

PEACE IS IN SIGHT

Spain Surrenders Some of Its Feared Dignity.

RETREATS FROM ITS FORMER POSITION

Consents to Consider the Subject of Cuban Independence.

MONEY INDEMNITY IS NOT SO INSULTING

Heroic Feat of Antiquity is Laid Aside.

FACES THE CONDITIONS OF THE PRESENT

Indications Are Now Considered Favorable for the End of the Cuban War and the Independence of the Island.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The vital point in the Cuban situation, viz., independence, has shifted itself from Washington to Madrid, where the Spanish government is now giving grave and earnest consideration to propositions presented by the government of the United States. On the answer to these propositions probably depends the future course of the relations between Spain and the United States.

It is believed that it is now but a question of an exceedingly short time before the inevitable crisis must come. The Spanish ministry will hold a cabinet council tomorrow, after the propositions have been submitted to the queen regent, and as a result of that conference it is expected by the administration that a definite answer to its proposals will be received.

The propositions submitted by this country contemplate an immediate cessation of hostilities in Cuba, the return of the reconcentrados to their usual avocations and the independence of Cuba, this last feature to be secured probably on an indemnity basis by which the island would pay a substantial sum for its freedom from Spanish rule.

These propositions take a wide scope and there are many details in the alternative propositions, the purpose being to present every possible plan promising a solution of the Cuban problem to the end of the Cuban war and Cuban independence were embodied in the ultimate result.

It has been made perfectly clear to Spain that nothing less than a close of the war and the independence of the island will suffice as an adequate settlement. Such lesser methods as have been contemplated from time to time are now put aside for these more advanced and positive positions. It is now for Spain to accept or reject these terms. There is no disposition to urge one rather than another, so long as the conclusion finally reached brings the termination of the war and Cuban independence.

CONSIDERS INDEPENDENCE.

Never before until now has the Spanish government even for a moment entertained such propositions. Now, in the stress of the present emergency, with declarations of war introduced in the American congress, Spain has reluctantly consented to consider them. This in itself has given lively hope of a satisfactory result. But it involves a grave crisis in Spain and it cannot be foretold what the final action at Madrid will be.

Until today it was believed that Spain would indignantly reject a proposition involving the independence of Cuba, or American intervention, or the disappearance of the Spanish flag from the island, either through purchase by the Cubans or otherwise. There was the best of reasons for the official belief that as between peace and war on these propositions Spain would choose war, but more hope apparently entertained here of Spain being in a vindictive mood, as the American plans for solution are being carefully weighed with a view to a final decision.

As stated, that answer is believed to be only a question of perhaps two or three days. When it is received the future course of this government will be determined. It is the view of the administration that the present week will shape the policy of the future, whether it is to be one of peace or one of war.

Naturally this critical juncture has occasioned the greatest interest here, coupled with no little excitement, as word was passed about that the last stage in the negotiations with Spain was reached. Many representative men of congress, senators and representatives, called at the White House and conferred with the president. The leaders in congress he stated that definite advice were expected from Madrid by Friday. This allayed the intense feeling that had manifested itself in congress, and through the influence of the leaders further radical action by the senate and the house was for the time being deferred.

EXCITEMENT AT THE CAPITOL.

At the capitol excitement was unabated. The meeting of the senate committee on foreign relations occasioned a great deal of interest because of the many warlike resolutions which were introduced yesterday and referred to that committee.

On the house side there was an intensity of feeling. After the vote on the Baller resolution many republicans went to the White House to confer with the president and to express to him their hope that something might be promised which would relieve the strained situation. The assurance of the president was given to these members that by Friday night at the latest something definite could be expected.

The senate committee had an afternoon session, at which Captain Bradford, chief of the bureau of equipment of the navy, presented the knowledge of the relative strength of the Spanish and United States navies. This proved only incidental to the main subject under discussion, which was the value of the Isthmus of Panama or some other point in the West Indies for a naval station.

The situation at the capitol is one of waiting expectancy. Senators and representatives are willing to give the president an opportunity to carry out his plans, but there is impatience to have some information regarding these plans and some assurance that they will not delay action too long.

It was said today in a high diplomatic quarter that the Spanish government, within the last ten days, had addressed a note to the great powers of Europe, fully settling forth the grave aspect of the controversy with the United States and at least inferentially suggesting that the time was now opportune for European influence to be exercised. It is said that this note led to the withdrawal of Premier Hanotian in the French

ANXIETY REIGNS IN MADRID

Official and Court Circles Much Perturbed Over the Situation.

