

AWAITING AN ANSWER FROM SPAIN.

The Vital Point in Cuban Question

Has Been Shifted From Washington to Madrid.

As to Nature of Reply Depends Future Course of this Government.

Believed That It is Now But a Question of an Exceedingly Short Time Before the Inevitable Crisis Must Come.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The vital point in the Cuban situation, viz., independence, has shifted itself from Washington to Madrid, where the Spanish Government is now giving grave and earnest consideration to propositions presented by the Government of the United States.

Up to the present time, however, no actual step toward mediation or intervention has been taken by any foreign power, although there is little doubt that France stands ready to take the initiative if there is the slightest evidence that the United States Government will view such a move with favor.

The propositions submitted by this country contemplate a complete and immediate cessation of hostilities in Cuba, the return of the reconcentrados to their usual avocations, and the independence of Cuba, this last feature to be secured probably on an indemnity basis by which the island would pay a substantial sum for its freedom from Spanish rule.

It has been made perfectly clear to Spain that nothing less than a close of the war and the independence of the island will suffice as an adequate settlement.

Spain in a yielding mood. Until to-day it was believed that Spain would indignantly reject a proposition involving the independence of Cuba or American intervention, or the disappearance of the Spanish flag from the island, either through purchase by the Cubans or otherwise.

As stated, that answer is stated to be believed to be only a question of perhaps two or three days. When it is received the future course of this Government will be determined.

Naturally this critical juncture has occasioned the greatest interest here, coupled with no little excitement, as word was passed about that the last stage in the negotiations with Spain was reached.

Excitement unabated. At the Capitol excitement was unabated.

bated. The meeting of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations occasioned a great deal of interest because of the many warlike resolutions which were introduced yesterday and referred to that committee.

On the House side there was an intensity of feeling. After the vote on the Bailey resolution many Republicans went to the White House to confer with the President, and to express to him their hope that something might be promised which would relieve the strained situation.

The Senate committee had an afternoon session, at which Captain Bradford, the Chief of the Bureau of Equipment of the Navy, presented his knowledge of the relative strength of the Spanish and United States navies.

The situation at the Capitol is one of waiting expectancy. Senators and Representatives are willing to give the President an opportunity to carry out his plans, but there is impatience to have these plans made known and many say they will not delay action too long.

TALK OF MEDIATION. It was stated to-day in a high diplomatic quarter that the Spanish Government within the last ten days had addressed a note to the great powers of Europe, fully setting forth the grave aspect of the controversy with the United States, and at least inferentially suggesting that the time was now opportune for European influences to be exerted.

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The Spanish Government has earnestly hoped within the last week that some of the European Powers, and more likely Austria or France, would take the initiative without waiting to consult the desires of this Government.

Spain has reluctantly consented to consider them. This in itself has given lively hope of satisfactory result. But it involves a grave crisis in Spain, and it cannot be foretold what the final action at Madrid will be.

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the bureau are forbidden to make public any information concerning the movement of ships, orders to officers or other official business of the bureau, except that they have personal and explicit information from me."

SPANISH VESSELS COMING.

A Formidable Fleet Headed for Cuban Waters.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—There was the usual number of callers at the State, War and Navy Departments to-day to interview the officials regarding developments in the Cuban situation, and for the transaction of numerous items of business which have been brought to the fore, as a result of the preparations for war that are rapidly going on.

A matter that caused a good deal of excitement around the corridors and among the officials was the information of the departure westward of a formidable Spanish fleet of three vessels. Naturally there was a disposition to criticize the action of Spain in this particular, in view of the many peace protestations that have been made by that country, and such action was regarded as anything but a friendly movement.

The information of the sailing of the Spanish fleet was contained in a dispatch to the State Department from United States Minister Woodford, at Madrid. The ships sailed from Cartagena, a Spanish naval station on the Mediterranean, and according to the Minister's dispatch they were headed "westward." This, it is said, is undoubtedly the most formidable array of vessels that has departed from Spain in this direction during the present crisis and the presumption generally held by the Navy Department officials is that they are ultimately for Havana, and will be first heard of at the Canaries. The fleet is composed of two armored cruisers of the second class under the convoy of a formidable torpedo boat destroyer.

