiry. It will be remembered that a rumor was printed that the administration had decided to send the Iowa to Havana to impress the Spaniards with the power of our navy. This was at General Lee's suggestion. He told the government that the Spaniards could not be made to believe that we had a formidable navy unless they had an ocular demonstration of the fact. The Spaniards, he reported, believed the Maine was the finest ship in the American navy and that her destruction made it impossible for the United States to think about fighting Spain. To correct this impression General Lee suggested that the Iowa should go to Havana harbor, take the court of inquiry on board, and speed out again, an operation which would give the Spaniards some material for sober reflection. When the fact of this recommendation came to the knowledge of a very high naval officer, who is familiar with every word of evidence brought out by the court of inquiry, he made a vigorous protest, and objected most strenuously to the government's taking any risks in sending the finest battleship of the navy into Havana harbor. He gave reasons for making this protest, and pointed out the dangers that might be incurred. The details would not be proper. It is only necessary to add that the arguments advanced by this distinguished naval officer were so urgent that the Iowa was sent to Havana.

Hilarity at the Banquet.

The brilliantly lighted banquet-room was a scene of wild tumult in an instant. The joyous cheers of the emotional Spanish officers could be heard far beyond the guard lines, which held the approaches to the palace against uninvited guests for a block on each side. There were cries: "To the memory of Maximilian! Neither Austria nor Spain can forget his fate, and we'll stand together against those

A CITY HOUSE BEAUTIFIED.

By Expending Thought and a Little Money on Brick Exterior.

Amid the general neglect of picturesque effects in the exteriors of New York dwelling-houses, it is pleasant to come now and then upon a building which is the exception to the rule—a spot which the owners have thought it worth while to beautify at the expense of some pains and a certain amount of money, though the latter need be only a small item, says the New York Tribune. In Tenth street, just west of Fifth avenue, only two or three doors from the Church of the Ascension, there is an imposing old-fashioned house. It has a one-story extension, which occupies an adjoining lot on the same street, reaching quite to the wall of the next house beyond. Between the extension and the house to which it belongs there is a communication on the ground floor, the one story building being used chiefly as a library. But it is in the roof arrangement of the extension that the decorative effect consists. A brick parapet, three or four feet high, with occasional diamond-shaped embrasures, extends along the top of the entire front wall. The top of this parapet is flat and is covered with low boxes containing growing plants. At this season the place is a mass of chrysanthemums, yellow being the predominant color, and the brightness of their tints against the dull hues of the building is noticeable many rods away. In the spring the tulips on the parapet are quite as gorgeous as the chrysanthemums are now, and the owners of the house cause the flowers to be changed according to the season of the year. A sturdy growth of the Japanese Ivy, now in its autumn bronze, covers the walls of both house and extension, and adds to the general effect. The building has a rather foreign appearance, owing to the parapet garden, which is not often seen here. The roof space, which is cut off from the street view by the wall and the flowers, is tiled and used in pleasant weather as a veranda. The windows of the second story of the house open directly upon it.

Anxious to Oblige.

From Judge: A number of ladies were standing not long since in the hall of a hotel in New York. They were all Boston women, but the fifth (who came down stairs) was from the west. She said, "Mrs. M., will you kindly let me pass?"

"Certainly," replied Mrs. M., "on condition that you will pronounce p-a-s-s as we do in Boston."

"That would be impossible," replied the western woman in perfect good humor, "but you are too many for me. Robert will have to be my champion." Turning to the tall darkey whose place was at the door, she said, "Robert, do you think you could pronounce p-a-s-s as these Boston ladies do?"

"Yes'm—yes'm. I reckon I could if I was told to, but—" he hesitated in his desire to please both parties. "Yes'm, I reckon I could—but it would be powerful unhandy."

No Parleying After That.

From the Boston Budget: Last winter, which, as is well known, was a period of figurative frost to a great many members of the actor cut, a New York member was strolling about New York with a friend. As a wardrobe is a necessary part of an actor's stock in trade, the player was well dressed and in appearance prosperous. Presently a seedy looking person accosted him.

"Say, guv-nor," he remarked, with a professional whine, "can't yer give a feller a nickel?"

The player stopped and looked at the applicant. "I'd like to, really," he said, "but can't you see I'm an actor?"

And the mendicant went his way without further parley.

A Snuff-t.

From Judge: "You go off every summer for an outing to the same place, Mr. Gray. Where do you go?"

"I go to the shore."

"Do you like it?"

"Yes, but I'm not going again. They have fish for breakfast, fish for dinner, fish for supper; they have fish-chowder, clamchowder, clamchowder and fishchowder; they have fried clams, stewed clams, roast clams, steamed clams, clam soup, clam fritters and clam bisque—until my stomach rises and falls with the tide."

Giving the Saiter a Hint.

From the Washington Star: "You have been very generous in buying Mabel new gowns," remarked Mrs. Cumrox. "Yes," said her husband. "I don't like that man who pays her so much attention." "I don't see what that has to do with it." "I desire to give him something to think about when I ask him if he can support her in the style to which she has been accustomed."

A Crying Shame.

From Puck: Mrs. Kelly (indignant)—Phwat do yez t'ink of a woman loike that Mrs. Astorbilt, thot kin nivr wear a new dress more than wanst or twolce?

Feat of Human Nature.

A man in southwest Missouri who advertised for his lost wife the other day says she has a harmonica with her and always a end of chewing gum in her mouth. And yet he wants her back.