ALL ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE OUTCOME

Everything Now Hinges on the Conference Between the Queen and Her Ministers to Be Held Today.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) MADRID, March 30.—(New York World Telegram—Special Telegram)—Conflicting rumors and impressions have prevailed all day, most people in political circles, clubs and social gatherings expressing strong doubts about the authenticity of the accounts circulated about yesterday's conference and the possibility of the acceptance of the terms suggested for an understanding between the United States and Spain for a settlement of the Cuban question. On the contrary, financial circles welcomed a prospect of settlement favorably.

The press tonight is guarded in its comments, most papers affecting to challenge the accuracy of a conference, though known to be mainly correct. Considerations of domestic Spanish politics probably induced Sagasta and other members of the cabinet to tell reporters today that exaggerated reports had been floated about their interview with Woodford. Ministers did not, however, deny that matters have come to a very critical stage and the extraordinary council this evening was chiefly devoted to Cuban affairs and relations with the United States, with a view to concerting a reply that would be submitted to the queen tomorrow at the usual weekly council at the palace before said reply should be given, as agreed, to Woodford on Thursday afternoon. Some people think the reply will leave the door open for further negotiations, though firmly maintaining Spanish rights. Anxiety and uneasiness are more visible today in official and court circles.

It is believed in well informed circles that an arrangement will be reached at the adjourned conference to be held at the official residence of Sagasta Thursday afternoon which will be honorable to Spain and acceptable to the United States. It is also believed that if satisfactory arrangements are not then reached the American minister will finally desist from further negotiations.

WOODFORD'S INTERVIEW.

Despite the reserve observed both by Woodford and the Spanish ministers yesterday, El Liberal publishes today what is generally considered an accurate account of the interview. Woodford is reported to be dwelling on the friendly pacific disposition of his government and the desire of the United States for peace. Sagasta objected to the warlike preparations and attitude of the American parliament. Woodford instantly explained that it was only aimed at defensive measures in case Spain was the aggressor. Woodford stated that he had full power to make proposals, but not to take engagements outside his instructions. Woodford then exposed the view of the American government in the Maine affair, making a suggestion which Sagasta pronounced inadvisable, after which arbitration was in principle discussed without coming to a decision. Woodford showed a conciliatory disposition in regard to the question of Cuban relief, in which matter Spain does not object to having the co-operation of the United States if no implicit intervention or special demonstration is implied.

Finally Woodford moved the American plans for hastening pacification of Cuba, of which the first step was an armistice. This led him to discuss with the Spanish minister the situation of the Spanish army and volunteers during the armistice, the means to negotiate with the insurgents, the cessation Spain could make and the eventualities of the insurgents declining to accept anything short of independence. No agreement was arrived at beyond the expression of a desire of both governments to act in concert to establish peace in Cuba. Sagasta agreed to meet again after Woodford had consulted McKinley by telegraph and the latter had consulted the queen and council of ministers on points connected.

The Spanish government last night wired the substance of the matter of negotiations to Marshal Blanco, with a view to obtain his opinion on the disposition of the insurgent government, autonomist, other colonial parties and the army of volunteers would show toward the contemplated means to hasten pacification in Cuba. The minister of foreign affairs wired a full account of the conference to Minister Polo. Very conflicting impressions exist in political and diplomatic circles on the issue of the negotiations, but the Spanish impression is that the government will do its best to secure peace by reasonable concessions to America and Cuba in support of independence.

ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON.

HAVANA EDITORS ARE JUBILANT.

They Alleged that the United States Have Backed Down.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) HAVANA, March 30.—(New York World Telegram—Special Telegram)—Some Havana dailies are jubilant over the apparent American retreat and retraction before what they term Spain's firm action, its power, the justice of the cause in Cuba and its strong support by Europe.

The American colony refuses to believe the news received, and thinks cable dispatches even from New York dailies to correspondents have been tampered with at the palace. From the highest American representative here down to the lowest and poorest citizen, all refuse to believe that the Maine massacre has been shelved unexplained and unavenged. Neither will they accept the cabled statement that Cuban affairs are allowed to drag under Spain's blighting hand until next October, when the new army will be on and Spain will claim one more chance and the Cubans continue to struggle and starve a year longer.

General Lee received a short cipher synopse of the board's report. He was rather surprised that those most conservative gentlemen went so far as to explicitly state that a mine was the cause. This seemed to bring direct responsibility upon the Spanish government. The consul general refused to believe the cables that time will be given Spain to report on the disaster. He knows that time is what they want and what they have got for three murderous years.