The names of the cruisers are Infanta Maria Teresa and the sloop-of-war the Vizcaya, which visited New York preliminary to her trip to Havana, where she now is, and the Cristobal Colon. The former is built of steel, is 324 feet over all, 65 beam, and has a displacement of 6,840 tons, with a mean draft of 21.6. Her speed is put down as slightly over twenty knots an hour. The Cristobal Colon is 328 feet long and 59.8 beam. She is of 6,840 tons displacement, and has a speed of twenty knots. Both cruisers are heavily armed. The Cristobal Colon has a mean draft of 21.6. Her speed is put down as slightly over twenty knots an hour. The Cristobal Colon is 328 feet long and 59.8 beam. She is of 6,840 tons displacement, and has a speed of twenty knots.

COALING STATION IN WEST INDIES.

As stated in these dispatches, the Navy Department has had in view the acquisition of a coaling station in the West Indies. The Government is now without any coaling station in any foreign country of any importance, a matter of considerable regret among naval officers. Ever since the trouble with Spain has been threatened, Captain Bradford, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment, has been looking over the field very carefully and has indicated to Secretary Long several desirable places in the West Indies, where excellent harbors exist which, in his judgment, might be acquired by the Government.

One of the most prominent visitors at Secretary Alger's office was General John M. Schofield, who formerly commanded the army, and who is now on his way to New York. General Schofield is President of the National Volunteer Association of the United States, which is seeking to enroll in its ranks from 1,000,000 men who will respond to any call that will be made upon them by the Government in case of war.

COMMANDERS FOR AUXILIARY TORPEDO BOATS.

In execution of his policy of preparing the navy for a possible hostile contingency, Secretary Long to-day detailed officers to command all the auxiliary torpedo boats recently added to the navy service. These details are as follows: Lieutenant James H. Henshaw to command the Hornet; Lieutenant W. H. Sutherland, to command the Eagle; Lieutenant John Hood, late of the Maine, to command the Hawk; Lieutenant Tecumseh F. R. Brainerd, to command the Unicorn; Lieutenant Parcell, to command the Osceola; Ensign W. R. Gerhardt, to command the Sioux; Ensign W. S. Crossley, to command the Algonquin.

WOODFORD HEARD FROM.

Spanish Cabinet Expected to Reach a Conclusion To-day.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The President received this morning a telegram from Minister Woodford at Madrid, in which he confirms the published report that he had an extended conference with Premier Sagasta yesterday. No definite conclusion was reached, as the Minister desired to place the matter under consideration before the Queen Regent and the other members of the Ministry. The conference was adjourned until to-morrow (Thursday).

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A STORM BREAKS FORTH.

An Uproarious Scene Occurs in the House.

Bailey Attempts to Force the Hand of Republicans

On a Proposition to Pass a Resolution for Cuban Independence.

Members of the Majority Refuse to Support the Democratic Leader, Sustaining Speaker Reed's Ruling.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—A wild and uproarious scene occurred in the House to-day when Bailey, the Democratic leader, attempted to force the hand of the Republicans upon a proposition to overrule the Speaker and pass a resolution recognizing the independence of the Cuban Republic.

He was cheered on by the crowded galleries, but the members of the majority refused to support him. Many of them sympathized with the purpose of the resolution, but the members of the Military Committee, going so far as to indorse the proposition, under the impression that it provided for a declaration of war, but most of the radicals who yesterday were in favor of any sort of revolutionary method had been won over to the policy of sticking to the party organization, and refusing to do anything until the initiative came from their side.

Several times, later in the day, during the consideration of the naval bill, whenever the Cuban question was broached, the members swarmed around the Speaker, and the galleries cheered. This was especially the case when Cummings of New York spoke. Bouteille, who objected to a request for extension of his time, was hissed. The only important action on the naval bill to-day was the refusal of the Chair to sustain a point of order against the provision for a floating steel dock at Algiers, La.

