THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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GAUNTLET IS DOWN

Spain Takes Initiative and Practically Declares War.

GIVES MINISTER WOODFORD HIS PASSPORTS

Does Not Wait for Him to Present the President's Ultimatum.

HOSTILITIES MAY BEGIN AT ANY TIME

Spanish Fleet on Its Way to Meet Uncle Sam's War Ships.

AMBASSADOR LEAVES SPANISH CAPITAL

All Diplomatic Relations Now Broken and Nothing Remains But for the Two Nations to Fight It Out.

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MADRID, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—During last night Minister Woodford received the note of the American government conveying the intimation of the presidential decision, which he was unable to place in the hands of Spain's minister of state because early this morning Senor Gullon sent him a note as follows:

"In the accomplishment of a painful duty I have the honor to communicate to your excellency that the president of the United States having sanctioned a resolution of both houses which, disputing the legitimate sovereignty of Spain and threatening immediate armed intervention in Cuba, is equivalent to and is an evident declaration of war, his majesty's government has ordered his minister at Washington to retire without loss of time from American territory with all the members of the legation. Though this fact diplomatic relations that have so long existed between the two countries are interrupted and all official communication ceases between their respective representatives. I in part communicate the same to your excellency in order that you may adopt on your side the convenient disposition of your affairs. At the same time I pray your excellency to acknowledge the receipt of this note, and I seize this opportunity to reiterate to your excellency the assurance of my most distinguished consideration."

TURNS OVER THE CONSULATE.

At half past 11 British Charge d'Affaires Barclay entered the American legation, where General Woodford received him in the corner room that has served as an office for Taylor and himself successively. Woodford stood up and shook hands with Barclay, saying: "I have received the following note from Senor Gullon and in consequence propose to hand you, sir, as her British majesty's representative in Spain, this legation, the consulate for American citizens, their interest and property, as I understand you have instructions from your government to undertake this charge."

Barclay bowed acquiescence. Then Woodford, visibly moved, grasped his hand again, adding: "I cannot tell you how grateful my government and people are toward England." Woodford then turned to military attache Captain Bliss and instructed him to get the American arms and flagstaff removed, which was done. Woodford left the legation at 1 to go to his private residence to complete preparations for starting.

Woodford left his private residence in his own official carriage amidst visible police protection. All the way to the station a strong escort of civil guards attended him. Very few people were aware of his departure. When I reached the station I noticed mounted and foot police, with many officers and detectives. Inside were a few families about to leave by the Sud express and many Spanish reporters and foreign and American correspondents, also Marquis Valdeiglesias, editor of Epoca, who came to bid adieu to Woodford. On the platform were the British charge d' affaires and his wife, who is an American, his secretary and the German and Austrian first secretaries.

Woodford appeared with Secretary Sickles, Captain Bliss and their servants, followed by quite a body of police, civil guards and officers of whom Woodford saluted politely hat in hand. When the train came in Woodford and his secretaries immediately went aboard, after shaking hands with all the foreign diplomats, with Madam Sickles and pretty Miss Sickles, who both looked sorry at the departure of the minister. Some delay occurred to add the carriage to the express and the platform got very crowded. When the train steamed slowly away, loud cries of "Viva Espana," and other enthusiastic cheers came from them. Otherwise the tranquillity was perfect. The express left at 4 o'clock.

Woodford sent all his colleagues a communication announcing his departure and regretting that he could not take leave personally. Only the German and Austrian representatives responded, sending their secretaries to the station and apologizing that they were unable and too busy to go in person.

NO ANSWER.

The Spanish press today says the government will decline to admit an answer to the ultimatum, though considering it sufficient ground for a rupture in diplomatic relations. According to another version, without waiting the delivery of the ultimatum, the foreign minister sent passports to Woodford, grounding this decision on the fact that the conduct of the American government made further diplomatic relations impossible.

The British charge d'affaires cabled the foreign minister immediately that England intended to consider coal contraband and would not allow either party to draw coal supplies at British ports. He also demanded the intentions of Spain with regard to the right to visit neutral ships and expressed the hope that Spain would not permit privateers. The council of ministers deliberated these matters and decided to reply that Spain would strictly observe all usages, precedents and rules of international law. The same communication was telegraphed the Spanish ambassador at London.

