

QUIET IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES.

No Information Regarding the Court of Inquiry.

A Special Board to Look After Auxiliary Cruisers.

Owners and Agents to Be Invited to Make Proposals for Turning Over Suitable Vessels to the Government—No Trouble to Obtain All That Are Wanted—Enough Guns Will Be Completed to Arm Thirty or More.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—To-day, unlike last Sunday, with the published statements of the desire for the recall of General Lee and the protest of the Spanish Government against sending war vessels with relief supplies to Cuba, which caused much excitement among official circles, there was comparatively quiet. There had been no information bearing on the doings of the Court of Inquiry on the Maine explosion received during the day or any other dispatches calculated to cause conferences between the heads of the various departments. There were a number of the experts of the War Department on duty during the morning to attend to some pressing matters, while at the Navy Department the Board of Auxiliary Cruisers held a final meeting preparatory to the departure of the special board to New York.

Secretary Long was at the Navy Department for a short time. He stated late in the afternoon that there was no news of any nature for the press, and added in response to a specific inquiry that nothing had been received from the Court of Inquiry.

The Board on Auxiliary Cruisers met in Assistant Secretary Roosevelt's room during the morning. There were present, in addition to the Assistant Secretary, Chief Constructor Higginson of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, Captain Frederick Rogers, of the Naval Board of Inspection and Surveys, and Captain O'Neill, Chief of the Ordnance Bureau, Lieutenant Sargent, Recorder of the Board of Inspection, and Lieutenant Peters of the Naval Intelligence Bureau. The members of the board as originally appointed to look into the matter are unable to leave the city at the present time, so it was determined that a special board, of which Captain Rogers will be President, should be designated to proceed to New York to-night to undertake the work in hand.

An office will be opened at 26 Courtland street, New York City, to-morrow morning, at which owners and agents of ships will be invited to submit proposals for turning over to the navy such vessels as are available for conversion into war purposes. The naval officers say there will be no difficulty experienced in obtaining all vessels that are desired, as there are hundreds available. The special board will be a naval intelligence office, the department keeps in close touch with the construction of all craft that could be utilized in the event of hostilities, and just now it has a record of forty such ships of all sizes and classes, which will be inspected and examined if their owners desire to part with them. A number of these vessels have been constructed under the Subsidy Act of Congress and are engaged in carrying the mails. The vessels to be examined will include all classes, from liners like the St. Paul to ocean-going tugs, which can be of great material service for auxiliary purposes. Tonnage, draft, speed, condition of boilers and machinery and other attributes will figure in the thorough inspection which will be undertaken by the board before any chartering or purchasing is recommended. The Otis Steel Company, which has been engaged in the work of construction and repair are ready to take their part in fitting out and equipping such vessels as may be acquired.

At Fort Washington factory there are now in various stages of construction no less than 150 guns of formidable character on which work is being done night and day with a view to their early completion. No new guns are being started, but the entire force of the factory are devoted to finishing those now under way. A naval officer said there will be enough of them to furnish to constitute a fair armament for probably thirty or more auxiliary cruisers, should such a large fleet be found necessary to supplement the regular warships.

The pubic Marclias, which has just arrived at Norfolk from the Asiatic station by way of the Suez Canal, has been found to be in fair shape as a result of the examination by the Navy Inspection Board. A thorough overhauling will be unnecessary in the present instance, and she will be sent to Boston, where all necessary repairs can be made to her in about twelve days.

The ordering of the Helena and Bancroft, now on the European station, to the United States will leave Admiral Powell commanding that station with but one vessel, viz. the San Francisco. No explanation of the action is vouchsafed by the officials of the Navy Department, and Secretary Long, when asked to-day, declined to say anything about the step, further than that the two ships had been ordered home.

PROCTOR IN WASHINGTON. He Tells of the Misery and Suffering He Saw in Cuba.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Senator Proctor of Vermont and his companion, Colonel Myron M. Parker, who have been spending some time in Cuba, returned to Washington to-night. Senator Proctor said to an Associated Press reporter he did not desire to discuss his trip at present, and that further than to say that the good work Miss Clara Barton was doing in Cuba he had said nothing in the way of an interview. Colonel Parker said to an Associated Press reporter: "We went to Sagua La Grande, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Artemisa, province of Pinar del Rio. I was with Senator Proctor more than half the time. The stories of the amount of suffering in the island of Cuba have not been exaggerated. It is intense over every portion of the island. The reconcentrados are gathered into the villages, where they can be seen in all their pitiable aspects. It is, perhaps, greater in Matanzas than anywhere else. What impressed me more or less, and would doubtless impress any visitor to Cuba, is the utter desolation of the island. Miss Barton is doing great work among the reconcentrados, and is to be praised for her heroic efforts in that direction. We were well treated by the Spaniards."

