

WILL REACH ITS CLIMAX.

The Crisis Will be Settled This Week.

Question of War or Peace Will Soon be Decided.

All Waiting to See What the President's Message Will be, but Can Probably Not be Controlled After Wednesday—Prospect of European Mediation Arouses Keen Interest Throughout Diplomatic Circles.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The opinion, almost universally held in Washington to-night by leading public men and diplomats, is that the crisis will reach its climax this week and that the question of war or peace will be determined within the next seven days.

Sensational and Representative messages and conferred all day about the gravity of the situation and at the White House the President consulted with several members of his Cabinet and old confidential advisers regarding the message which he is preparing to send to Congress. At the State, War and Navy buildings active work is going on. Altogether there has been a day of suppressed feeling. No day has been announced as when the message will be sent to Congress, and it is believed it will not go in to-morrow. It is believed that more probably Wednesday or Thursday will be the day selected.

Besides the physical work of preparing the comprehensive document upon which the President expects to rest his case with the world, there are other reasons why he is in a hurry. The preparations for the coming week's operations which may result from the present crisis, it is recognized as of vast importance to secure cable facilities not controlled by Spain.

The Spanish Minister, Senor Bernabe, although it did not bring any developments changing the situation. The Minister did not see the State Department officials during the day. His last official exchange with the authorities was on last Friday, after Spain's answer to the ultimatum at Washington. At the time the negotiations have been at a halt. This, however, has not lessened the Spanish Minister's activity in keeping his Government fully apprised as to the general aspect of affairs in this country. The elaborate manner in which the cable intelligence has gone to the authorities at Madrid is probably without a parallel. It is understood that when the situation began to assume its most serious aspects, a single cable dispatch sent by the Minister to the Foreign Office cost \$1,000. Another dispatch cost \$2,000 and another \$4,000. In this way the Madrid authorities are kept in close touch with the condition of affairs, not only as it relates to official negotiations, but more particularly to those circumstances which will permit the Madrid Government to gauge the situation at Washington. Secretary Sherman gave a dinner last night, at which the Spanish Minister was one of the guests. Senator Lodge, of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Colonel Fred Grant of New York were also among those present.

The presence of the Spanish Minister at the home of the Secretary of State was void of circumstance, except as showing the pacific outward appearance of affairs. Being a purely social gathering the Spanish situation was not alluded to.

PROSPECTS IN THE SENATE.

Report of Committee on Foreign Relations.

It Will Probably Go to the Senate Before Wednesday.

If So, It Will Take Up Most of the Senate's Time for the Week—Will Probably Recommend the Independence of Cuba With a Declaration of Armed Intervention and Will Also Touch on the Destruction of the Maine.

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This contingency is the possibility of an agreement to details between the President and committee. If the committee's report should prove to be in accord with the President's recommendation in all essential particulars, the Senate likely will adopt the resolutions brought in without debating them. There is, however, a considerable element in the Senate which is opposed to war except as a last extremity, and there are several who think there ought to be a delay of at least a week or ten days before action is taken in Congress in order to insure the safe landing of ships and war supplies now on their way to this country from Europe. The Committee on Foreign Relations is not impressed with this line of reasoning, and the statement is made that Spain is no better prepared for hostilities than we. The members of the committee do not expect the President's message before Tuesday, and they are prepared to wait until Wednesday.

Under great pressure there might be a delay beyond that time, but the delay would cause great restiveness on the part of a majority of the committee. While desirous of giving the President all the time he may actually require for the preparation of his message, they are very impatient of the outside influences which are being exerted to hold them in check. This pressure is in the shape of letters and telegrams from people throughout the country who are opposed to a war policy, and with these the members of the committee are being flooded.

"The writers" of the committee said to-day, "generally ask to maintain an honorable peace. Of course we all want an honorable peace, but the time has gone by when it can be secured under existing conditions in Cuba. We cannot allow our conduct to be controlled by such persons."

When the President's message is read it will, on Senator Davis' motion, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, which will bring in its report later in the day, or it may not do so until the following day. So far as it is informed as to the probable course of the President's communication, the committee is now prepared to report, but the members realize that there will be some detail of the message that will require careful consideration, and in that event they will give more time to it than an hour or two on the day of its presentation. Unless there is a change in the committee's conclusions after the President is heard from, the resolutions reported will recommend the recognition of independence, with a declaration of armed intervention to make independence practical. They will also give the Maine explosion as one of the causes set forth for this action. The resolution will be accompanied by the carefully drawn report written by Senator Davis justifying them.

