

BUSY BY AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

and Judge Day came after the Cabinet conference, so that such representation as Spain submitted through him did not get before the Cabinet. At least two of these new phases submitted by the Minister were of exceeding importance. The Spanish Government made it known that no objection would be made to the humanitarian objects of the United States Government in extending relief to the sufferers in Cuba on a far greater scale than hitherto had been contemplated.

On the contrary, Spain has made known that it recognized the humane purposes animating this country, and that it does not doubt that these purposes will be executed in such a way as to avoid all opportunities for friction. It is not expected that the relief will be carried in warships, as this would introduce a political aspect into a project which is purely humane. This acquiescence by Spain clears the way for the President's message of the next few days, asking a large appropriation for the relief of destitution in Cuba.

It had been feared that this relief, given directly by the United States Government, would be resented by Spain as indirect intervention. In that event, there is little doubt that the relief would have been forwarded at any cost, even the cost of war, as the Administration has felt that a war in behalf of a humane object would command the universal approbation of the world.

Another important Spanish document which reached the Government during the day was the abstract of the report of the Spanish Naval Committee, which investigated the destruction of the Maine. It is the only answer Spain has thus far made to the action of this Government in submitting to Spain through Minister Woodford the findings of the American court. The conclusions reached by the Spanish committee are directly the opposite to those of the American court. No demands have been made in connection with the Maine, and therefore there is no response beyond the submission of the Spanish report.

Following the call of the Spanish Minister at the State Department, the French Ambassador, M. Cambon, had a conference with Judge Day. This renewed the talk of European mediation, which is assuming tangible form. The speech of Premier Hanotaux in the Paris Chamber of Deputies last Saturday is looked upon as foreshadowing at least sympathy, if not direct steps toward mediation by France and other Continental Powers.

There is good reason to believe Spain is ready and anxious for this move, and has been encouraging it at the European Capitals. It would not be an offensive intrusion, but a more friendly effort to mediate the differences which have recently threatened to terminate war between the United States and Spain. It is understood that up to the present M. Cambon has not received any definite instructions to take the initiative in such mediation.

After the adjournment of the House to-day there was considerable discussion over a proposed consolidation of the forces in the House to favor some form of immediate action on the Cuban issue.

There was a strong feeling shown over the avoidance in the message of any outline of any definite Administration policy, and a decided disposition apparent not to await any further delay nor resort to temporizing methods. The project to furnish ad libitum supplies to the Cuban non-combatants is meeting with opposition to which members on both sides of the House have given voice in private discussion on the ground, first, that Spain alone is responsible for the conditions on the island, and second, the extending of aid abroad is unjust to the people of this country.

THE MOSQUITO FLEET.

A New Arm of Naval Service—Composed of Tugs and Yachts.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The customary activity which prevailed in all branches of the War and Navy Departments for the past month was apparent again to-day. Particularly was this the case in the latter. Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt were on hand holding conferences with bureau chiefs and a number of visitors who had business of importance. Among the public men who saw Secretary Long was Senator Frye of Maine.

At 10 o'clock the Secretary left the department for the White House, in-

tending not to return until 2 o'clock. There was no additional information at the department regarding the location of the Spanish torpedo boat flotilla now on its way to Porto Rico from the Canaries, excepting that it was advancing steadily. The highest naval authorities continue to expect this movement is the most formidable menace to the ships of our navy that has yet occurred.

It was disclosed for the first time by one of the naval orders issued to-day upon the formation of an additional fleet that the department has determined upon the formation of an additional fleet to be known as "the Mosquito fleet," to be composed of tugs, steam yachts and other small vessels which may be obtained which are to be used as a sort of mobile defense of sea-coast cities. It was further developed in this connection that the naval militia of the several States is to be called upon to man this auxiliary fleet.