In answer to the question as to what, in his mind, should be done to put an end to the awful suffering, Proctor said he would not commit himself, but said significantly that he had no doubt this Government would take the best course. He commended most highly the action pursued by Consul-General Lee, who, he said, was a man fitted for his station. The reconcentrados are gathered into the villages, where they can be seen in all their pitiable aspects. It is, perhaps, greater in Matanzas than anywhere else. What impressed me more or less, and would doubtless impress any visitor to Cuba, is the utter desolation of the island. Miss Barton is doing great work among the reconcentrados, and is to be praised for her heroic efforts in that direction. We were well treated by the Spaniards."

NO PREPARED SENATE PROGRAMME.

The Hawaii Islands Annexation Treaty

Will Be Taken Up if Senators Wish to Debate It.

Senator Davis Will Move to Lay the Filibuster Motion on the Table in Order to Secure a Test Vote—Programme of the House Includes the Postal Appropriation Bill and the Thorpe-Epps Contested Election Case.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—There is no prepared programme for the Senate this week. If Senator Bacon is prepared to speak on the Hawaiian annexation treaty it will be taken up promptly, as, indeed, it will be if any Senator is prepared to go on with the debate. It is not expected, however, that there will be much further discussion of this subject in executive session, and it is the intention of Senator Davis, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, at a very early day to move to lay Senator Davis' filibuster motion on the table. It is on this movement that the managers of the treaty hope to secure a test vote and Senator Davis said to-day that he was hopeful that this vote might be reached during the present week. Senator Pettigrew is anxious and hopes to get his five per cent. land bill before the Senate early in the week and Senator Vest will make an effort to the consideration of the quarantine bill. There is also a possibility that the census bill may be pressed for consideration. An entirely new census bill probably will be offered, providing for the immediate establishment of the census machinery instead of preliminary amendments for it as the bill first prepared did. The Committee on Appropriations are hopeful of being able to report the sundry civil bill during the week and if it should be, the measure will be pressed upon the attention of the Senate to the exclusion of everything else.

ORDERS FOR THE VESUVIUS. The Dynamite Cruiser to Be Placed in Fighting Trim.

NEW YORK, March 13.—A Jacksonville Fla., special to the "Herald" says: It leaked out to-day that emergency orders had been received by the Vesuvius here, and that she will be placed in fighting trim at once. There is some trouble about the air valves of the big dynamite guns, and the vessel may have to be sent to Baltimore or Norfolk for repairs to them. All extra grates, etc., are to be taken on to-morrow and the Vesuvius is to be armed with rapid-fire batteries. Several six-pounders are to be added to her armament amidships.

SUBMARINE MINES. They Are Being Placed in the Portsmouth Harbor.

PORTSMOUTH (N. H.), March 13.—Plans for the placing of submarine mines for Portsmouth Harbor have been mapped out, and a large force of men have been actively at work near the fortifications all day. It is claimed, however, that these mines will be of little use, owing to the depth of water in the river, there being over ten fathoms in the channel from the entrance at Newcastle to within a short distance from the city. Hundreds of men have visited the navy yard during the last week to enlist, but as there is no enlistment bureau here valuable men have been lost to the navy. A request will be forwarded at once to the Navy Department for the establishment of a recruiting station for the enlistment of men from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT. It Will Be Given to the Carpenter Steel Works for Projectiles.

READING (Pa.), March 13.—The promise of a contract for projectiles amounting to over \$1,000,000 to the Carpenter Steel Works kept the entire plant in unusual activity to-day. Work was pushed all along the line of projectiles in the main plant on the erection of three new buildings begun yesterday and in getting the Diamond Steel Company's Works (which have been released) into running order. "One thing is certain, we shall not have any trouble," says a spokesman, "justification of the nation shall be upheld and American loyalty and bravery remain untarnished as ever; but the calm and firm attitude of the Chief Executive assures us that neither by prejudice, passion, popular clamor, hysteria nor ambition will this nation be involved in a deadly strife. Secure from invasion, with inexhaustible wealth and resources, with a people full of the martial spirit and able to put 100,000 soldiers into the field, and cover the sea with battleships, which have we to fear from a bankrupt nation that cannot even sustain twenty or thirty thousand ragged, ill-fed and poorly equipped Cuban insurgents? Or from an alliance of France and all the Latin nations against us? Come the three corners of the world in arms and we shall shock them."

