

READY FOR ACTION

Navy and War Departments Prepare for Hostilities.

ALL THE BUREAUS ARE RUSHED WITH WORK

Steamers St. Louis and St. Paul Are Purchased.

SGSBEE WILL COMMAND ONE OF THEM

Flying Squadron Leaves Hampton Roads Under Ready Orders.

TROOPS ARE BEING MOVED TO THE FRONT

General Lee is Called Before the Naval Strategic Board to Give Information on the Defenses at Havana.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—This was a day of stirring activity at the Navy and War departments.

In every bureau the work of preparation went on with an enthusiasm and rush that were in marked contrast to the lethargy that had entered the big granite building since Monday.

The first event to become known was the acquisition by the Navy department of the American line steamers, St. Louis and St. Paul, and coupled with the announcement came the information that in all probability Captain Sigbee would be placed in command of one and Captain Goodrich of the other.

Naturally no details were allowed to get out, but one of the members of the board said as they dispersed that the military situation had been thoroughly considered and General Lee had been able to give them information of a very valuable character.

Prior to the meeting of the strategic board General Lee spent half an hour in conference with Assistant Secretary Day in the War department.

Signs of activity for what now seems to be a probable conflict were continued at the War department. Everything is ready for a prompt movement of troops toward some central point, particularly of the forces east of the Rocky mountains, but General Miles says nothing is likely to be done in the way of moving any large body of troops southward until there is more evidence that their services will be needed.

Complete arrangements have been made for the immediate mobilization of practically the entire militia force of the government at the Chickamauga National park at the first signs of trouble. It is expected in case of necessity a call will be issued for about 40,000 troops, preferably from the national guard of the different states and territories.

In the event that the war policy contemplates the invasion of Cuba the army may be increased to 100,000 men. Of this the regular troops and the National guard will aggregate about 55,000 men and the remainder will be made up of volunteers.

General Miles' plan is to mobilize seven-tenths of the twenty-five regiments of infantry and five of the ten regiments of cavalry at the Chickamauga park as speedily as possible.

General Flagler, chief of the bureau of ordnance of the army, is bending every effort toward the supplying of the seacoast fortifications with the rapid-fire and most formidable guns and in this he has the help of the engineer bureau, which is constructing various works of defense and building the emplacements for the heavy guns.

General Flagler had another consultation with the secretary of war today for the purpose of obtaining an additional allotment of money from the emergency fund for rapid-fire and field artillery guns and ammunition for the same.

The Board of Ordnance and Fortification, of which General Miles is president, is in daily session at the War department considering plans for the improvement of the coast defenses.

TROOPS ENROUTE TO CHICKAMAUGA

Twenty-fifth Infantry Passes Through Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 13.—The Twenty-fifth Infantry, commanded by Colonel Albert Burt, arrived in Chicago over the Great Western road and left fifteen minutes later over the Chicago & Eastern Illinois, bound for Chickamauga. No time was lost in carrying the troops through the city, a flying switch being made at the Sixteenth street yards, where the tracks of the Eastern Illinois and those of the Great Western come in contact. The troops were not in the city over thirty minutes from the time of their arrival until they pulled out for the south.

Colonel Burt, with his officers, occupied a sleeper in the rear of the train, a portion of the regiment being in the tourist sleeper, which formed the balance of the first section. The first train which arrived consisted of six Pullman tourist cars, one Pullman standard sleeper and four box cars. The second section, which arrived later, was made up of nine Pullman tourist cars, one sleeper and two box cars. A third section followed, consisting of two stock cars, three box cars, one coach and one flat car. This section was utilized mainly for the transportation of equipment.

From Sixteenth street to the Folk street station the tracks were lined with people who had waited since early morning to get a glimpse of the soldiers. At the depot Colonel Lee, assistant quartermaster general of the Department of the Lakes, greeted Lieutenant Cochran and Major Houston of General Brooke's command, and a representative of General Brooke, and furnished them with orders for supplies at Chickamauga. The troops, most of whom have been sixteen years on the western frontier, expressed themselves as delighted at their transfer south, where many of them enlisted.

Colonel Burt, commander of the troops, was seen by an Associated Press correspondent. He said: "I am absolutely without any news whatever. I am simply pushing through to Chickamauga park as fast as the railroads will carry me there." When told that the flying squadron would put to sea this afternoon and that things were beginning to assume a warlike aspect, he smiled, but said nothing.