Much animus exists against England and begins to be reflected in the press. All the Madrid papers today publish patriotic articles very bitter against America and advocating the confidence and unanimous support of all classes and parties in the common defense of national honor against its unwarranted aggression. The papers criticise severely the bourse panic as quite unjustified. ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON.

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

MADRID, April 21.—The ultimatum of the United States was received early this morning in English. The Spanish government immediately broke off diplomatic relations with the United States, notifying the United States minister to this effect before he was able to present any note.

The newspapers here today applaud "The energy of the government and the enthusiasm of the public at the advent of war." The Liberal says: "The government will make no reply whatever to the ultimatum." Continuing, the Liberal points out the advantages which Spain may derive from the use of privateers, in which connection, however, nothing has yet been officially decided.

The news of the rupture was received calmly. There is no excitement apparent anywhere.

Spain's action today is considered a virtual declaration of war and hostilities may begin at once.

The newspapers of this city print highly colored accounts of how General Woodford was handed his passports but the circumstances in the case were as cabled to the Associated Press. The Spanish government, having received the text of the ultimatum of the United States from its own sources, did not wait for the United States minister to present the ultimatum, but sent him his passports.

It is not expected that there will be any formal declaration of war as Spain's action today is considered as such and hostilities may begin immediately. Both nations, however, may make to their own people and to all neutrals what is termed "the notification of war."

A semi-official note just issued says the Spanish government considers the ultimatum of the United States constitutes a declaration of war.

The semi-official note adds that the Spanish fleet is already on its way to meet the fleet of the United States.

Minister Woodford left Madrid at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

DON CARLOS MAKES A STATEMENT.

Pretender Says That the Spaniards Will Put Up a Fight.

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BRUSSELS, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Your correspondent called on Don Carlos at his hotel today and was informed by his grand chamberlain, Count Melgar, that the pretender declined to make a further statement for publication. On further representation Count Melgar obtained the following declaration from Don Carlos:

"Reticence is a duty with me, owing to the immense interests now at stake. I must state my profound conviction that were the Carlists in power in Spain war would have been inevitable two years ago, but Spain has erred on the side of generosity and chivalry and has thus gone lengths hardly compatible with national honor. The United States has taken advantage of this attitude and has utilized the interval in strengthening its fleet. But we Spaniards are tough fighters and enter the contest fearless of the consequences. We thank the holy father for his kind offices, but the time had passed for intervention and the final catastrophe is now inevitable."

Your correspondent had expressly asked for a reply to the question whether Carlos would support the present government against America, but on that crucial point he preserved a significant silence. His sudden removal from Ostend to Brussels excited much comment. His intention, it is believed, was to go on a visit to Earl Ashburnham, his chief supporter in England, but owing to the indignation of Spain at England's attitude in the recent crisis, he was advised that such a visit was impolitic, therefore he went to Brussels instead.

BRUSSELS, April 21.—Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, in an interview here today, said: "I am convinced that the Cuban insurgents will make common cause with Spain, for fear of being absorbed by America." Without expressing absolute confidence in the triumph of the Spanish army and navy, Don Carlos expressed the opinion that the patriotism of Spain will work "miracles." He added: "So far as I am concerned, when the first gun is fired I will give proof that I am a patriot before being a pretender."

SPAIN'S ANSWER MAY BE A SHOT.

Fleet at Cape Verde Reported to Have Sailed.

NEW YORK, April 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says Spain's answer to President McKinley's ultimatum may take the form of shot and shell. Its formidable fleet, which has been mobilizing at the Cape Verde islands for some days past, sailed on Wednesday from that point for an unknown destination. The fleet is composed of the armored cruisers Almirante Oquendo, Cristobal Colon, Infanta Maria Teresa and Vizcaya, the torpedo boat destroyers Furor, Terror and Pluton and the torpedo boats Arctic, Azore and Rayo, and perhaps the battleship Pelayo. Information of the sailing of the fleet has been received by the attaches of the Spanish legation. It is conceded to be highly probable that the fleet will hasten across the ocean to Porto Rico and Cuba to prevent by force the ousting from the islands of the naval and military forces of the Spanish government now there. On the other hand, it is possible that the ships have gone to the Canary islands.