THE STORM BREAKS FORTH.

The storm broke immediately after the reading of the journal, when Bailey, the Democratic leader, demanded recognition as a matter of privilege and offered a resolution. A profound sensation followed. Members rose en masse all over the House. No one knew what the resolution contained, but all knew that it related to the all-absorbing topic of Cuba.

Evans (R) of Kentucky interposed to declare that a pension bill coming over from last night was in order, and amid intense excitement the Speaker, with white, stern face, held that the regular order was the consideration of the pension bill, which he directed the clerk to read.

While it was being read Bailey requested that the resolution be sent back to him. As soon as the pension bill was passed he was again on his feet demanding recognition, but Bouteille, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, was also calling for recognition, and the Speaker recognized him, pausing amid the clamor and confusion to inform Bailey calmly that his rights would be respected.

Bouteille then moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole and resume consideration of the naval appropriation bill. "Pending that motion," announced the Speaker, "the gentleman from Texas states that he desires to present a privileged question. The gentleman will state it."

BAILEY'S RESOLUTION.

Bailey then offered the resolution for the recognition of the independence of Cuba, as follows:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the heroic struggle of the Cuban people against the force of arms and the horrors of famine has shown them worthy to be free; and Second, the United States hereby recognizes the Republic of Cuba as an independent State.

The reading was listened to amid silence profoundly impressive, and at its conclusion cheer after cheer was given from the galleries and the floor. The Republican side was unanimously silent.

The Speaker rapped vigorously for order, and warned the galleries that no demonstrations would be allowed. POINT OF ORDER. Bouteille immediately made the point of order that the resolution was not privileged, and upon that Bailey demanded to be heard. He called attention to the fact that in the Fifty-third Congress, when Mr. Crisp was Speaker, Bouteille, who now made the point of order that this resolution was not privileged, presented a resolution of a similar character relating to Hawaii, which the Speaker held was privileged, but must go to a committee. Against that latter ruling an appeal was taken, and the whole Republican side had voted against tabling the appeal. When he said that at the head of a list of distinguished Republicans who voted on that occasion was the honorable Speaker of this House, the Democrats went into rapturous applause.

Meantime the confusion, was great. The Republican leaders were evidently rallying their forces. Hull, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, who was one of the prime movers in the movement for a prompt and vigorous action on the Republican side, came forward with a strong appeal to Republicans not to be carried off their feet.

"I state now," said Hull, "that I will go as far as any man on this floor for the purpose of preserving the rights of the struggling patriots in their heroic efforts to liberate themselves from the despotic rule of Spain, and I am in favor of the United States controlling the destinies of this continent and saying to Spain that she must get out of the Western Hemisphere."

THE SPEAKER'S RULING.

Amid profound silence the Speaker then made his ruling. He spoke in deliberate, distinct and emphatic tones, and decided that the resolution was not privileged. In the course of his decision he said: "The gentleman from Maine (Bouteille) some time ago presented to Speaker Reed a resolution which had in it certain elements charging the Executive with interfering with some of the rights and privileges of the legislative body. The Speaker ruled that it was a question of privilege and you will perceive that it is entirely different from the present proposition and has no aspect like at all; not the faintest resemblance to it, but the Speaker ruled that that was a privileged question. He also ruled that being a privileged question, it should go to a committee."

"Well, now, against that doctrine, the Chair has always been opposed, and the questions, as members will see by turning to the record, that were put to the House were on that part of the Speaker's decision as to whether it should go to a committee or not, and if Bailey—May I inquire of the Chair if there was any appeal taken on the decision of the Chair?"

"The Speaker—There was no appeal. It was too clear for an appeal even. (Laughter and applause from the Republican side.)"

BAILEY APPEALS.

Bailey immediately appealed from the decision of the Chair.

In putting the question on the appeal, Speaker Reed made the following significant and impressive statement: "As far as any question arising out of this matter is concerned, the Chair has not the slightest doubt that the wisdom of the House, which has always been able to arrive at important questions in a suitable way, will get at them now and at a speedy time for the occasion." (Applause on Republican side.)