A LARGE ORDER. A New Range-Finder Will Soon Be Made a Test of.

CLEVELAND, March 13.—Warner & Swazey of this city are filling a large order for the Government for telescopes to be used on heavy guns for sighting purposes. They are also at work on a new range finder, which will be ready for shipment to Fort Monroe, where it will be tested within a few days. The inventor of this device has been here several weeks supervising the construction. The Otis Steel Company of this city is also filling a Government order for deck plates for cruisers.

Wishes to Avoid Difficulties. WASHINGTON, March 13.—With the view of avoiding difficulties in the future, the Spanish Legation wishes it possible, that custom legislation in Cuba shall not contain any special regulation concerning yachts. The Captain simply has to provide himself with a regular manifesto certifying that the vessel is in ballast. If the regulations are not complied with the Captain shall be liable to a fine.

Must Rely on Herself. PARIS, March 13.—The "Temps" says: Spain does not deceive herself when she counts upon the sympathies at least latent of European Governments, but it would be a mistake for her to expect any actual support from either Great Britain or the triple alliance. Before all she must rely upon herself.

AGAINST OUR TRADITIONS. No Foreign Alliances Says Ambassador White.

LONDON, March 13.—The "Sunday Special" published in its Berlin correspondent an interview with United States Ambassador White on the attitude of the United States towards Spain and the Cuban situation.

THINKS WHEN THE MAINE EXCITEMENT QUIETS DOWN THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION WILL BE PARAMOUNT IN CONGRESS—NATIVES ON MAUI EXCITED OVER THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE SPRECKELSVILLE PLANTATION TEARING UP GOVERNMENT RAILROAD TRACKS.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.—By the steamer China, which arrived to-day, the Hawaiian correspondent of the Associated Press sends the following: HONOLULU, March 13.—President Doletulu returned to Honolulu on the morning of the 4th. After a Cabinet meeting held immediately upon his arrival he was interviewed by an Associated Press reporter to my departure for Washington. "Yes, I shall be very glad indeed to tell the people anything I may know relative to annexation," said the President. "The Maine disaster absorbed the attention of the statesmen in Washington previous to my departure for Hawaii. When that has quieted down, I believe Hawaiian annexation will be paramount in Congress. When I was in Washington, I met many friends of Hawaii. They feel confident that annexation will come. While there was a doubt whether the treaty would secure the required sixty votes in the Senate, still it was the consensus of opinion that a joint resolution would carry in both houses. I place much reliance in what was told me by Senators and Congressmen who are fighting for Hawaii, for I know them to be working faithfully and earnestly. "What is Speaker Reed's attitude?" the President was asked. "When I was in the American capital I learned that he has always opposed annexation, although he has made no demonstration against the treaty. "My impression of President McKinley? Well, I will reply that it is extremely favorable. I found him to be an unassuming, frank and sterling man. He seems to have his heart and soul in the annexation treaty. "Our reception was extremely cordial and hospitable. All along the line to and from Washington, throngs of people came to see me. We shook hands and in many instances I was obliged to speak briefly from the car platform. It was from these people that I gathered the impression that Uncle Sam's adoption of Hawaii was the popular sentiment throughout the land. "The natives on the island of Maui are in a state of considerable excitement caused by the rivalry between the Kahului Railroad Company and the new railway line constructed in the interests of the Spreckelsville plantation. The employees of the latter, it is claimed, tore up the track of the Kahului Company to cross its line. The work was performed on the night of the 1st inst., by about 200 men, whom it is said, were working under the direction of the plantation management. It is believed the Government will act in the matter, as the rails of the newly-laid track cross through Government lands. Permission has not yet been obtained for the work. It is understood that the object of the new line is to obtain a seaport terminus, where the output of the Spreckelsville plantation can be landed to connect with the new steamer or line running in its interest. 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