If Spain should use the cape as a base of operations in time of war Portugal will be called to account by the United States. The Cape Verde islands belong to the Lisbon government, which recently informed the United States that it had rejected propositions made by Spain to enter into an offensive alliance and proposed to remain strictly neutral. Portugal will be expected to carry out its intention in this respect. Its neutrality obligations will permit it to give to the Spanish vessels only sufficient coal to enable them to reach the next Spanish port, which in this case would be the Canary islands, and, once they have left that port, they cannot return for coal or provisions.

MINISTER POLO GOES TO CANADA.

Will Make Toronto His Headquarters During the Trouble.

TORONTO, April 21.—J. Enoch Thompson, Spanish consul in this city, has received an official dispatch from Senor Polo y Bernabe stating that he would arrive in Toronto on Saturday. It is expected that the Spanish minister and his staff will remain here for the present and will likely make Toronto their headquarters during hostilities.

BUFFALO, N. Y., April 21.—Ex-Minister Polo y Bernabe, with his staff arrived here at 11 a. m. Senor Polo absolutely declined to receive reporters or to allow anyone else to enter his car. He even entered his state room and pulled down the shades. The party left here for Suspension Bridge at 12:05.

Close Spanish Consulate in New York.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The Spanish consulate general in this city was closed and its affairs formally turned over to the French consul general today.

EXPERT OPINIONS ON WAR

Noted Englishmen Talk of the Impending Naval Conflict.

MEN IMPORTANT FACTORS IN STRUGGLE

Individuality of Commanders Counts for More Than Guns and Machinery—Question of Contraband of War Discussed.

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LONDON, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Admiral Sir George Elliott Kieb, late commander in chief at Portsmouth, one of the most distinguished of living British admirals, has given me the following signed statement of his anticipation of the probable naval strategy of Spain:

"I think that the naval strategy of Spain will be to allow the United States fleet to attack the forts at Havana, if they are so unwise, also to land troops on the south side, trusting to the yellow fever to fight them. Spain will then defend its fortified places, but as Havana is, I understand, short of provisions, a blockade would soon distress them. Thereupon the Spanish fleet would come to relieve the blockade and there the sea fight would be. That is my prophecy."

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, asked this evening for his forecast of the naval campaign, said: "I could draw up a plan of campaign for the United States or Spain, but the soundness in either case would depend upon contingencies, respecting which I have no information. Therefore, I do not feel justified in making any speculation, but what I will say is this: That in naval warfare henceforward everything will depend upon the individuality of the commander. A good fleet with a bad commander at its head will be worse off than a bad fleet with a good man in command. The competent man will be worth his weight, not in gold, but in diamonds. Man will be the deciding factor in future naval wars. The notion that machinery guns are all important is easily exaggerated."

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the answer given by Balfour to his question in the House on the subject of contraband of war, he said: "I am gratified that the United States has given adhesion to the declaration of Paris, and will put down a further question tonight to be asked Monday whether Spain has done likewise. If Spain refuses and resorts to privateering the United States will be forced in self-defense to do likewise. The question as to whether coal is contraband of war involves knotty legal points and it must have baffled the law advisers of the government, judging by Balfour's vague reply."

Much private discussion arose subsequently among members of Parliament and authorities on international law on the subject of coal being contraband. If so declared, it would largely determine the course of the impending naval struggle. A majority of legal experts are of the opinion that the decision must be left in all cases to prize courts, though practically all are agreed that coal being carried for use by war ships is undoubtedly contraband.

Mr. Balfour's answer that the Audax, now being repaired near Cork, being commissioned as a ship of the Spanish navy, it would be contrary to international practice to detain it after a declaration of war, also excited much surprise and doubt in the House, where the acute desire exists to avoid a repetition of the Alabama experience. I questioned a leading cabinet minister concerning the legal aspect of the matter, who replied: "Mr. Balfour's reply is quite right so far as it went. The cabinet has been advised that the usual proper course would be, if the Audax is still in a British port at the time of war being declared, it should be requested to leave as soon as it is fit for sea, without receiving any addition to its military equipment and with coal and provisions sufficient only to enable it to proceed to the nearest Spanish port. The same principle applies to the United States torpedo boat, Somers, if still at Falmouth after a declaration of war."

SPAIN'S METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

Report that Dons Will Not Resort to Privateering.