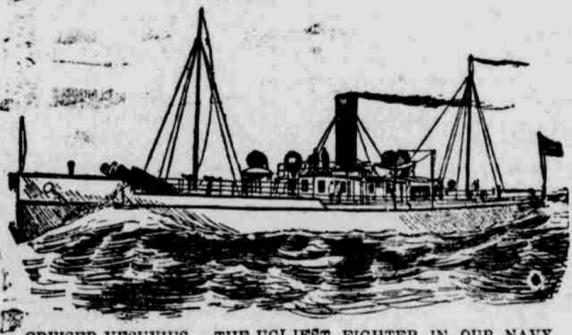
Red is not objectionable as a color for a woman's hair providing it doesn't run into her temperament.

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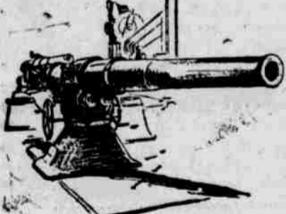


CRUISER VESUVIUS. THE UGLIEST FIGHTER IN OUR NAVY.

definitely in the market, the war board is doing all that can be done to secure torpedo-boat destroyers. Its members believe that this class of vessel will augment the vessels now under Admiral Sicaud to such an extent that no force Spain can gather would be effective against the American fleet. A denial is made here of the statement that Spain has bought the Italian armor-clad Varese.

Fleet at Hampton Roads.

The announcement that the Massachusetts and the Texas had been withdrawn from the squadron at Key West and sent to Hampton Roads was the subject of an inquiry at the cabinet meeting, and the most positive assurances were given by Secretary Long that the orders to these ships were not due to any suggestion from Spain. There was no intention, it was explained, to detach the North Atlantic squadron from Florida waters to satisfy Spain's qualms in the pending emergency. The establishment of a second division of the North Atlantic squadron, Secretary Long said, was a strategic move, and the Massachusetts and the Texas have been detached to form part of the force to be assembled at Hampton Roads. Captain Philip of the Massachusetts will command the second division for the



RAPID FIRE GUN — CRUISER CHICAGO.

time being. No commanding officer of the new formation has been selected.

Sicaud in Poor Health.

The condition of Admiral Sicaud's health has given the navy department a great deal of concern, and it is probable that he will be detached from the command of the North Atlantic squadron if hostilities should occur very soon, as it is believed that he is not physically able to manage a big fleet in an engagement. It has been practically decided that Captain William S. Sampson of the battleship Iowa, the president of the Maine court of inquiry, will relieve Admiral Sicaud if the health of the latter does not improve. The faith of the administration in his courage, cool headedness, and ability is perfect, and he will in all probability receive a flag rank if war is declared.

Protection for Auxiliaries.

Those merchant ships taken by the navy and equipped as auxiliary cruisers, will be well-protected vessels, and in fighting efficiency superior to many

emergency require the acquisition of commerce destroyers. Two schooners and several yachts, offered by their owners, were inspected today. Among them were the Conqueror, owned by F. W. Vanderbilt, the Atlanta, by George Gould, and the Corsair, by Pierpont Morgan.

Contract for 2,000 Horses.

The Black Hills ranges are being scoured by the United States agents for horses suitable for the cavalry. A contract has been made with one large horse company near Fort Meade to furnish 2,000 horses as soon as they can be brought in from the range. Negotiations are also being made by the government agent there for several hundred more horses from other ranches. The army officers think these horses are to be shipped south, and from the hurried orders, and the fact that the animals are not up to the army standard, that it means war.

Universal Vessel Destroyer.

M. M. Ormsby of Maple Park, Kane county, Ill., claims to have perfected an invention by which everything afloat in every port could be destroyed without the loss of a man, and at a cost of only \$5,000,000. The navy department has written him for details.

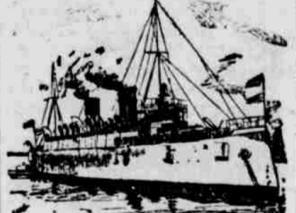
WEST IN CONTROL.

Congress Can Be Depended Upon.

One of the curious developments in congress is the way in which the control of affairs relating to war seems to be gradually drifting into the hands of western men who represent a sentiment distinctly different from that in New England. Of late days money bills in congress are made the medium of a vast amount of important legislation, and besides that the voting of supplies is an essential to the conduct of war. It is worthy of notice therefore that the two great appropriations committees are headed by Senator Allison of Iowa and Representative Cannon of Illinois. The direct work of equipping the army falls upon the military committee of the house, at the head of which is General Hull of Iowa, while the militia committee in the same body, which in the case of war would be almost equally important, is managed by Colonel Marsh of Illinois.

Eastern Influences Set Upon.

The naval committees of the house and senate were exceptions to the general rule, both being in control of old members from the state of Maine. Chairman Boutelle on the house side set his face with curious persistence against any preparations for war, and the result was that the committee ran away from him, and inserted in the appropriations bill a proposition to build three new battleships and twelve torpedo boats. On the senate side the naval committee has been practically reorganized owing to the absence of Mr. Hale, whose policy has been ident-



THE MINNEAPOLIS.

whose unjustified threats of intervention brought about his cruel and untimely end.

The Austrian "jackies" are getting joyously drunk in the water front cafes at the expense of the Spanish fleet. It is a case of the Russian reception in the Havre and Calais again on a small scale. The only people who have no part in the general joy are the editors of the Havana papers and the correspondents of the journals of Madrid. They were not invited to the feast, and every effort has been made to keep secret the event of the banquet. Only young Blanco, correspondent of El Imparcial of Madrid, was present. As a member of the governor's family he was there as a matter of courtesy. The other editors held an indignation meeting and not one of the papers mentioned the banquet in any way in their news columns. Inspired leaders in the Spanish morning papers insist that Austria, Germany and France will stand with Spain in the event of war or the seizure and annexation of Cuba.