



HOPING FOR THE BEST, PREPARING FOR THE WORST.

The House Naval Committee

Makes Provision for New Battleships.

A New Military Department to be Created.

War Officials Straining Every Nerve to Improve the Defenses.

Two New Warships Which Were Being Constructed in England for Brazil Secured—No News From the Court of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Hoping for the best and preparing for the worst about represents the situation in the War and Navy Departments these days. The officials still profess confidence that there is to be a peaceful outcome of the present threatening difficulties, but meanwhile prepare with serenity to meet their duty if events did shape themselves otherwise.

NEW MILITARY DEPARTMENT. The most important and significant developments of the day were the decision of the House Naval Committee to place in the naval appropriation bill a provision for three new battleships and a conclusion on the part of the Secretary of War to issue to-morrow morning an order creating a new military department, including within its confines that part of the country which would be in all likelihood nearest the field of hostilities, in case it should come to that. The order will cause a commotion in the South. The present Department of Texas is abolished, and the headquarters which have been at San Antonio, Texas, for so many years are abandoned. In place of the old department is created a new one, the Department of the South.

General Graham, at present the commander of the Department of Texas, will command the new department. This department will include the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. All of these States, save the last, are at present attached to the Department of the East, under command of General Merritt of New York.

It is said at the Department that General Merritt is fully compensated for the strength of the command which passes away from him by the addition to his forces of the two regiments of artillery now recruiting. Headquarters of the new Department of the South will be at Atlanta, Ga., chosen because of its fine strategic value, and from its excellent railroad connections. At present the Government has no accommodations in Atlanta for the headquarters of the Department, so it will be obliged to hire the most available buildings.

General Wilson, Chief of Engineers, who has been in Florida, is expected back to-morrow to report to Secretary Alger upon the progress of the fortification work in that section of the country, and probably especially as to the defense of the Tortugas.

STRENGTHENING DEFENSES. For the first time to-day the officials of the War Department admitted that they were straining every nerve to improve that part of the defenses of the country confined to their care. It is without question the most unusual mark of confidence in an executive officer to empower him to give orders without limit in the purchase of war material, yet this is what the President and Secretary Alger have done in the case of General Flagler, Chief of Ordnance. And the officer has not shown any disposition to shrink this large responsibility, but has instructed every concern capable of supplying war materials, such as rapid-fire guns, shot, shell and ammunition, to go to work at full capacity.

TWO NEW WARSHIPS. The Navy Department has now reason to believe that it has secured the two warships, the Amazonas and her sister ship, now building in England for Brazil. It was stated at the Cabinet meeting to-day by Secretary Long that the naval attaché at London, Lieutenant Colwell, had almost completed the negotiations of the sale. So far, however, final notification from him that his offer has been accepted has not yet reached the Navy Department.

NO REPORT FROM NAVAL COURT. The day passed again without word

from the Court of Inquiry, according to the statement of Secretary Long, who says that he has received nothing whatever from the Court itself or Judge-Advocate Maish. NO WASTEFUL EXTRAVAGANCE. The Secretary has determined that there shall be no wasteful extravagance in his Department in the expenditure of the funds so generously provided by Congress, and to this end he has addressed the following letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and the commander of the marine corps and to each bureau of the Navy Department: Sir: Under the emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 made Wednesday, you will increase no expense or liability, except after written statement and estimates made by you and approved by the President and Secretary, all in writing. A special record must be kept of every such requisition. If any such liability or expense has been incurred by you or at your direction, make such written statement and estimate and submit it at once for such approval.

By order of the President. Very respectfully, JOHN D. LONG, Secretary.

RETIREMENT OF NAVAL OFFICERS.

In anticipation of a rupture between the United States and Spain, many naval officers on the retired list have notified the Secretary of the Navy of their willingness and readiness to perform duty in the line of their profession, that he may deem suitable for them. As there seems to be considerable misapprehension on the part of the general public as to the availability of officers on the retired list for active duty in times of war, Section 1462 of the Revised Statutes bearing on this subject provides as follows: "No officer on the retired list of the navy shall be employed on active duty, except in time of war."