SPAIN HAS ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE.

Insurgents in the Philippines Renew Their Activity.

MADRID, April 13.—A special dispatch from Manila telegraphed to Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, begging him to use his influence with the other sovereigns in behalf of peace between the United States and Spain.

Movements of Naval Vessels.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The coast survey steamer Patterson, McArthur and Gardner and the fish commission's steamer Albatross have been turned over to the Navy department for service in case of need.

HUMORED DECLARATION OF WAR.

Unconfirmed Report that Spain Has Taken Initiative.

LONDON, April 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Spain's reported declaration of war which reached London this afternoon from New York created some ferment in city circles, but nothing in the nature of a panic on the Stock exchange, where no business was done in American securities and very little in anything else, owing to the insecurity of the situation.

I inquired at the United States embassy, where they informed me: "No confirmation has been received of the report and I regard the news with entire skepticism."

At the Spanish embassy Senor Rascon said emphatically: "The report is nonsense. A declaration of war by Spain is impossible. No reply has yet been sent to the president's message, but in any case an act of war, if any committed, will be on the part of the United States. I have only had one short dispatch from Madrid since Monday. I therefore can only express my opinion based on newspaper telegrams when they say the situation seems hopeless."

This is the opinion of the press and public here.

An eminent diplomat today said: "Austria is still straining every nerve to induce the European powers to again intervene at Madrid. The Austrian emperor is doing this at the direct instigation of the queen regent, who herself powerless to turn the tide of warlike feeling running throughout Spain, again appeals to the powers to use pressure to prevent Spain from rushing to financial destruction. The queen regent, advised by Senor Moret, believes the demands of the United States could be granted in stages and so war is averted if further delay can now be interposed before the president proceeds to act. Austria is strenuously urging the powers to agree upon a fresh joint note advising Spain in terms of significant earnestness not to provoke America to hostilities. France is willing to co-operate, but England and Germany have so far declined while Italy is waiting to see what the other powers will do. The report received today that Switzerland has offered mediation indicates that the Austrian emperor must believe a proposal for joint action of the powers hopeless, as the Swiss suggestion is the last card for diplomatic purposes. Austria is represented as acting on the motion of the pope, who is using every means at his command to avert war. The pope's action is the principal support of the peace section in the Madrid cabinet, but they are not gaining ground and are virtually accepting defeat and acknowledge war certain."

Uncertainty concerning the purchase of the Hamburg-American line steamers Columbia and Normannia is set at rest by the fact that both vessels are insured at Hamburg for a voyage to Cadiz. They passed Dover this morning on the way to that port. It is further reported that both the German Lloyd Sable and Svyee have been acquired by Spain, but the London agents of the company knew nothing of the transaction.

The World correspondent called today on Messrs. Siemens Brothers, who supplied forty ground mines and forty buoyant mines of the Gibbins pattern to the Spanish government in 1896-1897. Siemens' manager, Mr. Sabine, referred to the head of the submarine mining department, who said: "I must decline to say whether we supplied mines to the Spanish government. These are strictly confidential transactions, in which this firm can give no information to anybody."

This refusal was in effect an admission that the transaction had taken place. Siemens Brothers refused even to give an illustration of the Gibbins patent ground mine, but one has been furnished by the patentee himself.

FLYING SQUADRON GOES TO SEA.

Secretary Long Refuses to Admit or Deny the Flying Squadron.

OLD POINT COMFORT, Va., April 13.—The flying squadron sailed at 2 o'clock under sealed orders for the south.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Secretary Long, when shown the dispatch, positively refused to affirm or deny its statement or comment on it in any way, saying it was an inviolable rule not to refer to the movements of the war ship.

It is officially announced that the flying squadron sailed this afternoon on a forty-eight hours practice cruise.

It is the impression at the department however, that the squadron will go outside of the capes and there await any further orders which may be sent to it by a dispatch boat.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., April 13.—The flying squadron, in command of Commodore Schley, left Old Point at 2:30 this afternoon under sealed orders. The war ships proceeded slowly toward the capes.

TOPEKA AND SOMERS START AHEAD.

Torpedo Boat Will Be Towed by the Cruiser.