The fact that the organization is to be composed exclusively of small craft of all descriptions that may be available gives the fleet the designation as "the mosquito fleet." Its prospective formation is the observations and work of the Naval College for the past five years, and the officers believe that with the material that may be obtainable and the manner of the vessels by the naval militia of the States, a formidable organization of its kind will result. The naval militia of the States, however, will not be relied upon entirely to man the ships, but in case of emergency resort will be had to seamen wherever they may be picked up.

Commander Elmer is at the navy yard, which will be the center of future operations. His duties respecting the selection of craft for the fleet are exactly the same as those performed by the board, which for the past two weeks has been engaged in the inspection of merchant vessels for the auxiliary defense preliminary to their purchase in the Navy Department. The commander and his assistants will visit various places along the coast and will communicate by letter with captains and firms owning small craft with a view to determining just how many are available, and at what price the owners would sell or charter them to the Government.

As far as practicable it is the intention of the department that there should be a separate set of ships for the defense of the sea coast cities, the whole to be composed of "mosquito fleet." In the event of necessity for a rendezvous of several of these local fleets, and in an emergency, the primary idea is for each local fleet to form the mobile-defense of the particular city where it is made up.

The Bureau of Ordnance will be called into service to assist in furnishing armament for vessels in the event of war. Naval officers will be assigned to the command of each of the several local fleets.

KEY WEST NAVAL FLEET.

Received an Important Addition in Arrival of Three Warships.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The big naval fleet in the vicinity of Key West received an important addition to-day in the arrival of the cruiser Cincinnati and the gunboats Wilmington and Castine, which were at Port Antonio, Jamaica when last heard from. The Cincinnati and Castine comprised the recent South Atlantic squadron, and were called upon several weeks ago. These vessels are believed to be in excellent condition for active service, and will be retained at Key West for the present. Owing to her great speed the Cincinnati will probably be added to the "flying squadron" in case it is deemed advisable to enlarge that fleet.

The fact that Admiral Walker sailed from Nicaragua to the State Department announcing his departure for home revives the speculation as to the likelihood of one of the highest officers of the navy, active or retired, being placed in charge of the entire naval operations, including the fleet upon the "flying squadron" and any auxiliary lines of defense that may in the future be established. It was stated, however, at the Navy Department that Admiral Walker's coming is because of the conclusion of the work of the Nicaraguan Canal Commission, of which he is President, and that it was not hastened because of the present naval activity. Moreover, the name of Admiral Bimce, who is still on the active list, is frequently mentioned as among the highest naval officers as the one most likely to be chosen for this supreme command if it should be determined upon.

In view of the great desire for experienced men in the naval service just at this time, it is more than probable that the Navy Department will exercise considerable leniency in dealing with the cases of a few who are charged with having deserted from the naval service and who remain absent from fear of punishment. In cases where the records of the men were good previous to their desertion, they will in all probability, upon surrendering themselves at a receiving ship, be officially regarded as simple stragglers, not deserters.

According to the regulations, a "straggler" enlisted man who has overstayed his leave and is subject to minor punishment. Deserters, however, are discharged from the service, and are ineligible for re-enlistment. It is recognized that many good men have left the purchase of Cuba.

"It was needless to send the Maine to Havana, as American interests were amply protected by General Lee and also by the Cuban Government, the latter often acting to its disadvantage and in favor of American interest."

Continuing "La Lucha" and reminding his communication as commander took possession. At the same instant his flag was broken from the Brooklyn's masthead and one of the big guns belched forth a salute, which was answered from the Massachusetts lying near Newport News. The Commodore was in civilian dress, but was saluted with the usual formalities as he passed up the Brooklyn's companionway to begin active service. He was shown to quarters, which are more elaborate than upon any warship afloat. They had been prepared for exhibit during the Queen's Jubilee.

Within a half-hour after boarding ship Commodore Schley, in full uniform, was ready to take command, and the men of the fleet were drummed to quarters, with the yards manned, the marines on deck and officers and gunners at posts.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Sale of over 1,000 pairs of Oxford Ties, Slippers and Low Shoes. Not the latest styles or newest shades, and not all sizes in the lots, but a great variety at such very low prices as to make the sale decidedly interesting. At 9:30 a. m.