For the rest of the week the Senate will give its attention to the appropriations and other miscellaneous measures on the calendar. There is little in the way of a programme for the House this week. Everything is waiting upon the President's message and the momentous events that are to follow its presentation. Tomorrow the bill for the reorganization of the army is to be called up. Chairman Hull of the Military Committee believes it will be passed without opposition. It is considered a part of the war preparations, and as such its urgency would preclude the opposition which it might encounter in ordinary times. The Senate District of Columbia naval battalion bill is on the Speaker's table, and it, too, may be passed Tuesday and Friday are private bill days. The deficiency appropriation bill is almost ready and could be considered any time after Wednesday, if the message does not come in on that day.

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SWEPT TO DEATH BY THE WATERS.

Terrible Loss of Life at Shawneetown, Illinois.

The Levee Broke and the Waters of the River Rushed In.

Came Down Upon the City Like a Tidal Wave and Covered the Streets From Ten to Twenty Feet Deep, Sweeping Houses and Everything Else Before It—Over Two Hundred People Drowned.

ST. LOUIS, April 3.—A special to the "Republic" from Girardville says: A message has been received here from Shawneetown, Ill., that at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon the levee above the city broke, and the city is inundated. The water was backed up on the city like a tidal wave. Telephone and telegraph communication with Shawneetown was suddenly cut off which tends to confirm the report. Nothing more has been learned. It is rumored that 200 lives were lost.

LOUISVILLE (Ky.), April 3.—A special to the "Courier-Journal" from Evansville, Ind., says: At 6 o'clock this afternoon the levee at Shawneetown, Ill., broke a mile above the town, and from all the information that can be obtained here it is learned that a great part of the place has been destroyed, and perhaps a large number of citizens have been drowned. Shawneetown is twenty-five miles from Evansville, on the Ohio River. It is situated in a valley of extremely low land, with hills skirting it in the rear, and with a twenty-five-foot levee running from hill to hill. The town is very much in the position of a fortified city, and when the levee gave way a mile above town, under the pressure of the very high water, the water shot through a twenty-foot opening, and struck the place like a hurricane, sweeping everything before it.

Houses were turned and tossed like boxes. The people were not warned of the break, and for that reason many were caught. Those at home sought refuge in second stories and on house-tops. Those in the streets were carried before the avalanche of water, and probably a majority were drowned. Citizens came away from the place by skiffs to a telephone several miles away and asked for aid from Evansville.

They said that more than 200 people were drowned, and they had reason to believe that it would reach 500 or more, even 1,000. The water stands from twenty to thirty feet all over the town. There are, of course, no fires or lights in the place, and total darkness enveloped the desolate city.

TWO HUNDRED DROWNED.

Only Meager Reports Received, as the Wires Are Down.

CHICAGO, April 3.—At 12:30 this morning the operator in the Long Distance Telephone Company's office at Mount Vernon, Ind., informed the Associated Press that the estimate on the loss of life at Shawneetown was at that hour 200. Mount Vernon is but thirty miles from Shawneetown and the information on which the estimate is based is believed to be reliable. The operator stated that the company's wires to the stricken city failed soon after 4 o'clock this afternoon. At that hour it was known that the dam was giving way but it was not thought that it would go to pieces quickly enough to cause the loss of life. By 8 o'clock it was known in Mount Vernon that many people had been drowned, the estimate then being 100.

A relief boat bearing food, blankets and surgeons was started down the river and was expected to reach Shawneetown before morning. Gradually the reports of loss of life increased, the estimates, stories coming from various points near the scene, the flood showing clearly that the disaster was far more disastrous than was at first believed. People at Mount Vernon and surrounding towns besieged the telegraph office, frantically asking for tidings from friends and relatives in the flooded town. No attempt at an accurate list of the victims is possible, however, and the crowds stood all night before the bulletin boards on which were posted the meager reports being received.

TEN MILES INLAND.

People Fleeing for Their Lives in All the Lowland Hamlets.