Under this section it is apparent that if war should break out all officers on the retired list competent to serve will be subject to the orders of the Secretary of the Navy. Another statute bearing on this subject contained in Sections 1463 and 1464 is as follows: "In time of war the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, may detail officers on the retired list to the command of squadrons and single ships when he believes that the good of the service requires that they shall be so placed in command. In making said details, the President may select any officer not below the grade of Commander and assign him to the command of a squadron, with the rank and title of 'flag officer,' and any officer so assigned shall have the same authority and receive the same obedience from the commanders of ships of his squadron holding commissions of an older date than he will be entitled to receive if his commission was the oldest."

It thus appears that the President has power to assign any retired officer of the navy to duty during the progress of war, but that he can only assign him to the command of squadrons or ships by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. There are many officers on the retired list in the full enjoyment of health and mental vigor, despite the fact that they are now 62 years of age, whose ability and experience would undoubtedly be of great advantage to the nation in case it proved necessary to go to war in the defense of its honor and dignity. Notable among these is Rear-Admiral John G. Walker, recently retired for age, and who is now engaged in special duty as President of the Nicaragua Canal Commission.

COAST DEFENSES. Large Number of Rapid Fire Guns to be Procured. WASHINGTON, March 11.—Secretary Alger has authorized General Flagler, Chief of Ordnance, to make arrangements at once for procuring a large number of rapid firing guns for sea-coast defenses. This action is taken without waiting for the allotment among the various bureaus of the War and Navy Departments of the \$50,000,000 voted for the national defense. The Secretary felt that there was no reason for further delaying the necessary steps for the procurement of these guns, as it was felt there would be no trouble in arriving at an equitable adjustment of the money available.

Ever since the battleship Maine was wrecked in Havana harbor the Ordnance Department has been hastening the delivery of guns already finished, and making arrangements for the supply of such additional ones as the officials felt warranted in ordering without the additional funds which have since been put at their disposal. The Ordnance Bureau will take all these rapid fire guns that can be procured within a reasonable time, and they will be shipped to the sea-coast fortifications as rapidly as possible. They constitute what is known as the auxiliary defense for the fortifications, and are a material assistance to the big guns, which necessarily are slower of movement and firing. They would also be of valuable assistance in keeping the enemy's ships from placing submarine mines and other obscured means of defense by maintaining a constant fire over the place.

The contract for the carriage of these rapid fire guns has been authorized, and will be at the fortifications as soon as completed. The carriages can be made and delivered much quicker than the guns, so that expedition in the manufacture of the latter is what the officers of the Ordnance Bureau are after.

Quite a number of establishments in the United States have responded to the department's inquiries as to whether they can assist in making these guns. They include the army gun factory, the Bethlehem Iron Works, the Briggs Ordnance Company and the American Ordnance Company. The guns are mounted without much trouble, so that haste in their manufacture is essential in the present crisis. WORK ON ARSENALS BEING PUSHED. It is now stated by the Ordnance officials that directions have been given to the various arsenals and armories controlled by the Government to increase the working force to the fullest practicable extent, with a view to hurrying the completion of existing projects. Likewise, all firms having contracts to supply the Government with Ordnance have been required to work night and day, in order to finish the work in hand, and to arrange their business with a view to increased orders.

ORDERS FOR SMALL ARMS. As to small arms, extra ammunition orders have been already placed with the Union Metallic Cartridge Company of Bridgeport, Conn., and the Winchester Arms Company of New York. The negotiations for the supply of large numbers of small arms, army equipments and accoutrements are now in progress. The Ordnance officials have not yet indicated the exact number which will be ordered, but that the aggregate will be large is shown by the fact that the manufacturers have been given the cue to make all they can.

HEADQUARTERS FOR NEW REGIMENTS OF ARTILLERY. Fort McHenry, in Baltimore harbor, will be selected as the headquarters of one of the new regiments of artillery. Instead of Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., as was originally proposed, this change, it is said, is due to representations that have been made to the Secretary of War that both the new regiments should not be located in New York, but one should go further South. The selection of Fort Slocum as the headquarters of one of the regiments will not be altered. PROVIDING FOR RAPID TELEGRAPHY. General Greely, Chief Signal Officer, has been given authority by the Secretary of War to proceed without regard to ordinary restrictions in establishing rapid telegraphic connections between the sea-coast fortifications. It will not be necessary, therefore, to invite proposals for furnishing supplies, and to follow the ordinary and slow methods of procuring the telegraphic material and doing the work. This rather extraordinary authorization was conferred upon General Greely after a forcible presentation by him to the Secretary of War of the pressing demand for modern means of communication between the forts. He stated that even in New York harbor, where the War Department has devoted its best efforts to the perfection of the fortifications, it requires three-quarters of an hour to pass a message from one battery to another. Fort McHenry is worse off. Strange as it may seem, the only method of communicating between the National Capital and its most important defensive work, Fort Washington, on the Potomac, is by means of a messenger.

