

FLEET OFF HAVANA.

APPROACH OF THE BLOCKADING SQUADRON.

Troops Rushed to Occupy the Points Most Open to Attack From the Invaders—The Squadron Was Advancing Upon the Most Vulnerable Point.

New York, April 25.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Key West says: "The blockade of Havana was established at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon."

A dispatch from Havana, timed Friday, 5 p. m., says: "From the hills of Guanajay I saw the United States warships this afternoon."

"They are advancing on Havana from the westward. The news has reached Moro castle. There all is alert, but fear is in the hearts of the city's defenders."

"General Blanco, in full uniform, which he has worn about two days in the last two months, is at the Santa Clara battery, the strongest of the city's defenses. With him are all the officers of his staff and the chief officers of the regular and volunteer regiments."

"Orders are rushing through the city shouting the call to arms and carrying orders to the batteries and reports to the captain general."

"Ominous is the situation. Everybody grants that fact, but everybody is rushing out of the city or to its fortifications. The number who have sought the latter places to fight is enormous."

"The United States ships could not possibly select a better place for landing than they can find in the neighborhood to which they are pointing."

"Blanco realizes the danger and has rushed large bodies of troops to Santa Clara. He has sent others by hurry to Vedado and Carmelo. The garrisons are weak there, and even with the reinforcements could not last long, because the defenses are not strong."

"Troops could be landed there with little more than a skirmish, and it is thought this will be the first place at which the Americans will strike."

"Then, too, Blanco is fearful lest the first of the invaders come up the little river Almendarez, where they could make an undisputed landing a few miles to the westward of the city. The armament there is insignificant. The chief defense is the old Castle de Alares."

"Several regiments have been sent to the Playa de Mariano, where there is an important but undefended landing place. From that point a railroad runs to Havana."

"Arolas, the military governor, is acting with Blanco, and both went out and made a reconnaissance in the direction of Mariano. The two, after leaving Santa Clara, went to the Belana battery."

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CALL FOR 125,000 MEN.

President Issues Volunteer Call—To Serve for Two Years.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The President to-day issued the following proclamation, calling for 125,000 troops to serve two years:

"By the President of the United States—A 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, 1894, the President is authorized, in order to raise 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 the power vested in me by the constitution and laws, and deeming sufficient cause 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 resolution, 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 communicated to the proper authorities 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 twenty-third day of April, 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second."

"(Signed.) WILLIAM MCKINLEY. "Seal.—By the President. "JOHN SHERMAN, "Secretary of State."

Maccabees May Enlist.

PORT HURON, Mich., April 25.—In view of the desire of many of the 200,000 members of the Knights of the Maccabees to enlist, Supreme Commander D. P. Markey has issued a dispensation which will make the order liable for all deaths of members while engaged in the military or naval service of their country.

Michigan Guards Age First.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 25.—Members of the Michigan National guard have been called out for service. This is the first call upon state guard issued and is in accordance with a promise by Secretary Alger to the Michigan state troops.

A Fast Steamship Bought.

New York, April 25.—The report of the purchase by the government of the steam pilot boat Philadelphia for a blockading vessel was confirmed yesterday by a member of the board. The price paid was \$100,000.

NEW PRIZE CAPTURED.

Second Spanish Merchantman Taken In—Tried Hard to Escape.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 25.—One of the first shots fired in anger from the gun of an American ironclad across the bows of an enemy's ship since the close of the civil war was hurled from the deck of the New York to a signal to the Spanish freighter Pedro of Bilbao to leave to, shortly before 6 o'clock last evening, fifteen miles off Havana.

The little Pedro, scurrying close inshore, favored by the closing in of a foggy, misty day, was sighted by the New York and immediately brought about with a solid shot across her bow. It was shortly after 5 o'clock that the New York signalled the fleet to halt and suddenly away like a greyhound along the coast of Cuba.

Far off against the dim, vague background of Cuban hills, half seen, half guessed, could be traced a faint dim of grayish smoke, the one visible evidence of a Spanish freighter striving vainly to race out the day without being discovered by the great gray monster. Vainly the Spaniard raced. Charging along at trial test speed, the New York soon lay across the bows of the Spanish ship, and the crashing challenge blazed from the deck of the cruiser.