LOT 1—Women's Ties in various styles of toes and various kinds of leather. Small sizes, such as 2, 2 1/2, 3 and 3 1/2, and narrow and medium widths only. Wednesday's 38c pair Price.

LOT 2—A mixed lot of black and russet colored Oxford Ties, in several styles of toes. Sizes 2 1/2 to 5 1/2, principally narrow. Wednesday's 68c pair Price.

LOT 3—A large assortment of Women's Low Shoes in different styles; a few that button instead of lace and a small lot with rubber sides and high front and back. Sizes 2 1/2 to 7, medium and narrow. Wednesday's Price, 98c.

LOT 4—A small lot of Women's Low Ties of fine grade, made by J. and T. Cousins of New York. Some are Southern Ties and others regular Oxford Lace Ties—all russet tan color. Sizes 2 1/2 to 6. Wednesday's Price, \$1.48.

LOT 5—A small lot of Women's Low Ties of fine grade, made by J. and T. Cousins of New York. Some are Southern Ties and others regular Oxford Lace Ties—all russet tan color. Sizes 2 1/2 to 6. Wednesday's Price, \$1.48.

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Well Dressed Women.

Ready to wear Suits make it possible for women to look well on short notice; and the best place to look for ready to wear Suits is here. Our new spring Suits surpass in value anything shown in former years. Better styles, better materials and lower prices, all help to make our Suit Department one of the most attractive in the store.

Black Chevrot Serge Suit, \$10.50. Black Serge Suit, reefer jacket, with silk taffeta lining; carefully tailor made; perfect fitting; reliable stylish material; all sizes. Price, \$10.50.

Tan Covert Suit, \$10. A stylish Suit of handsome tan Covert Cloth, in new bayader coring; stylish reefer jacket. A swell summer suit. Price, \$10.

Braided Blouse Suits, \$8.75. Don't throw away money needlessly, when you can buy a beautiful Blouse Suit of all-wool serge, effective braid trimming and colors such as navy, brown and green, at \$8.75.

LOT 2—Fire proof Tea Pots. These tea pots are the plain brightly polished fire proof kind, 3-pint size, and would be good value at double our special price, 16c.

LOT 3—Engraved thin Water Tumblers, full lead bottom, in neat designs. Special price, 24c set of six.

LOT 4—Good quality green Japanese Mush Bowls. They will sell quickly at the special price; he who has early in mind want some. Special price, 14c each.

LOT 5—Real Mexican Fiber Floor Brush, size 16 inches, hardwood handle. Just the thing for cement sidewalks and hardwood floors. Special price, 23c each.

LOT 6—Glass Salad or Fruit Dish, that is an exact copy of the real cut glass and is almost as brilliant. Best quality, 8-inch size. An offering that is bound to sell quickly. Special price, 14c each.

LOT 7—Decorated Semi-Porcelain. We shall offer one of our open stock patterns Semi-Porcelain Ware, decorated in green and gold, in this sale, at one-half the former price, making the dishes 50c per set, cheaper than the ordinary white ware.

LOT 8—A small lot of Women's Low Ties of fine grade, made by J. and T. Cousins of New York. Some are Southern Ties and others regular Oxford Lace Ties—all russet tan color. Sizes 2 1/2 to 6. Wednesday's Price, \$1.48.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Sale of Semi-Porcelain Crockery, Thin Engraved Table Tumblers, Japanese Mush Bowls and Fiber Floor Brooms.

LOT 1—We have decided to discontinue carrying one of our well known brands of Semi-Porcelain Ware, and will offer the dishes in this sale. Breakfast, dinner and tea Plates all reduced to a uniform price. 32c for set of six.

Round covered Vegetable Dish, which can also be used as a small soup tureen. Special price, 38c.