NAVAL WORK IN PROGRESS. Lieutenant Stone, the representative of the Carnegie Steel Company, was at the Navy Department to-day, in conference with the officials respecting the naval work in progress. The officers of the Navigation Bureau were very busy translating cipher messages to-day. It was said that all of these had come in over night and presumably they related to the purchase of ships abroad. Before leaving for the Cabinet meeting, Secretary Long said that he had received no information thus far from the Court of Inquiry, nor had he ordered the fleet in China to the Philippines, as was rumored here to-day. The Secretary was in consultation with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt and Captain Bradford, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment, concerning the supply of coal to the vessels now cruising to the south of Cuba.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS. The gunboats Wilmington and Annapolis reported to the Navy Department over night from the Caribbean Sea. The former sailed from St. Lucia for Barbadoes, and the latter from La Guayra for Curacao. The torpedo flotilla at Key West will soon be reinforced by two fine boats which have been ordered for repairs. The Commodore of the Mare Island navy yard reported that the cruiser Moberg sailed to-day with her cargo of ammunition, which he will transport at Honolulu to the Baltimore for the Asiatic squadron.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW SHIPS. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of the Brazilian cruiser Amazonas and her sister ship, the Barboso, by the United States, and so far as the Navy Department is advised have not yet been closed. The negotiations for the purchase of the two Japanese cruisers now building at Philadelphia and San Francisco are off, and the present indications are that no further steps will be taken towards acquiring the ships. The Japanese Government appears to be even more desirous of securing these ships than the United States, and owing to the delicate character of the aspect of affairs between Russia and Japan it is felt that the needs of Japan are quite as urgent as those of this country. The naval officers who are endeavoring to effect the purchase of ships abroad have encountered an obstacle that promises to give some trouble. This is found in the difference between the callings of the guns mounted on foreign-built ships and the United States Navy standards. Not only do these guns differ in caliber from our own in most cases, but as they are almost all designed for the use of smokeless powder, their combustion chambers are too small for the ordinary brown powder with which the American Navy is still supplied. This obstacle is serious, but not insurmountable. It will require the procurement in Europe of a large quantity of ammunition in special sizes for these ships, as it would require a good deal of time for our domestic ammunition-makers to change their plants and make the special sizes.

NEW FORTIFICATIONS. Orders Issued by the War Department for Manning Them. WASHINGTON, March 11.—Orders were issued at the War Department to-day for manning the newly-established fortifications on the Atlantic coast from Boston down to Galveston on the Gulf. They include the organization of the new artillery regiments Nos. 6 and 7, authorized by a recent Act of Con-

gress. The Sixth Regiment will have its headquarters at Fort Slocum, N. Y., and the Seventh at Fort Henry, Md. The location of these two regiments at the points indicated will necessitate the transfer of the artillerymen now occupying those garrisons to the other places. Batteries B and C of the Fifth Artillery are at Fort Slocum, and Batteries D and E are at Fort Henry. In organizing the new regiments, six men will be taken from each of the batteries now in service, so that each of the new batteries will have at least fifteen experienced artillerymen.

The orders for the manning of the artillery request promptness in their execution, and it is expected that the movements of the troops to the various places assigned them will begin within the next forty-eight hours. The new fortifications on Long Island, at the entrance to the harbor, will be guarded by a battery of the Second Artillery, and the Battery Adams, Md. For the operation of the big guns in Sandy Hook two batteries now at Fort Slocum and Fort Hamilton and another at Fort Wadsworth will be utilized. It is expected that the Sandy Hook garrison will be established at once.