A puff of white smoke rolled out from the side of the flag ship and far off, just in front of the Spaniard, a fountain of white foam leaped into the air.

In a moment the course of the strange Spaniard was changed and she bore to. Shortly after the New York led her prize further out from shore and laid her to. Crew and captain could be seen rushing about the deck of the ship like a nest of ants, hiding their valuables and striving to avert some impending fate they could only guess at in their ignorance.

As she came around her name could be clearly read on her stern. She is the Pedro of Bilbao, a Spanish freighter, two masted, with a black funnel and single yellow stripe and hull black above red. As soon as she was laid alongside, the Pedro was boarded by Ensign Frank Marble of the New York. Ensign Marble led a prize crew, consisting of a file of marines and seamen. With great formality the ensign swung aboard and assumed command. A burly bare-footed American tar shoved the Spanish quartermaster away from the wheel and began to set the course of the Spaniard.

The Spanish crew gathered in a terrified huddle near the forecastle and awaited developments.

Hardly had the prize crew been put on board before another freighter was seen going down the coast to the eastward. The New York, leaving the captured Spanish craft in charge of the prize crew, drew across the bows of the stranger and sent a shot into the water directly in front of her bows. She paid no attention to the challenge, but kept steadily on, and a few seconds later another shot was sent hurtling across the water in front of her.

After this hostile demonstration she hauled up and was soon following the New York out to sea. It was discovered, however, that she flew the German flag and consequently was permitted to proceed.

The Pedro is a Spanish freighter of 1,223 tons and left Antwerp March 24.

AMERICAN SHIP TAKEN.

The Shenandoah, Owned by Arthur Sewall, Reported Captured by the Spanish.

LONDON, April 25.—It is reported here that the Spaniards have captured the American ship Shenandoah, Captain Murphy, which left San Francisco January 5 for Liverpool. She is a four masted vessel of 3,200 tons register and owned by Arthur Sewall & Co., Bath, Me.

ANTWERP, April 25.—It is reported here that the Shenandoah has been captured on the English coast by a Spanish warship.

BATH, Me., April 25.—The members of the firm of Arthur Sewall & Co., owners of the ship Shenandoah, which is reported to have been captured by the Spaniards, refuse to credit the story that she has been taken and expect soon to receive news of her safe arrival at Liverpool, where she is now due.

THE CABLEGRAM SEIZED.

The Spanish Government Saw the Ultimatum Before Mr. Woodford.

New York, April 25.—A cable to the New York Evening Sun from Biarritz, France, says: "In forestalling General Woodford by breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States in advance of the presentation of the American ultimatum by the minister of the United States, Spain resorted to one of her old devices. President McKinley's telegram to General Woodford conveying the ultimatum was held by the Madrid telegraph authorities while a copy of it was sent to Premier Sagasta. After the government had had time to read and discuss the document and consider the course to be taken, the message was released and delivered to General Woodford."

General Mosby Wants to Fight.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—Colonel John S. Mosby, of guerrilla fame, who is now a resident of this city, has wired to General Miles for authority to raise a battalion or regiment of volunteers for special service in the front.

Students Eager for War.

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 25.—The Missouri State university students are eager for war. Nearly the entire student corps was present at an enthusiastic meeting held in the university chapel yesterday afternoon.

CONGRESS DECLARES WAR

Loses No Time in Hastening Active Hostilities.

House Passes the Measure Without Debate, Consuming One Minute and Forty-one Seconds—Senate Takes One Hour and a Half—President Signs War Bill at 6:18—John Sherman, Secretary of State, Resigns.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The President to-day sent Congress the following message recommending a declaration of war against Spain:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

I transmit to the Congress for its consideration and appropriate action copies of the correspondence recently had with the representative of Spain in the United States, with the United States minister at Madrid and through the latter, with the government of Spain, showing the action taken under the joint resolution approved April 20, 1898, for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, and demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect.