Cuba's death roll of innocence has now closely reached 700,000. This does not count the number of men, women and children who disappeared, stayed in the field and died from bullets, muskets and sickness; only the absolute ones are counted.

Learn more all of our war's and our

RETURN TO THEIR FARMS

Blanco Will Allow Reconcentrados to Support Themselves.

APPLIES TO THE EASTERN PROVINCES

Reconcentros Order Huddling People Together to Starve to Death, at Least in Portion of Cuba.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The Spanish legation here late tonight received a cablegram from the governor general of Cuba saying that the captain general reported the pacification of the eastern provinces so far advanced that it had been decided to rescind the reconcentrado order in these provinces and allow all subjects of this decree to return to their homes in the country. To aid in the establishing of the reconcentrados upon their farms the cablegram says the government will grant them the protection of the Spanish military forces augmented by local relief committees to look after their immediate needs.

Economic kitchens, it says, are to be established to support the reconcentrados while waiting for their first crops to mature, and they are to be furnished farming implements and seeds by the government. To supply them with ready money, such of them as are able will be given employment upon public works, and it is asserted by the authorities that these measures will result in the speedy rehabilitation of the rural communities in the western provinces.

This cablegram was not made public till more than an hour after midnight, and no official comment upon its significance could be secured.

GIVE MONEY FOR RELIEF.

MADRID, March 30.—Midnight.—At the cabinet council the minister of the interior explained the results of the elections and Senator Moret read a series of important documents relative to the situation of the reconcentrados in Cuba and the results of the efforts hitherto made for their relief.

In view of these documents Senator Moret proposed and the council approved an open credit of 3,000,000 pesetas, to be placed at the disposition of General Blanco by cable, to be used in succoring necessitous reconcentrados and to facilitate means of work for those willing to return to their holdings, with a supply of useful advances to enable them to till the ground.

The documents read by Senator Moret tended to show that the healthy reconcentrados who were desirous of working could find sufficient labor on the fields, but that those who had left their implements, or the small capital necessary to sustain them for three months while waiting for the product of their husbandry, needed some kind of administrative organization more complex than the distribution of food by commission.

This intention appeared also from the fact that many heads of families had emigrated, seeking work in the towns of Mexico, and having abandoned wives and children, who remained without resources, there being large numbers of children, whose future must inspire the liveliest sympathy.

Senator Sagasta gave an account of the conference with United States Minister Woodford, and explained America's proposals, their character and significance. The council deliberated at great length, and after consideration of the important issues depending upon its decision, resolved to submit the results to the deliberations tomorrow to the queen regent.

It is believed that the government has obtained the queen regent's signature to a new credit from the Bank of Spain is unfounded.

SPAIN SHOWS A LITTLE SHAME.

Hustles the Starving Reconcentrados Away from Havana.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) HAVANA, March 30.—(New York World Telegram—Special Telegram)—Spaniards in Havana are becoming ashamed of the starving reconcentrados. They are not ashamed of themselves for having so mismanaged Cuba that reconcentrados exist; but it hurts their pride to be compelled to admit that one-fifth of the population are paupers, dependent upon the United States for life.

Over on the other side of Havana harbor is the quiet, struggling little village of Regla. Here, so I learned today, Spaniards are quietly sending the reconcentrados by hundreds, for no other purpose than to get them away from the state of the civilized world and food supplies being distributed by the American relief commission.

Regla is an ideal hiding place for anybody or anything. For years it has been known as a breeding ground for yellow fever and smallpox. It is reached from Havana by a slow-going, bungling ferry. Regla's houses are cheap stucco affairs one story in height. Grass grows in its deserted streets. One can walk about without meeting anyone but half naked reconcentrados, children or a Spanish volunteer on his way from Fortuna to the ferry. Scattered all over Regla are solars and yards. "Solares" is a sort of tropical veranda of tenement house. It consists of a one-story shed built around three sides of a court yard. The shed is divided by board partitions into little rooms, with neither windows nor doors or no floor but the earth. Each room is intended to rent to an entire family. The Spanish government is the landlord, for the solars belong to the Treasury department and the rent is collected by an internal revenue collector.

About the time relief supplies first began coming into Cuba reconcentrado families were sent to the Regla solars. They were told that they need pay no rent, an act of generosity for which they had the most grateful Spanish government to thank. In these solars many reconcentrados have died and many more are sick. Yet during the last week hundreds more of reconcentrados have been turned loose in the solars, until they are jammed with survivors. There is an American relief station in Regla and for the last two Sundays hundreds of reconcentrados have been fed there.