CHICAGO, April 3.—A special to the "Record" from Cypress Junction, Ill., says: Two hundred and fifty persons were drowned to-day by the inundation of Shawneetown, six miles from this place. The levee broke at 4 o'clock this afternoon, and the Ohio River flooded over the town many feet deep. Scores of houses are floating about to-night, and many persons are clinging to the wreckage in the hope that rescuers will come in boats with ropes to take them to places of safety.

All communication with the town is cut off. Trains cannot reach there, and telephone and telegraph wires are down. The first report that reached here was that the entire population had been drowned, but this is not confirmed. The levee was built by the Government and was regarded as impregnable, hence the people had taken no precautions against a possible flood.

It is reported that the flood now extends for ten miles inland, and people are fleeing for their lives in all the lowland hamlets.

HAD BEEN FLOODED ONCE.

But the Levee Had Been Repaired and Was Considered Safe.

ST. LOUIS, April 3.—Shawneetown, Ill., has a population of about 3,000 inhabitants and is situated on the west bank of the Ohio River. The streets are parallel with the river, the principal business streets being but two blocks distant from the water. The level of the river is about fifteen feet above the city and the levee bank is about twenty feet thick. Situated on this bank and level with the river is the Riverside Hotel, a large four-story building, built by Henry Docher. The hotel is generally occupied fully all the year round, being not only a transient hostelry, but families also reside there. It is feared the hotel has been washed away.

When the river is at its normal stage it is 1,000 feet wide at this point, and the citizens have long feared a catastrophe such as occurred to-day, as a tremendous pressure is brought to bear on the levee during freshets.

Several years ago, during a flood, the waters flowed over the levee and the streets were under two feet of water. The levee was strengthened and built up afterward and the town has since been considered in no danger.

OMAHA EXPOSITION. A Number of States Arranging for Fine Exhibits. OMAHA, April 3.—The announcement was made to-day, upon authority of the chief architects of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, that all construction work will be finished in ample time for the installation of exhibits and the perfection of concessions by the opening day—June 1st. The large buildings are nearly ready for the artistic decorations save the fine arts building, and the immense structure which the United States Government is building. On the latter the staff work is nearly done and the dome is receiving the finishing touches. The concessionaires are pushing construction work rapidly, as are the various States, some of which are erecting buildings.

A telegram from Albany says the Empire State has made an ample appropriation which will enable the State Commission of which Chauncey M. Depew and Dr. Seward Webb are the leading spirits, to make a large State exhibit. The Governor of Indiana has appointed a State commission which will prepare a State exhibit. Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island and other Eastern States are arranging for State exhibits.

SNOW IN DENVER. DENVER, April 3.—A heavy, wet snow has been falling since noon to-day and promises to continue through the night. The snow was preceded by high winds and a misty rain which quickly changed to snow, and the ground is now covered to the depth of several inches. Telegraph and telephone wires are down and railroad traffic is being interrupted. The snow is a blessing to stockmen, however, as it insures plenty of early grass on the ranges.

MAY SECURE WEI-HAI-WAI. PEKIN, April 3.—Great Britain has demanded a lease of Wei-Hai-Wai, on the Shantung Peninsula, after the Japanese evacuation of a compensation for the disturbance of the balance of power in the Gulf of Rhee. In diplomatic circles small doubt is entertained that China will concede the demand, which is believed to be favorably regarded by Japan.

JOURNEMEN CARPENTERS STRIKE. CHICAGO, April 3.—Three thousand journeymen carpenters went on strike in this city to-morrow morning. Men to the number of 20,000 will probably be laid off on buildings, repairs, etc., as they cannot work unless the carpenters do. The strike is due to the refusal of the journeymen to agree that no work shall be done for bosses outside of the Builders' Association.

DEATH OF LORD HILLINGDON. LONDON, April 3.—Lord Hillingdon (Charles Henry Mills), Chairman of the Committee of London Clearing-House Bankers, died suddenly in church at Wilton to-day. He was born in 1830, was the son of the late Sir Charles Mills, Bart., and was elevated to the peerage in 1886. He was a partner in the banking-house of Glyn, Mills & Co.

GENERAL BOOTH IN CLEVELAND. CLEVELAND, April 3.—General Booth, Commander-in-Chief of the Salvation Army, arrived here last night. To-day he addressed three big meetings at the Euclid Avenue Opera House, which was packed morning, noon and evening by large audiences of representative citizens.