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BERLIN, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—From a reliable source I hear that Spain will not authorize a privateer fleet. Its conduct in this respect will follow that of the United States. All Spain has done till the present is making provision for a second reserve fleet composed of merchant vessels. Letters of marque will not be issued, nor is it believed here in official circles that Spain will allow the time given in the ultimatum to run by, not declaring war. The opinion of German military authorities is that the first shot will be fired outside of Havana.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—There are strong indications that if the Spanish government persists in the present announced policy of commissioning privateers to prey on commerce effective influences will be brought to bear on it by several great commercial powers, particularly Great Britain and Germany, to stop this privateering, or to make it practically ineffective and harmless.

It is understood that the British government has not determined upon its final line of action, except that the British merchant ships shall be protected at any hazard, even if British war ships are called upon to establish a protective patrol across the Atlantic.

So far as France is concerned, its commercial interests are against privateering, but its sentiments are toward allowing Spain to prosecute about the only effective means of warfare at its disposal.

Russia, Austria, Italy and nearly all of the nations of Europe and South America, some forty in number, are signers of the treaty of Paris against privateering, but this binds them alone and does not require them to exert influence on Spain to stop this mode of warfare.

The action of the United States is received with great favor, aside from its bearing on the approaching conflict, as it is said to give American adherence for the future to the abolition of privateering, although this country has refused that adherence for the last forty-two years.

The first article of the treaty of Paris, of 1856, is in those words: "Privateering is, and remains, abolished." The original parties to the declaration were Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria, Sardinia and Turkey. Other countries followed later in accepting it, the United States and Spain alone holding out against it.

Proposals were made to the United States to accede to the declaration, but Mr. Marcy, then secretary of state, declined to sign. The United States, he held, was at a disadvantage with powers maintaining large navies and against them reserved the right to employ privateers. Its extended seacoast, he pointed out, also placed it at a disadvantage. Since then, however, in the Mexican war and civil war, the United States did not resort to privateers, although congress authorized the use of privateers in the civil war.

With a new navy fast approaching dimensions of other naval powers and the extended seacoast fortified at all vital points the objections raised by Mr. Marcy no longer apply and this doubtless contributed to the determination of the United States to accede to the abolition of privateering.

ENGLISH FEELING IS FRIENDLY.

British Cousins Wish America Well in the Battle.

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LONDON, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The reasons assigned for Henry White's presence at Washington are various and conflicting. At the embassy it is stated that he has merely gone on an annual leave in the normal course of affairs. Telegrams published from Washington today declare he is engaged in laying the foundations for negotiations for a treaty of alliance between the United States and Great Britain. It is further added that he is armed with a letter from the prince of Wales in favor of the project. This latter statement is regarded as ridiculous, as the prince would be acting unconstitutionally in interfering, even if so disposed, which is highly unlikely.

The alliance story obtains no credence here. Exhaustive inquiries among the best informed ministerialists of the House of Commons tonight failed to evoke the faintest confirmation of it. The time to act is regarded as ripe for such a project, but it is thought quite probable that Lord Salisbury may seize the present favorable condition of feeling to seek to obtain the passage of an arbitration treaty at Washington. I was informed that the real object of Mr. White's mission to Washington was seen in the United States' adhesion to the declaration of Paris, in return for which concession (for it is deemed a concession by Great Britain), it is believed that England will hold aloof from all European combinations in favor of Spain.

The news that the Spanish fleet had sailed from Cape Verde proves baseless, as a telegram published in the evening papers states it is still there.

The latest report in diplomatic quarters is that Austria and France are endeavoring to arrange an understanding among the continental powers, that if the United States deals a decisive blow at Spain, putting it in what is diplomatically termed a "position to manifest inferiority," that they shall intervene to save Spain from being hopelessly beaten. Italy and Germany are declared to be both indisposed to agree to this scheme, as neither wishes to drive England and the United States closer together.

The change of tone on the part of the Times this morning is regarded as a most significant omen of the desire of the British government to promote an entente with the United States. Till today the Times has been critical, if not anti-American, but now it declares that all English sympathy is with the United States in the struggle.

PROVISIONS SCARCE IN HAVANA.

Town Can Easily Be Taken by American Fleet.

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HAVANA, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—News of the situation in Madrid and Washington causes the greatest excitement here and is discussed by excited groups in the streets. The military authorities have done everything in their power to prepare for bombardment and invasion by the United States army. The population dares not express itself to any great extent. Tremendous excitement has prevailed ever since Lee's departure. The people still expect a heavy blow at any moment. The population keeps to the houses until today, when it gathered in groups to discuss the situation.

