

MAY BE A CENSORSHIP

Threats Muttered in Administration Circles Against a Certain Class of Newspapers.

MERRITT'S CASE IN POINT

Telegraph and Cable Lines Warned--More Men For Manila--Volunteers Mobilizing--New Batch of Appointments--Mysterious Fleets.

Washington, May 17.--The cabinet session today lasted until about 12:30. Secretary Long came late and left about half an hour before the others. Secretary Day also left early. The members, as they left the White House, were unusually reticent even as to minor matters, and explained that the administration was hampered in its work by the indiscreet publication of news as to naval and army movements. Secretary Long said that although the matter of a rigid censorship of the press was not discussed at today's cabinet meeting, the action of certain newspapers in publishing movements and campaigning plans was causing great embarrassment.

Nothing was said at the meeting as to the reported purpose of the president to issue a call for additional volunteers, nor was the subject of sending more troops to the Philippines mentioned by the president. The government is now in constant communication with Admiral Dewey, and his judgment as to the number of troops necessary to accomplish the subjugation of the island was followed.

So far as could be learned, no important information had been received as to the movements of the Spanish fleet, nor could it be learned whether a conflict between the fleets was likely to take place within the next day or two.

CABLES AND TELEGRAPHS

London, May 17.--The American cable companies in this city have issued instructions to their agents to refuse to transmit any Spanish government messages.

New York, May 17.--The Anglo-American Telegraph company this morning issued the following notice: "Pending further decision by the chief signal officer, we will accept press messages without restrictions."

The central cable office of the Western Union Telegraph company today sent out notices that it was advised by the Indian and Panama company that their cable between St. Lucia and St. Vincent had been repaired, restoring cable communication with St. Vincent, Grenada, Barbadoes, Trinidad and Demerara.

GREELEY SHUTS DOWN

Washington, May 17.--Brigadier General Greeley, chief of the signal service, and in charge of all strategic control of telegraph and cables, has adopted energetic measures to prevent the admiral of the Spanish squadron, now in Caribbean waters, from keeping posted on the whereabouts and movements of United States squadrons and of our prospective naval and military operations. Last night he telegraphed to the New York manager of the Haytian company forbidding the sending or receipt of any messages, except official messages, to or from the United States government, or to any of its departments, or to any of its agents, or to any of its ships. The manager answered this morning that the inhibition would be strictly observed. If Admiral Sampson is in Haytian waters, as is conjectured, then this restriction forbids his movements to be made known except to the government, or to any of its departments, or to any of its agents, or to any of its ships. It is impossible to send out the information except through the government. General Greeley also telegraphed the Anglo-American Cable company this morning, calling their attention to the prohibition against any messages inimical to the interests of the government, and in particular forbidding the receipt or sending of messages disclosing the movements of our ships or prospective military movements. This latter step was taken in view of the notice of the Anglo-American Telegraph company that, "pending further decision by the chief signal officer, we will accept press messages without restrictions."

General Greeley's order appears to cover the further decision referred to in the company's notice. The orders to these two companies were sent, as the channels of communication under their control seem to be, for the moment, the ones through which the Spanish admiral and the Spanish fleet are kept posted on the whereabouts and movements of our ships and military operations. It is believed, will so restrict this character of cable information to the government and to the fleet commanders that the Spanish authorities from now on will be cut off from all knowledge of our naval and military plans.

General Greeley's telegraphic orders supplement the written orders he had previously given to all cable companies, six in number, having lines from the United States. The written orders have been agreed to in writing by each of the cable companies and now constitute an agreement with the government.

TO INQUIRE ABOUT MERRITT  
Washington, May 17.--The published interview with General Merritt in New York in the course of which he is reported to have expressed his unwillingness to take the command of the Philippine Islands unless the government gave him more than 15,000 volunteer troops, and complaining that such a command was inadequate to his rank, is likely to be the subject of an inquiry by the government as to whether he was correctly reported. A member of the cabinet said after the meeting that he had no doubt the matter would receive official attention.