Bailey—in reply to that suggestion, which was not a part of the decision, of course, I understand it was made to hold our friends on the other side, and I venture to say—

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can Government and the American name. Cummings (D) of New York asked: "How much time, considering the prospective alliance of the Governments of Spain and the United States, will it require the allies to put down the patriots in Cuba?" (Applause.)

"I have bowed my head in humiliation," replied Wheeler, "at the conduct of this affair so far, but I cannot believe that this Administration will extend a friendly hand to the murderers of the sailors of the Maine and the patriots of Cuba." (Renewed applause in the galleries.)

Without reaching the provisions relating to the increase in the navy the committee rose, and at 5:05 o'clock the House adjourned.

IN THE SENATE.

But Little Reference Made to the Cuban Question.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Permission was granted by the Senate to-day for the Foreign Relations Committee to sit during the sessions of the Senate. Following this action, the resolution providing for the recognition of the independence of Cuba, introduced yesterday by Allen of Nebraska, was at the request of Frye of Maine, referred to the Foreign Relations Committee without debate. Beyond these two points no reference was made by the Senate to the Cuban question. Caffery of Louisiana concluded his speech on the national quarantine bill, after which the measure making further provision for a civil government of Alaska was passed.

Again to-day the galleries of the Senate were crowded to the doors, and the corridors were packed with disappointed hundreds who vainly sought seats from which they might listen to the proceedings.

Rev. John K. McLean of the Pacific Theological Seminary of Oakland, Cal., offered the invocation. Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, asked that the committee be permitted to sit during the sessions of the Senate from day to day, and the request was granted.

Frye of Maine reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations the Senate resolution: "That the President be requested, if not incompatible with the public interest, to transmit to the Senate all of the consular correspondence relating to the conduct of war in the Island of Cuba, the condition of the people and other matters relating thereto."

Frye asked that the resolution lie on the table until to-morrow, when he would ask for its consideration. Hawley of Connecticut of the Military Affairs Committee reported a joint resolution providing that in any case of emergency in which the immediate erection of any fort or fortification is in the opinion of the Secretary of War, deemed necessary and urgent, where the Legislature of the State is not in session, so much of the existing law as prohibits the erection of such fortification until the consent of the United States has been obtained, shall be suspended, and it will be the duty of the Secretary of War to secure the construction of such temporary fort on the written consent of the owner of the land.

Hawley asked for immediate consideration of the resolution, but Pascoe of Florida, desiring to examine it, objected, and it went over.

Frye of Maine inquired of Allen of Nebraska if he had any objection to the reference of his resolution offered yesterday to the Foreign Relations Committee, that committee now having under consideration resolutions of that character.

Allen consented to the reference of the resolution, saying he was satisfied that the committee would promptly take action upon the subject matter. A bill authorizing cities and towns in the Indian Territory to secure by condemnation or otherwise lands necessary to public improvements, was passed.

Allison of Iowa reported the sundry civil bill, and announced that he would call it up for consideration to-morrow.

Consideration was then resumed of the measure making further provision for a civil government of Alaska, the pending question being upon a substitute offered by Hansbrough of North Dakota for a part of an amendment offered by Perkins of California.

At this point the floor was yielded to Wolcott of Colorado, Chairman of the Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads, as he desired to make a statement. He made a remarkably caustic arraignment of the Secretary of the Treasury, on account of the Secretary's flippant treatment of a request made by Wolcott's committee. Wolcott said that on March 10th the Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads had asked the Secretary of the Treasury for his opinion on a postal savings bank system. A similar communication had been sent to the Postmaster General, and a courteous and extended reply in due time had been received. The views of the Secretary of the Treasury upon the question were particularly desired by the committee, as it was expected that some opinions of value would be presented.

After waiting for an unusual time, the committee, Wolcott said, had received the Secretary's reply. "I have to report to the Senate," said he, "that the reply was of such a nature that I have been unanimously instructed by the committee to respectfully return it. Before it was sent to the committee it was given to the newspapers. It was not of a character in consonance with the importance of the subject. The whole circumstances of the case are most remarkable. I will not ask here to have the Secretary of the Treasury read. It was flippant and impertinent and has no place on the records of this body."