PORTLAND, England, April 13.—The United States cruiser Topeka (formerly the Diorena), and the United States torpedo boat Somers, which put in here owing to the severity of the weather on Sunday last, after leaving Weymouth for the United States April 9, called again today. Their crews have been largely changed and the Somers, which sustained some damage, has been repaired. No danger to the torpedo boat is feared if the sea is fairly smooth, but it will be towed by the Topeka in order to avoid the necessity of coaling the smaller vessel in midocean.

POWERS HAVE DONE ALL THEY CAN.

Such is the Opinion of the Spanish.

LONDON, April 13.—The Spanish premier, Senor Sagasta, in an interview this morning said, according to a special dispatch from Madrid, that he thought the powers could do more than they have already done in the way of intervention.

SWITZERLAND TALKS MEDIATION.

National Council Suggests It to the Banderath.

BERNE, Switzerland, April 13.—The national council has suggested that the Bundesrath consider whether it could not offer to mediate between the United States and Spain. The proposition will be considered tomorrow, but it will doubtless be rejected.

Pope Intervenes for Peace.

LONDON, April 13.—A special dispatch from Rome announces that the pope had again telegraphed to Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, begging him to use his influence with the other sovereigns in behalf of peace between the United States and Spain.

Movements of Naval Vessels.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The coast survey steamer Patterson, McArthur and Gardner and the fish commission's steamer Albatross have been turned over to the Navy department for service in case of need.

DOES NOT LIKE MESSAGE.

Spain Considers McKinley's State Paper a Very Distasteful Document.

WILL MAKE NO UTTERANCE AT PRESENT

Proposes to Wait and See What Congress Will Do—Will Not Pay Indemnity for Maine Without Arbitration.

MADRID, April 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The council of ministers tonight took energetic action. Its determination was immediately communicated to the press. The official note given out for publication announces that the cabinet council considers that it knows enough of President McKinley's message to realize that it puts this government face to face with the solemn assertions of Spain's rights of sovereignty. The government, it was further stated, will make no other declaration until the resolutions of congress and the purpose of the president put in the form of facts the doctrines of the message.

"Consciousness of being in the right and a united determination to maintain Spain's sovereignty intact will inspire the nation and the government," the official note continues, "with the composure necessary to defend the sacred rights of the race."

The ministerial press tonight clearly foreshadowed the attitude of the cabinet indicated in the announcement. The message is very disagreeable to Spain.

It is positive that Spain will never consent to pay an indemnity for the Maine disaster unless the case be first submitted to international arbitration and an award given against Spain. Cuban independence could not be mooted by any Madrid government without danger to itself and the monarchy. This is the impression caused among the military and all classes except financial by the suspension of hostilities and the presidential message.

Russia has not proposed personal intervention, but the Russian ambassador at Madrid has been the most active ally of Austrian diplomacy in getting up the European powers to action both at Madrid and at Washington. The English and Germans hung back the most, Italy and France simply following the majority in the interests of peace. When Marshal Blanco got instructions for a suspension of hostilities he called a council of the generals and naval officers, who, like the cabinet of volunteers, unanimously opposed a suspension offering more advantages to the insurgents than the Spanish. Therefore Blanco decreed a suspension without fixing the duration or conditions.

ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON.

TROOPS GO THROUGH TO KEY WEST.

War Department Abandons the Chickamauga Rendezvous.

CHICAGO, April 13.—A special to the Tribune from Chattanooga, Tenn., says: Key West and not Chickamauga is to be the front of the army. The change has been made in a twinkling. The two companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, which expected to encamp as a regiment at Chickamauga, have been suddenly ordered to proceed with all haste to Key West, Fla. An engine with steam up and cars waiting will stand on an siding near the depot tomorrow when the regiment is expected to arrive. This train will run as a special to Miami, Fla., where a Plant liner will transport the troops to Key West.

This sudden change of plans made here and it is a question as to how long the balance of the regiment under Colonel Burt, who will stay with the main body, will remain at Chickamauga. The entire regiment may be sent through to Key West, and the destination of all the other companies now under orders changed to that place for militia and volunteers.

BOTH COUNTRIES HEADED FOR WAR.

Such is the Opinion of the London Press.

LONDON, April 13.—The afternoon newspapers of this city unanimously express the opinion that both the United States and Spain are heading straight for war. There is also a disposition to blame President McKinley for his alleged declaration.