Upon communicating with the Spanish minister in Washington the demand which it became the duty of the executive to address to the government of Spain in obedience to the said resolution, the said minister asked for his passports and withdrew. The United States minister at Madrid is in turn notified by the Spanish minister for foreign affairs that the withdrawal of the Spanish minister from the United States had terminated diplomatic relations between the two countries, and that all official communication between their respective representatives ceased therewith.

I recommend to your special attention the note addressed to the United States minister at Madrid by the Spanish minister for foreign affairs upon the 21st instant, whereby the foregoing notification was conveyed. It will be perceived therefrom that the government of Spain, having cognizance of the joint resolution of the United States Congress, and in view of things which the President is thereby required and authorized to do, responds by treating the representative demands of this government as measures of hostility, following with that instant and complete severance of relations by its action, whereby the usage of nations accompanies an existent state of war between sovereign powers.

The position of Spain being thus made known and the demands of the United States being denied with a complete rupture of intercourse by the act of Spain, I have been constrained in exercise of the power and authority conferred on me by the joint resolution aforesaid, to proclaim under date of April 22, 1898, a blockade of certain ports of the north coast of Cuba, lying between Cardenas and Bahia Honda, and of the port of Cienfuegos upon the south coast of Cuba; and further, in exercise of my constitutional powers and using the authority conferred upon me by the act of

Congress, approved April 22, 1898, to issue my proclamation dated April 23, 1898, calling for volunteers in order to carry into effect the said resolution of April 20, 1898. Copies of these proclamations are hereto appended.

In view of the measures so taken, and with a view to the adoption of such other measures as may be necessary to enable me to carry out the expressed will of the Congress of the United States in the premises, I now recommend to your honorable body the adoption of a joint resolution declaring that the state of war now exists between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain, and I urge speedy action thereon to the end that the definition of the international status of the United States as a belligerent power may be made known, and the assertion of all its rights and the maintenance of all its duties in the conduct of a public war may be assured.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, Executive Mansion, Washington, April 25, 1898.

When the message was presented in the House it was referred to the foreign affairs committee. In the Senate it was at once referred to the foreign relations committee.

At 12:19 o'clock, after the foreign affairs committee reported, Acting Chairman Adam of the house foreign affairs committee asked unanimous consent for the consideration of the war bill.

Following is the report of the House committee:

"A bill declaring that war exists between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain.

"Be it enacted, First, that the war be and the same is hereby declared to exist and that war has existed since the 21st day of April, A. D., 1898, including said day, between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain.

"Second, that the President of the United States be and he is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States and to call into actual service of the United States the militia of the several states, to such an extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect."

It took the House one minute and forty seconds to pass the declaration of war.

Cut the Cable to Cuba.

TAMPA, Fla., April 25.—The United States has cut the Havana cable. This gives the government the exclusive use of the cable and entirely cuts General Blanco off from communication with Spain. This censorship has already been rigidly established at Key West. The government has seized the cable office at that point and discharged all operators except one. Orders have been issued by the navy department to prevent the newspaper boats from following the fleet.

Offered Services of 1,000 Negroes.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 25.—Prof. O. M. Wood, principal of L'Overture school, has sent a communication to Governor Stephens tendering the services of himself and 1,000 negroes for the volunteer army. Prof. Wood is a brigadier general of the colored Knights of Pythias of Missouri and Kansas, and was at one time mentioned for appointment as United States minister to Hayti.

HAVE NINE RICH PRIZES.

The Blockading Fleet Doing Good Work—More Captures in Sight.

New York, April 25.—Since the war with Spain has begun the United States naval forces have established a strict blockade of Cuban ports and have captured nine Spanish vessels. The prizes are the steamers Buena Ventura, Pedro, Miguel Jover, Catalina and Saturnina and the schooners Mathilde, Candida and Antonio. All these vessels have been or will be taken to Key West except the Saturnina, which was seized at Ship Island, Miss.

The Spanish steamers Panama, from New York, and Alfonso XII, from Spain, both bound for Cuba, will probably be captured by American warships within a few days. Spain has made no seizures of American vessels so far as is known.

Since the beginning of the war the only movement of the Spanish navy that has been reported is the departure of the torpedo boat destroyer Audaz from Queenstown for Spain, her departure being compelled by the English neutrality proclamation. For the same reason the United States Asiatic squadron has begun to leave Hong Kong.