The garrison headquarters band and one battery of the First Artillery, stationed at St. Francis' Barracks, St. Augustine, Fla., will be transferred to duty at Sullivan's Island. Fort Monroe, Va., is probably the strongest and best-equipped station on the Atlantic coast and the garrison there will be called upon to man other fortifications, but not to man other stations that would weaken its own efficiency. One battery of the First Artillery at Fort Monroe will be transferred to Fort Morgan, Ala., which in conjunction with Fort Calves commands the entrance to Mobile Bay.

For the better protection of the National Capital, one battery of the Fourth Artillery at Fort Monroe has been ordered to Sheridan Point, Va. This fort is nearly opposite Fort Washington, and in connection with it commands the approach to Washington by the Potomac River. The fourth Artillery, stationed at Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, will be distributed between Fort Delaware and Fort Mott, N. J., thus providing for the protection of Philadelphia, Trenton, Camden and other cities in that vicinity. St. Phillip, on the Mississippi River, just below New Orleans, was garrisoned by a battery of the First Artillery, now at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans. The other battery at Jackson Barracks has been assigned to duty at Fort Point, Galveston.

TORPEDO DESTROYERS. The Class of Vessels the Government Now Most Desires. NEW YORK, March 11.—Speaking of the possibility of the United States obtaining several naval vessels from Mr. Platt of Platt & Co. of this city, the American representative of John I. Thornycraft & Co. of Chiswick, England, one of the largest constructors of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers in Great Britain, said: "I have just returned from Washington, and I was assured that this Government desires now, more than any other class of vessel, a fleet of torpedo boat destroyers, and had it been considered practical by the Navy Department to have the boats built in England, they would have been ordered by this time to be built in England. The Thornycraft type for use here. Acting upon suggestions received in Washington, however, I have consulted members of three or four shipbuilding concerns in this country relative to the quick construction of the Thornycraft type, and have been assured by them, with the detailed working plans of the vessels in their possession and under an ordinary commercial contract—that is, a contract free from all unnecessary red-tape, they could collectively complete, by working night and day, a fleet of ten such vessels within seven months. "The representatives of one firm assured me that it could send out the first vessel within six months. I am advised by cable by the Thornycraft Company to offer to dispose of complete plans of the Thornycraft vessel to this Government at practically a nominal price. The vessels are 210 feet long and 275 tons displacement, mounting four six-pounders and one thirteen-pounder, and equal to thirty knots. "They are considered the most successful type of torpedo boat destroyers in the world, and are already being ordered about sixty of them, and others would be ordered by Germany and Japan. The plans of this type of vessel can be shipped from the Chiswick yards within three days, and by ordinary means to believe that this Government will order them."

FINANCIAL PANIC. A Big Drop in the Price of Spanish Securities. MADRID, March 11.—The anxiety as to the relations between Spain and the United States which has pervaded financial and commercial circles for several days, culminated Thursday in a heavy fall in funds, securities of the exterior and interior debts declining 1 to 2 per cent. Cuban bonds going down 3 per cent. Bank of Spain shares dropped from 255 to 240. Foreign exchanges have risen in an unprecedented degree, the prices on Paris being at 3 per cent premium and on London at 4 per cent premium.

All the newspapers call upon the Government to stop the panic by a prompt and clear statement as to the real conditions existing in Cuba and also defining the international relations. The newspapers re-echo the profound sensation and displeasure caused by the United States sending the Montgomery to Havana and by the appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the National defense. On the other hand, it is said in official circles, and it is announced by the papers, that while nothing fresh has occurred in Cuba or in the relations between Spain and the United States to justify alarm, Senator Castillo, the Spanish Ambassador at Paris, has "brought favorable impressions of the disposition of the European press and Governments toward Spain."

United States Ambassador Woodford, after returning from his drive to-day, alighted at the cemetery at the moment of the interment of the remains of the celebrator torador, Frascuelo, who died last Tuesday. General Woodford distributed numerous alms among the poor who surrounded his carriage. There was a great crowd, but no demonstration of hostility toward the Min-

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CLAIMS BILL BEFORE THE HOUSE.

Dilatory Tactics Resorted to to Prevent Progress.

Only Two Pages Completed When the Hour of Adjournment Arrived.