BUT MERRITT SETTLES THAT  
Washington, May 17.--Secretary Alger this afternoon received the following telegram from General Merritt:

"Governor's Island, May 17.--Hon. R. A. Alger, Secretary of War, Washington: I desire you to know that the interviews published in the morning papers in New York this morning are in every way incorrect and unauthorized. I had intended

men. The regular troops will be the first to get landed in Cuba, and General Shafter's reputation as a fighter leads the men to believe that their work will be cut out for them from the start. General Wadsworth, of Chickamauga, with him his entire staff, including Lieutenants Army and Read, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Arthur, and Major D. J. Wheeler. Arrangements have been practically concluded for the placing of the thirteen regiments of volunteers which will be included in the Seventh army corps, under Major General Fitzhugh Lee at Lakeland and Dade City, at least until the troops at Tampa are moved. The water supply, which has been a cause of much annoyance at Tampa, is abundant at Lakeland.

Lieutenant Rowan, who accompanied the Leyden expedition to Cuba and succeeded in reaching General Garcia's headquarters, will leave for Washington, where he will report to Adjutant General Corbin.

Major General Wheeler commanding the cavalry division, will establish his headquarters at West Tampa tomorrow.

Orders to the volunteer troops to move were given today as follows: First regiment of Wisconsin, to Tampa; Second Illinois, to Tampa; Light battery A, Illinois, to Chickamauga; Third Michigan, to Tampa; Battery B, Pennsylvania, to Chickamauga.

New York, May 17.--The Eighth regiment Massachusetts volunteers went through Jersey City today on its way south. There were 90 men, under command of Colonel William A. Pew, Jr.

Island Lake, Mich., May 17.--Colonel McGurran, commanding the Thirty-second Michigan volunteer infantry, has received orders to proceed with his regiment to Tampa as soon as the cars are ready.

Cleveland, O., May 17.--The following dispatch was received here early today from C. L. Kennan, commanding the Fifth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry:

"Camp Bushnell, Columbus, Ohio, May 17.--Have just received telegraphic order from the war department to move my regiment to Tampa, Florida. Shall probably start Wednesday.

(Signed) "C. L. KENNAN."  
Springfield, Ill., May 17.--The First Illinois infantry, Colonel H. C. Turner, of Chicago commanding, left Springfield today for Chickamauga, via Chicago and Alton, for St. Louis, thence to Martinsburg, Tenn., over the Illinois Central and the end of the journey over the Nashville and St. Louis road. The section carried on baggage car, one horse car, one freight car, eleven second class sleepers and one officers' car. Transportation arrived today for the Sixth Illinois infantry, commanded by Colonel D. J. Foster, under orders to Washington before night.

Chickamauga Filling Up  
Chattanooga, Tenn., May 17.--Today was one of the busiest in the history of Chickamauga park. A number of regiments which arrived yesterday afternoon and night, and from early morning were hard at work pitching tents and arranging their camps. Special trains arrived hourly and the park fast filled up.

The Fourth Pennsylvania infantry, which arrived yesterday afternoon, remained in the cars over night and began work on its camp at an early hour this morning. This regiment is composed of 700 men, under Colonel D. R. Case.

Batteries twenty-six and twenty-seven, Indiana light artillery, which arrived yesterday, were taken to the park last night and remained in their cars over night. They went into camp early this morning.

The One Hundred and Fifty-seventh infantry, 1,100 men, under Colonel Studabaker, also remained in their cars over night, going into camp this morning.

The Second Wisconsin infantry, 128 men, under Colonel C. A. Born, remained in their cars in the city all night, going to the park early this morning.

The Thirty-third Michigan infantry, composed of twelve companies and three battalions, 1,025 officers and men, in command of Colonel Cornelius Gardner, formerly of the Nineteenth United States Infantry, arrived over the Cincinnati Southern road at 7 o'clock this morning from Island Lake, Mich., where it had been in camp for the past two weeks.

The regiment is without arms, there being but five Springfield rifles to each company, these being used by the sentries. In other respects the regiment is well equipped. The regiment was transferred to the park about noon.

The work of equipping the volunteers is keeping the volunteers busy, and those they have probably have ever been before. The majority of the volunteers are unequipped and immense amounts of supplies must be issued them. Several special trains with arms and equipment are now en route.

Practically all here are enjoying the best of health, only about a dozen being troubled with slight ailments. There is no confusion, despite the immense amount of work being done. General Brooke personally seeing that everything is done in a businesslike way.