Semi-Porcelain Coffee Cups and Saucers. The cups are in the new shape without handles. The price is less than the ordinary white cups and saucers are sold for. Special price, 32c set of six.

LOT 2—Fire proof Tea Pots. These tea pots are the plain brightly polished fire proof kind, 3-pint size, and would be good value at double our special price, 16c.

LOT 3—Engraved thin Water Tumblers, full lead bottom, in neat designs. Special price, 24c set of six.

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New Shirts for Men.

The latest style in Men's Shirts has colored body of same material as the bosom. The best dressers are wearing them. We are showing an attractive line of these shirts made of Madras cloth with laundered bosoms and link cuffs to match. New spring patterns in fast colors. Price, \$1.25.

About Our Clothing Stock. We are one of the few firms on the Coast carrying a complete line of clothing. This requires the outlay of large sums—much larger than the ordinary firm cares to invest. It's not a few suits in a grade that make the outlay—it's the full assortment of ordinary sizes and the extra sizes to fit men who are not of ordinary build—the tall and slim and short and fat men who have so much trouble in finding satisfactory ready-made suits elsewhere. We aim to fit everybody. Almost every day men, who come in with very faint expectation of being fitted, buy suits of us. They go away well pleased. Can't we please you just as well. It's worth investigation, isn't it? Prices \$5 to \$30.

LOT 1—Some time ago the French Government discarded a quantity of guns and fine cavalry swords for more modern weapons. The entire lot was sold in this country, and the weapons are being extensively used for art decorating purposes; they are kept also as souvenirs of the Franco-Prussian war. The highly polished steel swords cost the French Government \$3.50 to \$4 each, and the rapid firing chassapots or guns with bayonet, cost about \$29 each. We secured a limited quantity of each, and offer them as follows: Steel Swords, used in the Franco-Prussian war, 57c each. Chassapots, rapid firing guns with bayonet, \$4.25 each.

LOT 2—Extra heavy quality Canton Mattings in fancy colors, every piece weighing 70 pounds. Attractive new patterns. Not more than one roll to a customer. Wednesday's 14c yd Price.

LOT 3—Imitation reversible Smyrna Rugs, sometimes called Key-stones, in bright Oriental colors. Both sides alike; suitable for center of any room; particularly adapted for the library or dining-room. Size 6x9 feet. \$5.95 each. Also, same quality Rugs, 30x60 inches. \$1.48 each.

LOT 4—Tapestry Portiere Curtains, 3 yards long and 48 inches wide; all over figures; fringed at top and bottom. Pretty new shades of red, olive and blue. Superb value at Wednesday's \$1.97 pair Price.

Single Curtains, 90c each. LOT V—New line of Carpet Hassocks or Footstools—tapestry, velvet and moquette; useful and pretty. No house should be without them. Wednesday's 48c Price.

LOT VI—Small lot of tapestry Table Covers, fringed all round; beautiful colorings. Suitable for small center tables. Wednesday's 37c each Price.

LOT VII—Special offering of large white Lace Curtains, direct from the mill. Patent overlook stitched edges; handsome new lace designs; size 3 1/2 yards long by 50 inches wide. Our price on this lot will be less than the manufacturer's actual cost. Wednesday's 98c pair Price.

LOT VIII—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and wear—the very acme of fine shoe making. Price, \$5.

LOT IX—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and wear—the very acme of fine shoe making. Price, \$5.

LOT X—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and wear—the very acme of fine shoe making. Price, \$5.

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LOT XII—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and wear—the very acme of fine shoe making. Price, \$5.

LOT XIII—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and wear—the very acme of fine shoe making. Price, \$5.

LOT XIV—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and wear—the very acme of fine shoe making. Price, \$5.

LOT XV—A beautiful 1898 Shoe of finest black kid, with black cloth tops; Louis XV. (stitched) heels, soft flexible soles and new coin toes, with patent leather tips. Shoes in which there is combined lightness, style and