The Bill Provides for the Payment of the Bowman Act Claims, Aggregating \$1,200,000, for Stores and Supplies Furnished the Union Army During the Civil War.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The bill to pay the Bowman Act claims, aggregating \$1,200,000, for stores and supplies furnished the Union army during the war was before the House until 5 o'clock to-day, but beyond completing the general debate, little progress was made. Of the 800 odd claims in the bill, all but a few came from the South, and dilatory tactics were resorted to to prevent progress with the bill. During the filibustering the House was in an uproar. At 5 o'clock, after completing two pages of the bill, the House recessed until 8 o'clock, for an evening session to be devoted to pension legislation. After the evening session the House adjourned over until Monday.

Under the special order made last week, to-day was set aside for the consideration of the bill containing provision for claims aggregating \$1,200,000 reported by the Court of Claims under the provisions of the Bowman Act. Hull (R.) of Iowa, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, reported a complete agreement by the conferees on the army appropriation bill. The report was agreed to without debate. The House then went into committee of the whole and took up the special order.

Lord of California demanded the reading of the bill, which covers eighty pages. Dalzell (R.) of Pennsylvania, before the debate began, made the point of order against the bill that it was not competent for the War Claims Committee to report a bill containing \$10 claims, each of which should be the subject of a separate bill.

The Chairman of the committee of the whole (Payne of New York) ruled that the point came too late. The general debate then proceeded, under an agreement that it be limited to two hours. Gibson (R.) of Tennessee, in opening the debate, explained the nature of the claims. All of them were for stores and supplies furnished to the United States army by loyal citizens. The loyalty of the claimants had been affirmatively proven. The claims, he said, were distributed as follows by States: Alabama 60, Arkansas 56, Georgia 42, Illinois 1, Kansas 3, Kentucky 56, Louisiana 22, Maryland 70, Mississippi 168, Missouri 101, New York 1, North Carolina 3, Ohio 2, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania 4, South Carolina 2, Tennessee 180, Virginia 66, West Virginia 46.

Dingley, the Republican floor leader, opposed the bill in an earnest speech. He insisted that members who imagined that the findings of the Court of Claims in these cases constituted a liability against the Government is mistaken. The court simply found certain facts. He was perfectly willing, he said, to take up these claims separately and pass upon their merits.

Richardson (D.) of Tennessee, in advocating the passage of the bill, called attention to the fact that 92 per cent of the claims submitted to it were rejected. Of the original claimants relieved by this bill, he said, 85 per cent were dead.

Evans (R.) of Kentucky, in advocating the bill, said that the Republican leader (Dingley) set up a scarecrow to frighten members when he had alleged that the passing of this bill would establish a precedent which would permit Southern claimants to loot the Treasury. He pointed out that one of the first war claims passed by the House at the session was one to pay a citizen of Maine (William S. Grant) \$78,800. Dingley's voice had not been raised against that claim, although it had, unlike these claims, been rejected by the Court of Claims, and the rejection had been approved by the Supreme Court of the United States. It was a precedent, he said, that should be brought in that the distinguished Republican leader cried out against imaginary raids upon the Treasury.

After some further debate by Dalzell and Grosvenor against the bill, and by Ottaga (R.) of Wisconsin in favor of it, the reading of the bill for amendment began. Moody (R.) of Massachusetts, as soon as the enacting clause had been read, offered as an amendment a bill containing the French spoliation claims. The reading of the bill was demanded as a filibustering movement. It contained forty-seven amendments.

Manion (R.) of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee on War Claims, warned Mr. Moody, whom he said, was deeply interested in the French spoliation claims, that if an attempt was made to force the reading of this amendment as a filibustering movement the bill would eventually pass, but he would take good care that the French spoliation claims did not pass.

Moody denied that he had offered the amendment for purposes of delay. He asked that the reading be dispensed with, but Hopkins (R.) of Illinois objected.

Thereupon Williams (D.) of Mississippi made the point that the amendment was out of order.

The Chair finally ruled the amendment out. Speaking to a pro forma point of order, Lewis (D.) of Washington commented upon a dispatch in to-day's papers from Ottawa, giving the details of an alleged agreement between Canada and the United States regarding the Alaskan boundary line. Lewis said that if the reported agreement was true, it was a complete surrender of the United States, and would give Canada, Deyra, White Pass, Summit Lakes, and territory and property worth a billion dollars.