The First Ohio light artillery, consisting of four batteries and 465 men, under the command of Major Charles T. Atwell, arrived from Columbus, O., at 12:30 o'clock. The four batteries are from Cleveland, Zanesville, Newark and Columbus. The command was in the city several hours before going to the park this afternoon.

The Statesboro Pennsylvania infantry, 1,000 men, arrived in the city at an early hour this morning and was at once taken to the park.

The Third Pennsylvania volunteer infantry, 65 officers and men, under command of Colonel Robert Ross, arrived shortly after noon today, and was taken to the park a short time later. Nearly 8,000 men are now in the park.

ARMY AND NAVY APPOINTMENTS  
Washington, May 17.--The president today sent the Senate the following navy and army appointments:

Navy--Captain S. H. Casey, U. S. N., to be commodore; Commander Benjamin F. Lambertson, to be a captain; Lieutenant (Junior grade) Harry George, to be a lieutenant; Lieutenant Commander Harrison G. Colby, to be a commander; Lieutenant John H. Moore, to be a lieutenant commander; Lieutenant Commander Leavitt C. Logan, to be a commander; Ensign Ralph E. Walker, to be a second lieutenant in the marine corps; Second Lieutenant Amos Bronson, Jr., U. S. M. C., to be an ensign in the navy; John Benjamin Dennis of Maryland and William S. Thomas of New York, to be assistant surgeons in the navy.

To be assistant paymasters to 8th regiments--George Palmer Dyer of New York, Robert Hunter Orr of Delaware, Frank W. Hart of District of Columbia, Webb Van Horn of New York, and William Williams of New York. Abel Brown Pierce of Texas, Robert H. Woods of District of Columbia, William A. Mer-

ritt of Maryland, Harrison Lamar Robins of Mississippi, William H. Doherty of Massachusetts, Charles Morris, Jr., of New York.

Home of Stanford of Tennessee, to be a civil engineer in the navy; Surgeon Charles A. Siegfried, to be a medical inspector in the navy.

War--To be assistant adjutant general, with rank of major, George S. Hobart of New Jersey.

Withdrawn--Captain Henry C. Ward, Sixteenth infantry, for inspector general, with rank of major J. M. Simeral of Nebraska, for commissary of subsistence, with rank of captain Richard H. Davis of Massachusetts, for assistant adjutant general, with rank of captain.

To be engineer officers, with rank of major--First Lieutenant James F. Bell, Seventh United States cavalry; Hugh H. Gordon of Georgia, William D. Jenkins of Mississippi, First Lieutenant L. S. Siroth, First United States infantry; Robert W. Bonnet of Minnesota, Edward Morrell of Pennsylvania, First Lieutenant; Clement A. F. Flieger, corps of engineers, U. S. A.

To be assistant adjutant general, with rank of captain--First Lieutenant William M. Wright, Second United States infantry; Merrill R. Brock of New York, W. J. Sewell of New York.

To be assistant quartermasters, with rank of captain--First Lieutenant J. C. W. Brooks, Fourth artillery; John C. Breckinridge of New York; Frederick W. Cole of Alabama; W. E. English of Indiana.

Commissaries of subsistence, with rank of captain--Stewart M. Brice of New York; Edward R. Hutchins of Iowa; Orson Pettibone, Peter C. Deming, Mortimer J. Henry of Pennsylvania; John Carmichael of Virginia; Moses R. Doyon of Wisconsin; Seth M. Milliken of Maine; Oliver W. Perry Smith of Pennsylvania; Salinas F. Dutton Vermont; John Landstreet, Jr., of Tennessee; Edward Glynn of Massachusetts; Philip M. Lydig of New York; Miller R. Downing of Ohio; Wilson L. Davenny of Illinois.

To be additional paymasters--Frank M. Hammond of Massachusetts; Winfield M. Clark of Pennsylvania; Henry C. C. Clark of New York; John D. Dyer of New Hampshire; Timothy D. Keleher of New York; Daniel W. Arnold of Illinois; George E. Vandegrift of Ohio; George C. Stewart of Georgia; George T. Holloway of New York; Herbert M. Lord of Maine; Samuel R. McMillan of Minnesota; George B. Smith of Tennessee; James H. Smith of New York; Stephen Campbell, Jr., of Maryland; George F. Downey of Utah; George W. Flahback of Missouri; O'Brien Moore of Texas; B. Bradley Ray of Illinois; William H. Stillwell of Arizona; William B. Rochester, Jr., of New York; Robert C. Smith of New York; Seymour Howell of Michigan; Clifford S. Walton of District of Columbia.