Provisions have been daily growing dearer. If the American fleet blockades Havana it can take the town without firing a shot. A can of condensed milk sells for 80 cents. Ham, which was 18 cents a pound, now sells at 30 cents. Potatoes are 10 cents a pound. Gin and other liquors are steadily increasing in price. Values of provisions and necessaries have doubled and trebled in price and are still going up. Spanish paper money nobody will have. A Spanish cental, valued at $4.70 in American money, is quoted at $15 in Spanish, but nobody will exchange one for the paper stuff.

Spanish will welcome war, many of them because they secretly desire annexation. Only the most ignorant Spaniards believe they have a chance of success against the United States. The Cubans are absolutely certain now of freedom and correspondingly elated. If the volunteers get a chance they will massacre the Cubans. Blanco's difficulties increase every day. With the prospect ahead of him of bombardment by the American fleet, he has behind him a determined foe in the insurgents. The rebels in the field are in better condition than ever. They do not pay any attention to the armistice, which they regard as a Spanish ruse. Engagements are reported every day all over the island, but the news is suppressed here. The Cuban forces are moving forward and will get as close to Havana as possible.

MOB BREAKS LOOSE IN MADRID.

Smashes American Eagle and Throws Bits Into the Streets.

MADRID, April 21.—Crowds paraded the streets tonight. The mob gathered in front of the Equitable Life Insurance building and smashed the American eagle to bits. It carried the fragments to the streets. The civil governor of Madrid, Senor Aguillera, instead of prohibiting the disorder, allowed complete liberty of action, mingling among the demonstrators. He was loudly cheered, especially when the American escutcheon was thrown from the balcony of the Equitable building and fell at his feet. Aguillera, as if trampling on the escutcheon, addressed the populace, amid enthusiastic cheers. He said: "The Spanish lion is roused from his slumbers. He will shake his mane and disperse the rest of the brute creation."

Will Act in Polo's Absence.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The French ambassador, M. Cambon, accompanied by his secretary, M. Thiebaut, and the Austrian minister, Mr. Hengelmuller, called at the State department today and gave official notice that they had assumed charge of Spain's interests in this country, pending the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Spain.

Spain Calls Out Its Reserves.

LONDON, April 22.—A special dispatch from Madrid says the government has authorized the calling out of 80,000 reserves. Three vessels loaded with troops left Cadiz yesterday (Thursday) for a destination not disclosed.

FLEET YET AT ST. VINCENT

Spanish War Vessels Still Remain at Cape Verde Islands.

VESSELS FROM CADIZ EXPECTED SOON

Admiral in Command and Senior Officers Hold a Council of War, but Nothing is Known of Their Conclusions.

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ST. VINCENT, Cape Verde Islands, April 21.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Spanish war fleet from Cadiz is expected here to reinforce the squadron of ten war ships now here waiting orders from Madrid. The admiral in command and the senior officers of the combined squadrons here held a council of war today, but took great precautions to insure secrecy. The swift torpedo boat Raye, whose speed is said to be twenty-four knots an hour, leaves this harbor nightly for patrol duty or reconnoitering.

The route by which the message from St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, reached Omaha was from St. Vincent to Madeira, thence to Lisbon, to London, thence to New York, thence to Chicago. The dispatch was received at the cable office in New York at 3:58 p. m. Making allowance for the difference in time and time required for transmission, the dispatch was filed at St. Vincent late in the afternoon. The dispatches from St. Vincent are not within reach of a Spanish censor or Spanish influence, as the route shows.

SQUADRON IS STILL AT KEY WEST.

It is Expected to Sail at Almost Any Moment.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 21.—At 12 o'clock this noon the recall guns boomed from the fleet, ordering all the officers and men who were ashore to rejoin their ships forthwith.

At nightfall, however, there had been no movement of the fleet, and there is not likely to be any before morning, as the Cincinnati and the Marblehead have been ordered to the docks to take on coal and water.

Warlike bulletins followed fast upon one another today and intense excitement has prevailed since early morning. Rumors that sailing orders had been received were afloat throughout the afternoon, but no official confirmation of them could be obtained.

The matter of fact manner with which the highest officials accepted the newspaper bulletins to this effect indicated that authoritative information, if not instructions, had come from Washington, and the activity on the ships and docks bore out the reports of an early movement.