Without making any progress with

the bill, the committee rose, and, upon motion of Dingley, it was agreed that when the House adjourned to-day it be to meet on Monday.

At 5 o'clock the House recessed until 8 o'clock. At the night session the twenty-five pension bills which came over from last Friday night were passed, and in committee of the whole forty-two bills were favorably acted upon.

At 10:30 the House adjourned until Monday.

ARID LAND BILL.

The House Committee Agrees to Favorably Report the Measure.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—By a vote of 7 to 2 the House Committee on Public Lands agreed to-day to report favorably the Shafer resolution for the cession of all arid lands to the States in which they are located. Under the Carey Act one million acres already have been ceded to the respective States, but none but Wyoming have taken advantage of the Act. The committee also agreed on a bill to select at once about one-half of all the lands for schools, penitentiaries and like purposes that would accrue to it on its admission as a State. This is a compromise on the part of the Territory, which sought to secure all of such lands, the best of which it claims is being constantly eroded, while its claims to admission are being ignored.

A MURDERER ARRESTED.

Confesses to a Crime Committed at Wilton, Connecticut.

COLUMBUS, March 11.—Ben F. Willis, 22 years old, alias Charles Jerome Sharp, was arrested here today by Pinkerton detectives. He is wanted by the Wilton, Conn., authorities for the murder of David S. R. Lambert on the night of December 17th. Willis at first denied his identity, but finally confessed to Assistant Superintendent Robertson of the Pinkertons of Chicago that he, together with Max Brochberg, under arrest at Chicago, shot Lambert. Willis attempted to commit suicide after arrest, but was foiled.

STRIKE AT SAGINAW.

All the Street Car Lines in the City Tied Up.

SAGINAW (Mich.), March 11.—All the street car lines in the city were tied up to-day, and the people had to wait in a pouring rain. The ninety conductors and motormen struck by order of a committee of the local branch of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees. The men demand regular hours and pay for overtime. They have been working fourteen to sixteen hours daily. The receivers of the road last night declined to accede to their request. The public seem to sympathize with the employees.

Spain's New Minister.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The presentation of the new Spanish Minister, Senor Bernabe, to the President has been postponed until to-morrow, in order that more time may be given to the preparation of the customary speeches incident to such occasions.

Rio de Janeiro Tranquil.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 11.—Tranquillity prevails here, but the Government has called an extraordinary session to consider the financial situation caused by the fall in exchange and the reports originating in the military clubs of a coming revolution.

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.

PATRIOTIC WORDS REGARDING THE PRESENT CRISIS.

CHICAGO, March 11.—No true American Catholic will think of espousing the cause of Spain against that of the United States because the former is a Catholic country. Archbishop Ireland in an interview here to-day, "to do that is to set one's self down as traitor, and inclined to the teachings of this religion, as well as to the country which it is his bounden duty to defend against all enemies, both internal as well as external."

The words of the Archbishop were in reply to a question as to what he thought of the advice alleged to have been given by a Catholic priest in New York State to his parishioners. Archbishop Ireland is en route to his home in St. Paul from Washington, where he had been for several days.

"It was an infamous suggestion," he continued, "and it would seem as if it could only emanate from a bitter enemy of the faith, for it is directly opposed in every way to the spirit of the teachings of Catholicism."

His attention was also called to a suggestion, which has been the subject of some discussion, that the Pope's sympathies in the pending controversy with Spain were strongly enlisted on the side of that nation because of its religious affiliations.

"Insofar as implying that the Pope will use his office to aid Spain as against this country, the suggestion is as infamous as the one first mentioned. Whatever action he may take in this matter will be with the single idea of averting, if possible, a war between two Christian nations. He looks upon the possibility of war between this country and Spain with horror, and as the viceregent of God he considers it his bounden duty to help bring about an adjustment of the pending difficulties between the two nations. That is the only way in which his influence can be exerted."

Then referring to the situation in this country, the Archbishop said: "President McKinley is providing himself prominently the man of the hour and occasion. His course throughout the present painful and trying crisis has been marked by a loftiness of purpose, a generosity of spirit, and a dignity of conduct which has commanded the respect and admiration of his pronounced political enemies. This was abundantly shown by the remarkable and impressive action of Congress in unhesitatingly placing the sweeping powers of the War Department in his hands. Every one has come to repose the utmost confidence in his wisdom and ability to meet whatever exigencies may arise in connection with the present unfortunate situation."