To be chief quartermaster, with rank of major--Captain John W. Carson, Jr., assistant quartermaster.

To be chief commissaries of subsistence, with rank of major--James O. Varneado of Georgia; Samuel W. Hay of Pennsylvania; James H. Moody of North Carolina.

To be chief surgeons, with rank of major--John M. G. Woodbury of New York; Lewis Schooner of Iowa.

FIRST COLORED OFFICER  
Washington, May 17.--First Lieutenant Charles Young, of the Ninth cavalry, has been relieved from duty at Wilberforce university, Ohio, in order that he may accept the position of major of the Ninth infantry, the colored Ohio volunteer infantry. Lieutenant Young is the only colored officer in the line of the army. This is said to be the first instance in which a colored officer has been given the command of a battalion of troops in the army.

COLORED "IMMUNES"  
Washington, May 17.--A delegation of prominent members of Congress, of Governor Pinchbeck, Colonel James Lewis and Captain Judson W. Lyons, called on the secretary of war today and urged that all of the ten regiments of immunes to be sent to Cuba be made up of colored men. They pointed out the special service the colored troops, bred in the south, could render in the campaign against the insurgents in Cuba, and urged that the colored troops be sent to Cuba as a unit.

BREAD AND VINEGAR  
St. Louis, May 17.--Captain Duval, of the United States commissary department, has made a contract with local bakeries for 60,000 pounds of army crackers. This is equivalent to 20,000 barrels of flour. On each will be printed the words, "Remember the Maine."

Besides the big contract for hard bread, Captain Duval has also made a contract in this city for 20,000 gallons of vinegar.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, May 17.--This being cabinet day, fewer callers were in evidence at the White House than yesterday. Representative Paris of Indiana, the first to appear, left some appointments papers and Representative Hoke, who with Penrose and other Pennsylvania legislators is urging Messrs. Wiley and Goble for brigadier generalships, called to press their appointment. The strangers who "make it a point to pay their respects to the president whenever in Washington," are very much in evidence nowadays, and there were several at the White House today.

It was stated at the White House at 11 o'clock, in the cabinet assembled, that there had been no material change in the situation and senators and representatives who called to discuss the situation were shown no official dispatches.

NEW MESSENGER FROM GOMEZ  
Key West, May 17.--Another commissioner from Gomez, consisting of the insurgent commander-in-chief, arrived at Key West today.

Mr. John F. Jova, the former United States vice consul at Segura la Grande who was landed by an American gunboat on the coast of Cuba about 10 days ago was picked up yesterday afternoon after a sailing expedition with a Spanish gunboat, which the American gunboat chased into her harbor. Mr. Jova succeeded in reaching the camp of General Gomez and has brought back dispatches from the latter to Commodore Watson.

He reports that General Gomez and the several hundred troops with him are being held in a state of siege by the Spanish forces at the present situation. Mr. Jova also reported, keeping in the city's view, that Spanish troops are moving westward, keeping in the city. He made

IS ARMING HIS ENEMIES

Blanco Thinks He Has Cuban Sympathizers Secure When He Has Conscripted Them.

AS OTHER FOLKS SEE IT

He Has Only Placed Badly Needed Weapons in the Hands of Men Who Will in Due Time Turn Them Against Him.

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Kingston, Jamaica, May 17.--The Cuban provisional government has directed insurgent sympathizers not to try to evade in garrison cities General Blanco's conscription order forcing into the ranks of the volunteers all males from 15 to 16 years of age.

Refugees who arrived here by the French steamer Polton from Havana and who have since been released from quarantine say that the Cubans in Havana are joining the volunteers by hundreds. Spain is thus arming enemies ready to rise at an opportune time or to desert. The Spaniards in Havana, for a communal police purpose, spy out Cuban sympathizers and cause their arrest.