Advice from St. Thomas.

ST. THOMAS, April 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—When a steamer from America arrived at Ponce, in Porto Rico, it was a state of alarm, the people fled to the interior and business was paralyzed. The Standard Oil Works at San Juan are protected by troops. Consul Hanna remains at St. Thomas waiting for further orders. The French cruisers Durbodieu and Genouilly and the Italian cruiser Bausan are here. A Spanish cruiser is reported to have passed St. Thomas today.

The Spanish consul, protesting to the authorities against the manner of my arrival, My examination by a policeman resulted in my justification, but I was warned against returning to Porto Rico in a similar manner. Capture, I was informed, would mean my imprisonment as a spy.

GEORGE BRONSON REA.

Berlin Looks for War.

BERLIN, April 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Opinion, both public and official, is almost unanimously optimistic, has today veered suddenly and little by little, if any, is now entertained here of avoiding war. News has reached Berlin that the Spanish government is hurriedly preparing an official protest to McKinley's message, which is to be presented tomorrow to the European powers. The opinion is that Spain, in the event of war, will be able to mobilize with astonishing and unexpected rapidity.

Weyler Arrives at Barcelona.

MADRID, April 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—General Weyler arrived at Barcelona today, intimating that he would start for Madrid immediately. "I go to Madrid because I consider those times critical for the country. Everybody must be of his post and all officers on leave have been ordered to join their corps. It is fair that generals do the same," said he.

Battleship Oregon's Movements.

VALPARAISO, Chile (Via Galveston), April 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The United States battleship Oregon was due to arrive here yesterday. As she has not put in an appearance at this port it is not expected to call here now. It left Callao, Peru, about 1,400 miles north, a week ago today. Doubtless it has already passed to the south too far out to sea to be sighted here.

Message Viewed at St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 13.—The semi-official Journal de St. Petersburg contends that the concluding passage of President McKinley's message to congress precludes the possibility of military action upon the part of the United States, taking the ground that the passage referred to recognizes Spain's armistice, and that the armistice "suspends" hostilities, which is the object "the United States had in view."

Spanish War Ships at Porto Rico.

NEW YORK, April 13.—The British steamer Arcadia, which arrived from St. John and other ports in Porto Rico, reports that there were five Spanish war ships at anchor at St. John, the Vizcaya, the Admiral Oquendo, two gunboats, and one dispatch boat.

THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Fair; Warmer; Winds Changing to South.

1 United States Ready for Action.

2 Much Cuban Oratory in the Senate.

3 Nebraska News.

4 Latest News of the Exposition.

5 Senators Plead for Cuba.

6 Council Bluffs Local Matters.

7 General News of the Farther West.

8 Latest News of the Exposition.

9 Gamblers Give New Bonds.

10 Fred S. Kelley Absconds.

11 Commercial and Financial News.

12 Profit of the New Marble.

13 Atlantic Squadron is Active.

Temperature at Omaha:

Hour. Deg. Hour. Deg.

5 a. m. 39 1 p. m. 54

6 a. m. 39 2 p. m. 56

7 a. m. 39 3 p. m. 57

8 a. m. 42 4 p. m. 57

9 a. m. 44 5 p. m. 58

10 a. m. 46 6 p. m. 58

11 a. m. 46 7 p. m. 54

12 m. 46 8 p. m. 54

13 m. 52 9 p. m. 53

HOUSE FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

Directs the President to Put a Stop to the War in Cuba at Once.

Authorizes Him to Employ the Land and Naval Forces

Resolution of the Majority of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Passed by a Vote of 322 to 19, After a Long and Exciting Session, During Which Hot Words and Several Personal Encounters Took Place—No Provision for Recognition of the Cuban Republic.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—At 6 o'clock this afternoon the house of representatives, after a long and stormy debate, adopted, by a vote of 322 to 19, the majority report of the house committee on foreign affairs relating to the Cuban situation. The report as adopted is as follows:

"Whereas, The government of Spain for three years past has been waging war on the island of Cuba against a revolution by the inhabitants thereof, without making any substantial progress toward the suppression of said revolution and has conducted the warfare in a manner contrary to the laws of nations, by methods inhuman and uncivilized, causing the death by starvation of more than 200,000 innocent noncombatants, the victims being for the most part helpless women and children, inflicting intolerable injury to the commercial interests of the United States, involving the destruction of the lives and property of many of our citizens, entailing the expenditure of millions of dollars in patrolling our coasts and policing the high seas in order to maintain our neutrality, and

"Whereas, This long series of losses, injuries and burdens for which Spain is responsible, has culminated in the destruction of the United States battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana, and in the death of 296 of our seamen.