Opposition to Powderly.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Senate Committee on Immigration has reported adversely on the nomination of Hon. T. V. Powderly to be Commissioner of Immigration. The nomination has been held up in committee for several weeks on account of the absence of Senator Chandler. On the vote to-day Mr. Chandler united with the Democrats to secure an adverse report. It is believed the report will be made the basis of an animated controversy in the Senate.

Three New Battleships.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The House Naval Committee to-day afternoon voted to authorize the building of three new battleships in the naval appropriation bill to be reported to the House.

FEELING AT HAVANA RATHER SULLEN.

Not Pleased With the Montgomery Entering the Harbor.

But No Open Demonstrations Occurred When Salutes Were Fired.

The Investigation of the Naval Court About Completed—Late Evidence Said to Strengthen the Belief That the Maine Was Blown Up From an External Explosion—The Lee Incident.

NEW YORK, March 11.—A dispatch to the "Tribune" from Havana says: Many soldiers were among the people on the water front who watched the Montgomery entering the harbor. The feeling was rather sullen, and an occasional utterance was heard against the Americans. This was especially the case when the salutes were fired. However, there were no open demonstrations.

The officials have complied with all of Captain Sigsbee's requests regarding the anchorage. He stated vigorously, but courteously, that the place originally selected was not satisfactory. The Montgomery is now anchored within a few hundred feet of the wreck of the Maine.

The Naval Board has substantially completed its investigation. Everything now is in the nature of cumulative testimony, strengthening the evidence that the Maine was blown up by an external explosion. The divers this week have been able to add little to what they previously learned. In effect, the proof from the condition of the hull and the keel, as well as the magazines, makes what might be called a complete case of structural evidence of an external explosion. How far the board can determine the agency of the explosion is very uncertain. Many accounts of conspiracies are sifted by it without result. A digest and analysis of the testimony has been made. It is understood that this is on its way to Washington.

The Spanish divers are continuing their work intermittently, and in a perfunctory manner. The superstructure of wreckage is now fairly well cleared away. Nothing definite can be learned regarding the Spanish Admiralty board's intention to close its investigation. The Spanish will do nothing until the American inquiry is closed.

Little publicity has been permitted of either the Lee episode or the talk of warships as a means of bringing provisions. General Blanco had no part in the movement against the Consul-General, but as members of the autonomist Cabinet, General Lee was not informed of what had taken place until the incident was closed.

The commercial classes, who are yet hopeful of peaceful intervention or mediation by the United States, are pleased to have General Lee remain. They assure him that no outbreak against Americans will occur.

The authorities apparently think a crisis in the relations with the United States is close, but do not believe the time is quite ripe for them to meet it. They are receiving information of the coming of American war vessels, and are pushing their own preparations for the defense of Havana harbor. This is in the face of semi-official statements from the Captain-General's confidential advisers that the diplomatic relations will settle the Spanish problem of the Maine disaster and all other matters of dispute which may arise between the two Governments.

Nevertheless, every suggestion of intervention by the United States to end the present conditions in Cuba is resented with bitterness. The "Gaceta" publishes a map of the coast and points out where Spain's navy will strike effectively "when war begins." The action of Congress in voting \$50,000,000 credit is published without comment. Neither the officials nor army officers seem to understand its meaning.

Coincident with this action, Havana commercial houses have news of funds their weakening credit, to the effect that the Spanish bank in Madrid is refusing Government bills of exchange from Cuba.

The autonomist or colonial Government is in a state of collapse. The claim that the Cubans who have been arrested on charges of conspiracy, implicated in dynamite or similar fact is false. They are held on political charges. No assurance can be had that they will have a trial before demerit. This is an illustration of the constant feeling of the authorities. The autonomist Cabinet is made to bear the odium of these arrests. Nobody heard Madrid's proposals for modifying its broadening autonomy, or pays any attention to the long manifestos issued by the autonomist factions in Cuba. The sole topic now is the relations with the United States. The authorities cite the quiet prevailing this week during the exciting reports, but this is not conclusive. The Havana population has been engaged in admiring Spanish warships, and has known little of what was going on elsewhere.

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