Last Saturday the internal revenue collector visited Sol. No. 99, Mamey street. "You must pay your rent at once," he said, "or you will be turned into the street."

"But you have allowed us to remain without paying rent," they protested.

"True," said the collector; "we thought you were our friends, but now the Americans are your friends. They give you food; let them pay your rent. Some day you will find it is not our friends who have Americans for friends."

I visited No. 99 Mamey yesterday. A Greek

THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Fair; Warmer; Southerly Winds.

1 Peace is Now in Sight.

2 Wild Time in the House.

3 Nebraska News.

4 Editorial and Comment.

5 New Union Pacific Surgeon Named.

6 Council Bluffs Local Man.

7 General News of the West.

8 Footpads Fly From the West.

9 Woman Frightens Husband.

10 Reviews of Recent Publications.

11 Commercial and Financial News.

12 "Seven Sleeping" in "Nell Tarleton."

Temperature at Omaha.

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
6 a. m.	25	2 p. m.	42
7 a. m.	26	3 p. m.	43
8 a. m.	27	4 p. m.	44
9 a. m.	28	5 p. m.	45
10 a. m.	29	6 p. m.	46
11 a. m.	30	7 p. m.	47
12 m.	31	8 p. m.	48

ward to being promptly evicted. They all told me they had absolutely no place of refuge but the white, dirty, dusty street of Regla. Eviction in their case, though, would not be an elaborate process. None of the rooms in the solars contain more than three pieces of furniture. A bed, a table and some broken down chairs represented the entire wealth of the family. Cooking is done in kettles that hang on iron forks in the center of the court yard. No. 99 Mamey was apparently built fifty years ago. It is slowly rotting away. Its old-time roof is about half gone, leaving great holes in the ceilings of the rooms.

CONNECT DRY TORTUGAS BY CABLE.

It is now in direct communication with Washington.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 30.—The cable from Dry Tortugas to Key West was completed when the Nashville and the cable boat arrived.

The torpedo boat attack upon the Indiana, Iowa and New York in last night's evolutions resulted in a torpedo boat victory. The torpedo boat men claim that the Iowa could have been blown up with a loss of only two torpedo boats, while the Indiana and New York were in serious danger.

The report published that Consul General Lee has asked for a war ship in Havana harbor is generally discredited here. Nothing is known of such a request by Captain Sampson or other high officers of the fleet.

The sailing of the Spanish war ships, presumably for Cuba, has created considerable feeling among many of the officers, as was the case when the torpedo boats sailed for Porto Rico. It is insisted that prompt action should be taken to assemble in these waters such a display of naval force as thoroughly to offset Spain's coming fleet, which is generally considered formidable.

News from Washington regarding Spain's reply to the ultimatum of the United States is eagerly awaited.

Captain Sampson, Captain Evans and Captain Chadwick had a long consultation today aboard the flagship. Captain Evans has been warmly greeted on his new ship, the Iowa.

Five bodies from the wreck of the Maine arrived this evening from Havana and will be interred tomorrow. The boatswain's mate, John Anderson, and Seaman Frank Andrews are the only two of the five that have been identified.

The announcement that the navy personnel bill has been indorsed in committee by congress has caused intense satisfaction throughout the fleet.

The Bache sailed today for the Tortugas on regular survey duty. The Annapolis will sail tomorrow for Brooklyn.

PATRIOTISM IS AT FEVER HEAT.

Spain Hopes to Float a Loan Among Its Own People.

LONDON, March 30.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily News says: "Senator Putlocker, minister of finance, has already secured sufficient money to pay the first instalments on cruiser and dispatch boats bought from Italy. The furor of patriotism is growing with such ardor that it is believed that if war occurs the government will have a splendid opportunity to raise a large internal loan by popular subscription."

The Madrid correspondent of the Times, commenting on the "cheerfulness of the Spanish public," suggests that this is due to the belief that Europe would willingly confront America on Spain's behalf, the public being apparently incapable of discriminating between material alliances and courteous, but platonic, phrases.

Questions on Spanish Securities.

MADRID, March 30.—Spain is closed yesterday at 74.30.

PARIS, March 30.—On the Bourse today Spanish 4s opened at 52½, against 52½, the closing price of yesterday.

LONDON, March 30.—Spanish 4s opened at 52½, an advance of ½ over yesterday's closing price.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Mar. 30.