MR. SHERMAN RESIGNS.

After Forty Years He Quits Public Life—To Take Effect Soon.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Another resignation from the cabinet occurred today when the venerable secretary of state, John Sherman, handed his resignation to the President at a special meeting of the cabinet at 12 o'clock. The resignation takes effect at noon to-day, and with it Mr. Sherman retires from public life after a service of over forty years, embracing the House of Representatives, the United States Senate, as Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State.

The reason for the resignation is the condition of the secretary's health. The venerable secretary is now within a few days of 75 years of age.

CANTON, Ohio, April 25.—Judge Day has announced that he will accept the cabinet portfolio vacated by Secretary Sherman.

ARMS FOR INSURGENTS.

The War Department Will Send Rifles and Artillery to the Cubans.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Arrangements have been completed by this government to supply the Cuban insurgents with arms and ammunition. The government is preparing now to land in Cuba from 25,000 to 30,000 improved Springfield rifles, a number of artillery batteries, rapid fire Maxim guns and ammunition.

It is understood that this government will not deliver the arms to any person but General Gomez, and he will, as a guarantee of good faith, receive them. General Miles believes that if the insurgents are properly armed and supplied with the artillery they have so long needed, they can do more effective work and render the American troops invaluable aid in driving the Spaniards from the island.

CRIPPLED THEIR SHIPS.

Spanish Engineers Disable Machinery to Avoid Coming Over to America.

GALVESTON, Tex., April 25.—The British steamer Asioum, Captain P. H. Garnett, arrived yesterday morning from Las Palmas, Grande Canary, one of the Canary island group. Captain Garnett arrived at Las Palmas March 31, two days after the Spanish torpedo flotilla left that port. He was reliably informed that the machinery of the several torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers was purposely disabled in pursuance of a plot by the engineers. They did not relish the trip across the ocean in torpedo boats, and, finding the Spanish government determined to make them go, as a last resort crippled the machinery.

None of the engineers were allowed to repair it, the work being done by a local machine shop at Las Palmas.

Captain Garnett says the torpedo flotilla did not want to encounter a United States fleet if it could be avoided. They will likely keep out of the track of our vessels and may content themselves with picking up an occasional prize. The torpedo flotilla left Las Palmas March 29 and their destination was unknown.

Why Blockade is Limited.