This morning the first organization of the various battalions of marines on the North Atlantic squadron was formed and war maneuvers were executed, chiefly that of landing parties. Three hundred and ninety-five men were in line, under command of Captain Mancil C. Codrell.

At 8 o'clock this evening Captain Sampson had received no orders from Washington relative to sailing. He was expecting instructions.

Just before this dispatch was sent it was ordered that steam should be gotten up in the four boilers in the New York. This would enable it to make fifteen miles an hour, which is a greater speed than could be maintained by the squadron as a whole.

Toward midnight a hurry message came ashore ordering several naval officers of the flagship on board immediately. At 12:30 there was no movement on the part of the fleet, but signalling was still progressing, and there were many signs of activity. No naval men were then ashore. At that hour one of the Cincinnati's stewards went out on a hired craft. It was said the fleet is under orders to sail at 4 o'clock.

2:35 a. m.—The war ships lying in the inner harbor are apparently drawing nearer the flagship. Two are now moving out. They are thought to be the monitor Amphitrite and the gun boat Helena. The signalling is continuous and the search lights of the Iowa and New York are industriously sweeping the waters of the outer harbor.

FLYING SQUADRON READY TO SAIL.

Officers and Men Show Great Enthusiasm.

FORT MONROE, Va., April 21.—Beginning with the reception of the first news bulletins from Washington today, intense excitement prevailed here, both on shore and among the officers and men of the squadron. The officers who came ashore in the afternoon were notified that they must report on board at 10 o'clock at the latest and no "all night" shore leaves would be granted. The officers of the Massachusetts were told that they must report at 5:30 on board, when leave might be granted for a few hours to see friends.

These two orders led to all sorts of rumors, an annoying one being that the Massachusetts had been detached, which was promptly denied.

At the hotels, where many of the officers' wives were located, there was great consternation, it being believed the squadron would sail before morning.

On the receipt of the bulletin that the Spanish believed the ultimatum to be a declaration of war, Commodore Schley signaled from the Brooklyn for all engines to be coupled. In port ships' engines are uncoupled and are not usually coupled until at sea. Arrangements were made for the telegraph stations on shore to remain open all night to receive dispatches.

Despite the strain on all nerves tonight, men and officers are enthusiastic to a degree, and that was demonstrated when the torpedo boat Rodgers stopped by the Brooklyn on its way out to join the Key West squadron, to ask permission of Commodore Schley to proceed. The men flocked to the forecastles of the vessels and cheered heartily. The Rodgers went out once before, but rubbed on a sandbar and slightly injured its screw. While the injury was not severe, it was thought best to fix it, and this work was completed today. It went out of Hampton Roads at full speed.

The colliers assigned to the squadron, the Merrimac and the Saturn, are not quite ready but may be in a day. The hospital boat is still in the hands of the ship's builders, being converted, and cannot be ready with a crew for several days.

Captain Higginson said tonight that any statement to the effect that the Miss chusetts had been ordered to go to New York City for defense of that harbor was untrue.

Closes the Harbor at Night.

PORTLAND, Me., April 21.—The light house board has given notice that on and after Tuesday, April 26, and until further orders, all channels leading to Portland harbor from the sea will be closed to navigation by a system of explosive torpedoes, and all vessels are forbidden to attempt to pass through any except the channel from the southward, between Portland Head and Cushing island.

PUNISH THE COLORED TROOPERS.

Court-Martial for Three in the Key West Disturbance.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 21.—The town is agog today over last night's collision between the municipality and the military, when Sergeant Williams of the Twenty-fifth infantry (colored) was taken from the county jail by fellow soldiers at the rifle's point.

As a result of this conflict, Williams and Private Coles of the same company, who is said to have been the leader of the attacking party, have been confined in the guard house, at the request of the mayor and local authorities, the latter being unable to guarantee sufficient protection.

Lieutenant Colonel Daggett said this morning that when the troops arrived they were ordered not to wear their side arms, and that Williams, in so doing, had violated the civil as well as the military law, and that the local authorities were fully justified in arresting him.

The officer added that Williams, Coles and their companions will be turned over to the civil powers and punished to the full extent of the law, after which a court-martial will follow.

During the day Williams had a hearing before a justice of the peace and was held in $1,000 bail for trial at the May term of the court. There was no demonstration at the hearing.

WHITE HOUSE IS TO BE GUARDED.