At New York—Arrived—Palatia, from Hamburg; Frederich der Grosse, from Bremen; Noordland, from Antwerp; Ems, from Naples; Tratonio, from Liverpool; Sailed—St. Paul, for Southampton; La Bourgogne, for Havre; Germanic, for Liverpool; Southwark, for Antwerp.

At Southampton—Sailed—Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, for New York.

At Plymouth—Arrived—Lahn, from New York.

At Bremen—Arrived—Weimar, from New York.

At Genoa—Arrived—Ailer, from New York.

At Baltimore—Sailed—Munchen, for Bremen.

At Baltimore—Sailed—Metropole, for New York.

M'KINLEY'S DEMANDS

Outline of Proposals Submitted for Spain's Consideration.

INDEPENDENCE FOR CUBA THE ESSENTIAL

Spain Must Withdraw Its Troops and Flag from the Island.

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS FOR CONSIDERATION

Time Set by the President Expires at Ten O'clock Today.

SPAIN TRYING TO PREPARE AN ANSWER

Council of Ministers Meets Today, When it is Hoped that a Final Conclusion Will Be Reached.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—(Special Telegram)—Vice President Hobart is quoted tonight as follows:

"Spain has been given an ultimatum by the president. It was for forty-eight hours. It expires tomorrow at 10 o'clock, our time. This ultimatum is that Spain must withdraw her troops and flag from Cuba. This means freedom for Cubans. Sagasta asked through Woodford whether independence for Cuba was an essential of this proposition? The president replied that Cuban independence was the essential point. The Spanish ministry meets tomorrow and a reply is expected during the day."

It is confidently predicted tonight that a crisis between Spain and the United States will be reached by Saturday at the very latest. President McKinley today gave positive assurance to near friends that he would not brook delay on the part of Spain, but meant to use every honorable and humane effort to avoid a clash of arms, falling in which he would be found shoulder to shoulder with every citizen bent upon protecting the country's honor.

Evidences of war go on, one of the most significant today being the withdrawal of all charts, maps and ground plans of American fortifications from the library of the War department, which contains some 30,000 volumes, mostly upon scientific subjects and treating of the technique of war. Even books upon the construction of torpedoes and mines were today removed from the general rooms into Greely's private office, where they will remain under lock and key until the crisis is passed.

MERCER'S POSITION.

Congressman Mercer is largely responsible for the action of the republican side of the house today, his speech of Tuesday night being in the nature of an appeal to his colleagues to go slow until they had learned the president's intentions. Had a speech been made there is no telling what the members of the conference might have done toward defeating the purpose of the president in solving the present situation by peaceful means.

"I am not an anarchist," Mercer said today in explanation of his vote supporting Speaker Reed, "nor do I propose to allow democrats to get any comfort out of this situation. I supposed politics had been buried, but Mr. Bailey thought differently and taking snap judgment introduced a resolution which he had personally pledged himself to hold until tomorrow. My position is well known. I am for intervention, but it must come through orderly channels and not through treachery."

At a conference tonight Mercer was appointed one of a committee of eleven to wait upon the president and to ascertain definitely what he proposed to do for Cuba.

Senator Warren of Wyoming, fearful for the public safety of his state, today introduced a bill providing for the organization of a regiment of mounted rangers, giving the president authority whenever in his judgment the necessity arises for a call to service of the regiment of cowboys. The bill defines the manner in which the regiment is to be recruited and the selection of its officers. He also introduced a joint resolution authorizing the secretary of war to exchange the battery and equipments with the governor of Wyoming now in use by the Alger light artillery of the Wyoming National Guard.

ADVICES FROM MADRID.

MADRID, March 30.—A cabinet council was held this afternoon to consider the American proposals. Another will be held tomorrow at noon, presided over by the queen regent, and at 4 o'clock tomorrow there will be a final conference between United States Minister Woodford, Senator Sagasta, the premier; Senator Guillon, the foreign minister, and Senator Moret, the minister for the colonies. The proposition which Spain will answer covers two points only, and its publication will be a revelation to some of those who have been denouncing America's aggressive attitude. It is as follows:

Spain to proclaim immediately an armistice in Cuba to last until October, during which interval the United States will use its good offices with the insurgents to make this temporary peace permanent; and, second, Spain to do its best toward relieving suffering and starvation on the island, with America to be allowed to assist in this work.

The Pals says that orders have been issued to mobilize all the Spanish war ships and that a second torpedo squadron is being prepared for sea at Cadiz. The Balearic islands, according to the Pals, are being fortified and military engineers are starting for the Canary islands.