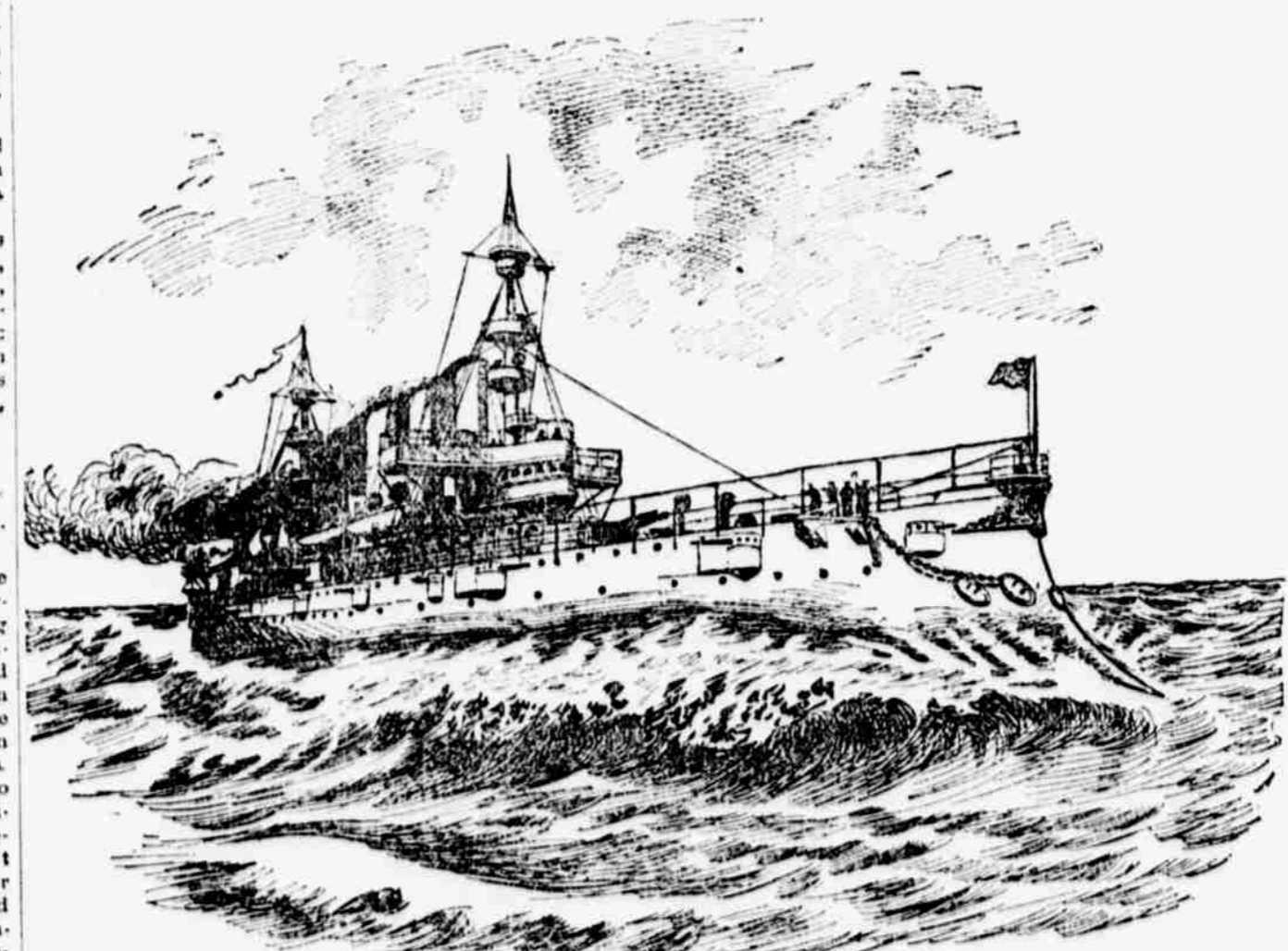
WASHINGTON, April 25.—The limitation of the blockade in Cuba to a certain part of the island was not officially explained to-day, but one plausible reason advanced for the government's action was that by refraining from establishing a blockade over the eastern portion of the island, understood to be practically in the control of the insurgents, the way has been left open for them to freely receive all needed supplies and munitions of war.

WAR REVENUE MEASURE.

Republican Members of Ways and Means Committee Draft a Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The Republican members of the ways and means committee completed the war revenue measure and sent it to the printer. The bill as now prepared, it is estimated, will raise between \$25,000,000 and \$100,000,000 annually.

It was decided to place a tax of 1 cent upon chewing gum and 2 and 4 cents on mineral waters, ginger ale and foreign and native wines, 2 cents on pints and 4 cents on quarts.



THE NEW YORK.

White House Reception Resumed.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—President McKinley was up early this morning and had a hearty breakfast. His two guests, Webb C. Hayes, the son of ex-President Hayes, and General Hastings, were with him and talked freely of the situation. The President talks with marked calmness and cheerfulness, and bears up remarkably well against the physical strain to which he is subjected. For the first time in about three weeks the public reception will be resumed at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Urgo Moonlight as Kansas General.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., April 25.—There is a movement on foot here to ask President McKinley to appoint Colonel Thomas Moonlight to command the Kansas volunteers.

Why an Austrian Paper is for America.

VIENNA, April 25.—The Deutsche Zeitung, the Pangermanic organ, supports the United States on the grounds that "after Berlin and Vienna, New York ranks as the largest German town in the world," and also because the "United States represents liberty as opposed to absolutism."

Crew of St. Louis to Enlist.

New York, April 25.—Out of the 420 officers and men comprising the crew of the American liner St. Louis, only seven refused to sign articles when requested to do so when they were paid off.

Steam Colliers Bought.

New York, April 25.—A cable from Cardiff, Wales, says: "The United States government has purchased a number of British steam colliers. They will all sail for the United States as soon as their cargoes are discharged."