Eggs there were 19 cents a piece, meat was 10 cents a pound and flour 40 cents a pound, when the Fulton left on May 7. The Atlanta line steamer Adonia sailed for Santiago de Cuba today with provisions and to bring back refugees. Three or four schooner cargoes of food leave Jamaica ports for Santiago weekly.

PHANTOM FLEETS  
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St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, May 17.--It was reported here this morning that on Sunday last, from noon until 6 p. m., twenty-seven vessels slowly steamed westerly, north of Tortola island, forty miles east of St. Thomas. One steamer which approached the land showed the Spanish flag.

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Cape Haytien, Hayti, May 17.--Two Spanish cruisers or gunboats are making their base of operations at Badajoz, or Guantanamo bay. They are known to be moving every night in the waters between Hayti and Cuba. A Haytien schooner plying between the Mole St. Nicholas, Jean Rabel and Glatignac, reports, through an agent of the Cuban insurgents at Port de Paix, having met Spanish vessels several times during the past few weeks. The Spaniards are supposed to hide in Cuban ports during the day and to go out cruising at night.

New York, May 17.--A special copyright dispatch from Santa Lucia to the World says: A large strange war ship was seen last night lying off the west coast of the island. Others were also seen to the northward of Santa Lucia. These vessels are believed here to be a Spanish squadron watching for the United States battleship Oregon, which may come close to this island on its way to Key West.

New York, May 17.--A special from Kingston, Jamaica, says the report has reached that place that two ships the nationality of which it was impossible to make out, were seen last evening off Moran Point, at the eastern extremity of Jamaica. The ships were taking a southerly course.

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Galveston, May 17.--The Norwegian steamer Transit, Captain Schlytter which arrived from Progress, in quarantine last night, reports having heard heavy cannonading 100 miles off Galveston in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday while en route to this port. It lasted five to ten minutes, but the Transit did not stop to investigate. The presumption is that the cannonading was a patrol boat in practice. Alarms were given by the appearance of the Spanish Cape Verde fleet, last reported at Caracas.

OTHER VESSELS SIGHTED  
New York, May 17.--The North German Lloyd steamer Aler, which arrived today from Genoa, Naples and Gibraltar, passed close to Punta Delgado, Azores, on her way to this port, and was at that place four war vessels, one Italian, one French, one Portuguese and one Dutch. The latter sailed west on May 12.

Boston, May 17.--A special cable from Turk's Island says the American cruiser Mississippi passed through the channel this morning, steering a southerly course. Turk's Island is north of San Domingo.

Madrid, May 17.--Instructions have been given to the marine authorities of Barcelona not to permit the departure of large steamers which might be used as "auxiliary" cruisers.

JUNCTION OF THE SQUADRONS  
New York, May 17.--A special to the Herald from Washington says:

"Spain's fleet in the Caribbean sea is to be met by a squadron consisting of six vessels of the United States Navy in the Atlantic waters. This seems to be the intention of the naval war board and preparations are being made to effect the junction of Rear Admiral Sampson's and the flying squadron under the command of Commodore Schley with all possible despatch.

Washington, May 17.--Early consideration of the Hawaiian annexation resolutions in the house seems probable. As soon as they were reported today Representative Hitt, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, had a consultation with Speaker Reed and other members of the committee on rules, with a view to having the committee report a special order for the consideration of resolutions. For the consideration of resolutions, Mr. Hitt said no positive assurance had been given that he was doing his utmost and was hopeful of securing early action by the house. It is understood that Speaker Reed, while personally opposed to annexation, is not inclined to resist the passage of the resolutions which come from the president and a practically united party in the house and senate.

The speaker has rarely if ever, stood in the way of his party's united desire and this fact is pointed to now as an indication that a rule for consideration of the Hawaiian resolutions will be reported soon.

St. Louis, May 17.--An unidentified man suspected of being a Spanish spy, is under arrest at Jefferson Barracks. He was found today to the main court, and being unable to give an account of himself, was turned over to the commandant, Captain King.

When searched a lot of Spanish correspondence was found on the fellow. He spoke the Spanish language fluently.

blockading ships in constant communication with Key West, whence the movements of vessels are being directed.

The general opinion is that there will be no movement of the army in the direction of Cuba as long as the Spanish fleet remains in American waters, or until it is blockaded without incident since the Conde Venadito and Leguano attempted to draw our ships under the big guns of the Santa Clara battery on Saturday evening.