Wolcott then asked that the entire correspondence on the subject be printed, and it was so ordered.

At 3:32 p. m. the Senate went into executive session, and soon afterward adjourned.

Death of a Newspaper Man.

SAN DIEGO, March 30.—James Edward Friend, a well-known newspaper man of ability, formerly of Birmingham, Ala., and later of El Paso, Tex., a soldier of the Confederate Army in the war of the Rebellion, and a man of genial habits and a large circle of friends, was found dead in his bed in the Willard House this morning from internal hemorrhages. Age, 53 years.

SPANISH PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

While Outwardly the Situation is Calm

The Actual Position of Affairs is Regarded Critical.

Several Warships Purchased and Other Negotiations Pending.

Orders Issued to Mobilize Naval Vessels and More Troops Going to Canary Islands to Strengthen the Garrison There.

MADRID, March 30.—While the situation here is outwardly of the calmest description, the actual position of affairs is regarded as critical by both the United States Legation and the Spanish Government.

The United States Minister, General Stewart Woodford, is working energetically, and will continue to work energetically for Spain's peace until the first gun is fired. It is known that the Spanish Government admits the desirability or necessity of complying with the demands of the United States, and it was only the disinclination of the Ministers to put this willingness in concrete form that the danger lies, if a conference were to be held with British, German or French diplomats, the matter would be settled without question.

The point which General Woodford is now pressing is that in the interests of humanity hostilities in Cuba must cease immediately. No date was fixed either in the first nor in the present note, but the United States is now dwelling upon the meaning of the word "immediately," and insisting that Spain accepts its general interpretation. The public generally is taking little apparent interest in the situation, but there is a general disinclination to believe that war is likely.

A dispatch from Barcelona says that the armed steam yacht Gradla, purchased by the Spanish Government from Harry McCalmont, the English race horse owner, after the vessel had been rejected by the United States, is now being fitted up as a dispatch boat.

"El Pais" says four warships have been obtained by Spain in France, and that negotiations are pending for the purchase of several torpedo boats in Great Britain.

"El Pais" also says that orders have been issued to mobilize all the Spanish warships, and that the torpedo boat Halcon is to sail immediately from Cartagena for Cadiz, where a second torpedo squadron is being prepared.

Military engineers are starting for the Canary Islands, and the Balearic Islands are being fortified.

Italy, it is said by "El Pais," has decided to sell the armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi, of 6,840 tons and well armed, a sister ship of the Varese, to Spain.

Two regiments still, according to "El Pais," are going to the Canary Islands to strengthen the Spanish garrison there.

The Armstrong's Spanish agent, a Spaniard, who is in touch with the Government and commercial people in Spain, has expressed the belief that unless the Powers intercede there will be war.

He added: "If the United States offered money for our clearing out of Cuba, we could not accept, but if the proposition emanated from another power, it is not unlikely that it would be accepted."

This view of the case is echoed by a portion of the Spanish press, which advises Spain to wash her hands of Cuba. Senor Ortiz de Sarate, a prominent former Carlist Deputy, who has just been defeated at Vittoria, expresses the opinion that there would be no war, saying: "We have neither ships, soldiers, plans, nor money, and the Government knows it. It will struggle to the last end, then, have in."

Senor Sarate, who was recently at Cadiz, says the Spanish warships Pelayo and Carlos V, which the Government announced ready for sea, cannot possibly be made ready sooner than in two months.

RECONCENTRADO ORDER TO BE RESCINDED.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The Spanish Legation here late to-night received a cablegram from the Governor-General of Cuba, saying the Captain-General reported the pacification of the eastern provinces so far advanced that it had been decided to rescind the reconcentrado order in three provinces, and allow all subjects of this decree to return to their homes in the country. To aid in the re-establishing of the reconcentrados upon their

(Continued on Seventh Page.)