"Resolved, That the president is hereby authorized and directed to intervene at once to stop the war in Cuba to the end and with the purpose of securing permanent peace and order there and establishing by the free action of the people thereof a stable and independent government of their own in the island of Cuba; and the president is hereby authorized and empowered to use the land and naval forces of the United States to execute the purpose of this resolution."

The negative votes were cast as follows:

Democrats—Adams (Ga.), Bankhead (Ala.), Brantley (Ga.), Brewer (Ala.), Clayton (Ala.), Cox (Tenn.), Elliott (S. C.), Griggs (Ga.), Howard (Ga.), Lester (Ga.), Lewis (Ga.), Maddox (Ga.), Strait (S. C.), Tate (Ga.) and Taylor (Ala.)

Republicans—Johnson (Ind.), Boutelle (Me.) and Loud (Cal.)

Populists—Simpson (Kan.)

HOUSE HAS AN INTERESTING DAY.

Excitement Reaches the Highest Pitch in Many Years.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The house of representatives today, after one of the most exciting and memorable days in its history, by a vote of 322 to 19, adopted a resolution which nine-tenths of its members believe makes war with Spain inevitable.

It is a fact which was grimly commented upon today by members as they spoke of the future, that every war in which the United States engaged began in April, and that today was the anniversary of the fall of Fort Sumter, which aroused the patriotic fervor of the north and made the four years of civil strife a certainty.

The resolutions direct the president to intervene at once in Cuba to secure peace, and to secure the people of this island a stable and independent government of their own, and authorize him to use the army and navy to execute the purpose of the resolutions.

Although only nineteen members—fifteen democrats, three republicans and one populist—dissent from the final vote, the proceedings were marred by a bitter and acrimonious display of partisan feeling. During the height of the excitement the tie was passed between Mr. Brumm (rep., Pa.) and Mr. Bartlett (dem., Ga.), and a disgraceful scene followed that almost descended to the level of a free fight. Mr. Bartlett hurled a book at his adversary, and in a minute half a hundred members were fighting like fends.

Order was finally restored, and later the two members found the altercation had arisen out of a misunderstanding, whereupon there were mutual apologies.

Later in the proceedings the speaker was again compelled to call on the sergeant at arms with his silver mace, the emblem of the house's authority, to seat Mr. Johnson (rep., Ind.), who was indignantly remonstrating against what he termed "the unnecessary war into which the country was being plunged."

Only forty minutes were given for debate, and a special rule was required to get the resolution before the house.

The minority resolution, which declared for the recognition of the existing government of the insurgents, was voted down—117 to 196—but they secured the votes of three republicans.

LIFTS THE GALLERIES.

Some stirring and patriotic sentiments were voiced during the debate, which lifted the galleries and the members to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Mr. Adams (rep., Pa.) and Mr. Dinmore (dem., Ark.), the senior minority member of the committee, were the only members who had an opportunity to speak directly to the resolutions, but General Henderson (rep., Ia.), Mr. Bailey (dem., Tex.) and Mr. McMillin (dem., Tenn.) each made speeches on the special order.

The capital was again like a beleaguered citadel. Thousands upon thousands of persons swarmed into the corridors and galleries to witness the scenes and to hear the stirring oratory. The galleries of the house were a solid mass of humanity, and on the floor members in excited groups were discussing the situation.

Mr. Adams, acting chairman of the foreign affairs committee, came into the hall with a copy of the senate committee resolutions, and was immediately surrounded and read them aloud to half a hundred members who gathered in the main aisle.

The bill was passed to allow importations for exhibition at the Texas fair at Dallas in October, 1896, to be admitted free of duty; and other similar trivial matters occupied the attention of the house for the next hour, while the members and the spectators in the galleries impatiently awaited the presentation of the report from the committee on foreign affairs.

The suspension of members was almost unendurable. But shortly before 2 o'clock Mr. Adams entered the hall with the report.

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