Every Precaution Will Be Taken to Protect the President.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The Post tomorrow will say:

A military guard will be placed at the White House in a few days. This has been definitely settled, but none of the details of the arrangements are known. Colonel Bingham, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, will have charge of the guard and such others as may be placed at the public buildings.

A conference was held today between Major Moore, superintendent of police, and Chief Wilkie of the United States secret service in regard to a civil guard at the White House. The force around the grounds will be largely increased and many detectives in citizens' clothes will be placed on duty. Every precaution will be taken to protect the president from any possible danger.

Torpedoes and mines are being planted in the Potomac below Washington. They are being put there as a safeguard in case of an emergency and the exact locations of the mines are being kept secret. The majority of the work is being done by night and pushed forward with the possible contingency of a fleet attempting to shell the capital.

PREPARING A REVENUE MEASURE.

Some Opposition to a Tax on Tea and Coffee.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The republican members of the ways and means committee expect to complete the war revenue measure and have it ready for submission to the full committee tomorrow or Saturday at the latest. One of the biggest contests in progress in the committee is over the question of taxing tea and coffee. The proposition to place 10 cents tax on tea and 2 cents upon coffee has met considerable opposition and various suggestions have been made as to subjects for taxation in lieu of tea and coffee. Among them is a proposition to place 50 cents per barrel tax on petroleum, but it now seems probable that this will be abandoned. There is also a proposition to tax mineral waters, wines, etc., but a proposition which now meets with more favor is to tax railroad tickets and sleeping car tickets 10 cents for each trip of over 100 miles. It is estimated between $20,000,000 and $25,000,000 could be raised from this source.

COLORED PEOPLE OFFER SUPPORT.

Tender Their Services as Soldiers to the President.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The support of the colored people of the United States to the country in the coming war was formally tendered to the president today by a representative from that race. Headed by ex-Governor Pinchback of Louisiana, it presented an address in which attention was called to the valuable services of colored troops under Jackson in 1822 and during the civil war, when they fought for the preservation of the union. In closing the address says:

To support you in your determination to extend liberty on this continent, and to maintain the honor and dignity of our country, we tender you the moral and physical support of 9,000,000 colored Americans.

First Cannon Shot.

MADRID, April 21.—At the cabinet council this afternoon Sagasta, addressing the queen regent, said: "The first cannon shot is almost audible."

Movements of Ocean Vessels April 21.

At Hamburg—Arrived—Palatia, from New York.

At Liverpool—Arrived—Belgenland, from Philadelphia.

At London—Arrived—Manitoba, from New York.

At Queenstown—Sailed—Rhynland, for Philadelphia; Teutonic, for New York.

At Genoa—Sailed—Fulda, for New York.

At Rotterdam—Sailed—Werkendam, for New York.

At New York—Arrived—Germanic, from Liverpool.

THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—
Showers; Colder; Northerly Winds.

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Postmaster General Gary Resigns.
3. Nebraska News.
Doings in the Supreme Court.
Ball Season Opens in Omaha.
4. Editorial and Comment.
5. Indian Congress to From[illegible]ain.
Senate Has a Busy Day.
Text of Ultimatum to Sp[illegible]
6. Council Bluffs Local Ma[illegible]
Iowa News and Comme[illegible]
7. General News of Farth[illegible]est.
8. Skin Games and the [illegible]
Omaha Street Car Hef[illegible]
9 Reviews of Recent Pu[illegible]ions.
Traveling Men's Conv[illegible]s.
Pacific Express Comp[illegible] Affairs.
11 Commercial and Fin[illegible] News.
12 Military Telegrapher[illegible]
Cheap Summering A[illegible]

Neb State Hist Society Hist Bldg

Temperature at Omaha:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	52	1 p. m.	61
6 a. m.	52	2 p. m.	64
7 a. m.	52	3 p. m.	66
8 a. m.	54	4 p. m.	68
9 a. m.	56	5 p. m.	66
10 a. m.	58	6 p. m.	62
11 a. m.	60	7 p. m.	60
12 m.	63	8 p. m.	59
		9 p. m.	58

WAR IS NOW A FACT

Spain Precipitates it by Presenting Woodford His Passports.

REFUSES TO RECEIVE THE ULTIMATUM

Washington Officials Consider This a Declaration of War.

SQUADRON IS ORDERED TO GO TO HAVANA

Blockade Will Be Made at Once of All the Cuban Ports.