The French frigate Dubouloff, which entered Havana harbor a week ago, after an unpleasant incident which necessitated the firing of two shots across her bows before the Frenchman would show his flag, passed out this afternoon at about 4 o'clock and headed northwest.

The Dubouloff is a long schooner ship, carrying six-inch and five-inch guns and one-pounders, besides two torpedo tubes. The Mayflower ran close enough to the frigate to establish the Frenchman's identity and then stood off. Our flag was not saluted.

The Dubouloff, like the French sloop-of-war Fulton, had on board many refugees. She is bound, probably, for some Mexican port.

The activity along the coast continues. Squads of Spanish cavalry and parties seen daily along the shores, but they have not been molested.

Orders have been given not to expose the small vessels of a fine squadron to unnecessary danger.

MORRO'S FLASHLIGHT  
Chicago, May 17.--A special to the News from Key West says: The Wilmington crew were amazed to see Morro Castle's flashlight last night, for the first time since the blockade began. It was suggested that the Spaniards were expecting the Cape Verde fleet.

SPAIN'S FUNNY NOTIONS  
Madrid, May 17.--11:30 a. m.--Dispatches from Havana indicate that it is the opinion there among the Spaniards that the real object of the "Uncle" visit there was to ascertain whether the Cape Verde fleet had arrived, hence the care taken by the Spanish officials to keep the Uruca at a safe distance.

The Uruca is the boat sent to Havana on Sunday under a flag of truce to negotiate for the exchange of two American newspaper men captured by the Spaniards. Two of the Spanish captives at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, are to be sent to Havana in exchange for the American prisoners.

SPAIN'S SECOND FLEET  
New York, May 17.--A dispatch to the Herald from Cadix says:

The dock yard authorities of the Port, the Carlos V., the Alfonso XIII, and the newly equipped cruisers, the España and the Palma, together with the torpedo destroyers Audaz and Prometeo, will be ready for sea in the middle of the present week.

There has been considerable difficulty in the matter of obtaining skilled engineers. Spanish engineers being unable to obtain the proper speed out of the torpedo destroyers.

NO PROTEST AT THE HAGUE  
The Hague, May 17.--Up to this afternoon no protests have been received from Washington regarding the sailing and provisioning of the Spanish warships at Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

SAGASTA'S HARD TASK  
Madrid, May 17.--Some of the newspapers today assert that Senor Sagasta and Senor Gamasa will reach an agreement to form a coalition cabinet, while others express the opinion that Senor Sagasta will encounter so many difficulties that he will be compelled to abandon the task.

DODGED BY SALISBURY  
London, May 17.--In the house of lords today the Liberal leader, the Earl of Kimberley, questioning the government as to its intention in regard to Wei Hai Wei, referred to the recent speech of the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, saying the alliance mentioned by the latter was contrary to the policy of the government for mutual defense against Russia, and asked if the matter was so far advanced "that we may soon hear of a great alliance with a European power?"

He explained that he could not conceive of any alliance with the United States, because it would be contrary to the policy of the latter, which has always pursued, adding that unless the government had made such an alliance in the direction of an alliance, that are long the house may hear of its conclusion, nothing was more likely to prevent its conclusion than Mr. Chamberlain's speech.

The Marquis of Salisbury in reply declared to Senator Mr. Chamberlain's speech, on the plea that he did not have it in his hands.

Reiterating to Wei Hai Wei, the premier declared that he had been occupied "in examining Chinese reform and to show Japan and the latter our sympathy." Continuing, the Marquis of Salisbury said the government's policy was the development of commerce and friendly relations with all nations.

NEW SHIPS IN COMMISSION  
Washington, May 17.--The torpedo boat McKee and the auxiliary torpedo boat destroyer Yachton were placed in commission at the Norfolk navy yard yesterday. Lieutenant C. M. Kupper is in command of the McKee and Lieutenant Commander J. H. Adams is in command of the Yachton.

The cruiser Newark will go into commission at the Norfolk navy yard next Saturday, but may not be entirely ready for sea for two weeks yet. Captain Albert B. Barker, now a member of the naval strategic board, has been assigned to the command of the Newark and will join that vessel on the 18th instant.