SITUATION IS CRITICAL.

While the situation here is outwardly of the calmest description, the actual position of affairs is regarded as critical by both the United States legation and the Spanish government.

The United States minister, General Stewart L. Woodford, is working energetically and will continue to work energetically for

SPAIN TRYING TO PREPARE AN ANSWER

Council of Ministers Meets Today, When it is Hoped that a Final Conclusion Will Be Reached.

INDEPENDENCE FOR CUBA THE ESSENTIAL

Spain Must Withdraw Its Troops and Flag from the Island.

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS FOR CONSIDERATION

Time Set by the President Expires at Ten O'clock Today.

SPAIN TRYING TO PREPARE AN ANSWER

Council of Ministers Meets Today, When it is Hoped that a Final Conclusion Will Be Reached.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—(Special Telegram)—Vice President Hobart is quoted tonight as follows:

"Spain has been given an ultimatum by the president. It was for forty-eight hours. It expires tomorrow at 10 o'clock, our time. This ultimatum is that Spain must withdraw her troops and flag from Cuba. This means freedom for Cubans. Sagasta asked through Woodford whether independence for Cuba was an essential of this proposition? The president replied that Cuban independence was the essential point. The Spanish ministry meets tomorrow and a reply is expected during the day."

It is confidently predicted tonight that a crisis between Spain and the United States will be reached by Saturday at the very latest. President McKinley today gave positive assurance to near friends that he would not brook delay on the part of Spain, but meant to use every honorable and humane effort to avoid a clash of arms, falling in which he would be found shoulder to shoulder with every citizen bent upon protecting the country's honor.

Evidences of war go on, one of the most significant today being the withdrawal of all charts, maps and ground plans of American fortifications from the library of the War department, which contains some 30,000 volumes, mostly upon scientific subjects and treating of the technique of war. Even books upon the construction of torpedoes and mines were today removed from the general rooms into Greely's private office, where they will remain under lock and key until the crisis is passed.

MERCER'S POSITION.

Congressman Mercer is largely responsible for the action of the republican side of the house today, his speech of Tuesday night being in the nature of an appeal to his colleagues to go slow until they had learned the president's intentions. Had a speech been made there is no telling what the members of the conference might have done toward defeating the purpose of the president in solving the present situation by peaceful means.

"I am not an anarchist," Mercer said today in explanation of his vote supporting Speaker Reed, "nor do I propose to allow democrats to get any comfort out of this situation. I supposed politics had been buried, but Mr. Bailey thought differently and taking snap judgment introduced a resolution which he had personally pledged himself to hold until tomorrow. My position is well known. I am for intervention, but it must come through orderly channels and not through treachery."

At a conference tonight Mercer was appointed one of a committee of eleven to wait upon the president and to ascertain definitely what he proposed to do for Cuba.

Senator Warren of Wyoming, fearful for the public safety of his state, today introduced a bill providing for the organization of a regiment of mounted rangers, giving the president authority whenever in his judgment the necessity arises for a call to service of the regiment of cowboys. The bill defines the manner in which the regiment is to be recruited and the selection of its officers. He also introduced a joint resolution authorizing the secretary of war to exchange the battery and equipments with the governor of Wyoming now in use by the Alger light artillery of the Wyoming National Guard.

ADVICES FROM MADRID.

MADRID, March 30.—A cabinet council was held this afternoon to consider the American proposals. Another will be held tomorrow at noon, presided over by the queen regent, and at 4 o'clock tomorrow there will be a final conference between United States Minister Woodford, Senator Sagasta, the premier; Senator Guillon, the foreign minister, and Senator Moret, the minister for the colonies. The proposition which Spain will answer covers two points only, and its publication will be a revelation to some of those who have been denouncing America's aggressive attitude. It is as follows:

Spain to proclaim immediately an armistice in Cuba to last until October, during which interval the United States will use its good offices with the insurgents to make this temporary peace permanent; and, second, Spain to do its best toward relieving suffering and starvation on the island, with America to be allowed to assist in this work.

The Pals says that orders have been issued to mobilize all the Spanish war ships and that a second torpedo squadron is being prepared for sea at Cadiz. The Balearic islands, according to the Pals, are being fortified and military engineers are starting for the Canary islands.

SITUATION IS CRITICAL.

While the situation here is outwardly of the calmest description, the actual position of affairs is regarded as critical by both the United States legation and the Spanish government.