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE CUT OFF

Official Notification is Sent to Other Governments of the Blockade of Havana and the Campaign is Already Under Headway.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—War between the United States and Spain is a fact, though not yet officially declared so by congress.

The stirring events of yesterday were succeeded today with rapidity of others of equal importance, culminating in the afternoon in orders for the departure of the North Atlantic squadron for Havana.

This practically is an act of war, so that the war between this country and Spain may fairly be said to date from today, April 21, 1898.

Two minutes after the opening of the State department this morning came word from Minister Woodford that the Spanish government, having anticipated and prevented his intention to present the president's ultimatum, he had asked for his passports.

The administration in a public statement announced that it regarded the action of the Spanish government as rendering unnecessary further diplomatic action on the part of the United States, and further stated that it regarded the course adopted by Spain as one placing upon that country the responsibility for the breach of friendly relations.

Mr. Woodford's telegram resulted in the calling of a special cabinet meeting to arrange an outline of a plan of campaign, or rather to determine how to begin the execution of the plan of campaign already prepared by the strategic boards of the army and navy departments. The immediate result was the order for the North Atlantic squadron to begin the blockade of Havana. How much further than this the cabinet progressed in its deliberations, it is not possible to say, for the obvious reason that the time has now come when the interests of the government require that the movements of ships and troops should be guarded with the greatest care from undue publicity in order to prevent the enemy from taking advantage of information.

IS A FORMIDABLE SQUADRON.

The North Atlantic squadron, under Captain Sampson's command, makes a splendid array of fine vessels, comprising battleships such as the Iowa and Indiana, monitors like the Puritan and Terror, armored cruisers like the New York, flagship; protected cruisers like the Cincinnati, Marblehead and Montgomery, gunboats like the Vicksburg, Wilmington and Annapolis, regular torpedo boats such as the Ericsson, Cushing, Winslow and the like, and not to speak of the large number of fast yachts and other vessels that have been added to the fleet by purchase.

This force is quite competent to blockade all the ports in Cuba, or at least all of the ports connecting by rail with Havana, and so likely to be used to supply that place in the event of siege with food and munitions of war.

This statement is to be taken with the understanding that it does not contemplate the coming to Cuban waters of the Spanish fleet. In such case, however, the probable policy would be to abandon the blockade and endeavor to force the Spanish fleet to battle.

Minister Woodford's action during the day, as reported to the State department in a late telegram, indicated that he was following a carefully prepared program. A significant feature of his message was the statement that the Spanish government notified him that it regarded its withdrawal of Minister Polo yesterday as terminating diplomatic negotiations, showing that it was not disposed to accept the expressed intention of our government to continue Mr. Woodford as a medium of communication until Saturday noon.

Mr. Woodford also announced that he had instructed Consul General Bowen, at Barcelona, to cause all the American consuls in Spain to immediately withdraw from the country. He further said that he had informed the Spanish government, after asking for his passports, that he had placed the American legation in Madrid, and American interests in Spain generally, in the hands of the British embassy.

The ambassador, Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fry Drummond Wolff, is not at present in Madrid, so American interests will be confined to the British charge, Sir George G. F. Bonham, bart.

NEGOTIATIONS ARE CUT OFF.

To all intents and purposes this relieves the State department from further negotiations as to Cuba, save those relating to privateering, neutrality observances, and the like.

It was found necessary to frame a notice to the powers of the intention of our government to establish a blockade of Havana, notification required by international law.

The Navy department today, aside from giving the orders to the squadron, continued the work of adding to the navy, and purchased another ship at Norfolk as an auxiliary craft and some small yachts.

The news of the actual beginning of war was received with gravity at the department, and there were many speculations as to the destination of the Spanish squadron. One suggestion was that it is heading to cut off the fine battleship Oregon, now on its way from the Pacific coast around to join Captain Sampson's command.

There is also some fear that the Oregon may be taken at an unfair advantage, without knowledge of the existence of war, by the Spanish torpedo boat destroyer, Temerir, which is now lying at Buenos Ayres.

Possibly with a view to avoiding a conflict in the straits of Magellan, where it would be at a disadvantage, the Oregon has been ordered to go around Cape Horn.

Relative to the news that comes from Chicago that the three revenue cutters on the lakes cannot be availed of for naval purposes, it is said at the Navy department that the department had some time ago abandoned