COLONELS DEFEAT MILWAUKEE. LOUISVILLE (Ky.), April 3.—The Colonels defeated Milwaukee in an exhibition game to-day. Score: Louisville 11, base hits 10, errors 4; Milwaukee 8, base hits 9, errors 0. Batteries, McGee, Haffy and Fuller; Downing and Wilson, Rettger, Barnes and Speer.

W. O. OLMSTEAD'S BODY FOUND. CHICAGO, April 3.—The body of William O. Olmstead, President of the Olmstead Scientific Company, was recovered from the ruins of the Ayers building on Wabash avenue to-day. All of the missing have now been accounted for. Olmstead was the thirteenth victim of the fire.

CUT HIS OWN THROAT. BUTTE (Mont.), April 3.—August Larrieu, a patient at Wells Hospital, committed suicide at a late hour last night by cutting his throat with a razor. Larrieu was 58 years of age, and had a son in California. He was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad.

WILL USE THE X-RAY. MILWAUKEE, April 3.—Lynde Bradley, an expert electrician of this city, has perfected plans for the use of the X-ray in surgical work on board of war vessels and on the field, and in case of war will immediately enlist in the Government service.

MEETING OF MINERS AND OPERATORS. WHEELING (W. Va.), April 3.—To-morrow there will be a meeting of miners and operators of the Wheeling District for the purpose of coming to an agreement.

HEAVY FIRE AT ROCKHILL, S. C. CHARLOTTE (N. C.), April 3.—Fire at Rockhill, S. C., destroyed twelve buildings, involving a loss of \$250,000, upon which there was an insurance of \$150,000.

USUAL SUNDAY QUIETUDE.

Only Assistant Secretary of State Day Called.

Other Cabinet Members Did Not Go to the White House.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—There was comparative quiet about the White House and the departments to-day. The members of the Cabinet did not call on the President during the early part of the day nor did they visit the departments. The White House was in its usual state of Sunday quietude, Assistant Secretary Day being the only forenoon caller, remaining with the President for about half an hour. Judge Day did not go to the State Department and it is presumed will do most of his work of preparation for matters to be incorporated in the President's message at his home. Several of the higher officers of the State Department and clerks in charge of translating cipher cables were on duty. Some cable messages were received during the forenoon, but it was stated that none of them were on matters of much importance. It was stated that the department had no official information about the Consuls of the United States going to Havana for safety.

Secretary Long did not visit the Navy Department, but his mail was sent to his residence. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt was at the department for a short time attending to his correspondence. A number of naval officers and clerks were at their desks, principally those who have charge of active operations and the progress of the fleet. They were on matters of much importance. The naval officers read with interest and discussed the Associated Press Madrid bulletin regarding the movement of Spanish ships and torpedo flotilla. It was said that the flotilla perhaps had encountered bad weather in attempting to sail direct for Porto Rico, and might have been driven to the Verde Islands. It was also said that experienced naval officers were of the opinion that the flotilla had taken that course in order to avoid adverse winds and to find a better course by way of the Verde Islands. This would save coal, as sail power could be used to advantage. Some naval officers were of the opinion that they could not trust wholly to Madrid information concerning the movements of the Spanish warships at present, especially if the Spanish admiralty thought advantage would be gained by misleading the American Navy Department.

Both the War and Navy Departments have been considering bases of supplies in the event of hostilities and all available ports on the Southern and Gulf coasts have received attention. The general opinion is that the Gulf offers more and better places than the Atlantic Coast. Pensacola, Tampa, Mobile and New Orleans are all being considered. No one place will be depended on. The water stages given are: Pensacola 22 feet, Mobile 22 feet, Tampa 20 feet and the Mississippi 20 feet. This is the low water entrance. It is not intended that the big war vessels should be taken into these places to receive supplies. They will be coaled, provisioned and receive ammunition from lighters, which can be sent over the bars in the harbors. It is regarded as impracticable to attempt to get the big ships up to the wharves and recover their coming to land would not tend to increase the efficiency and discipline of the crew. It is said that Punta Gorda, farther south than Tampa, is being considered by the War Department as a pool for unloading troops and supplies in case an army was to be sent to Cuba. Light draught vessels could easily enter this bay for such a purpose.

Assistant Secretary Day came to the State Department early in the afternoon and immediately began dictating to his stenographers. He gave orders to admit one or two and would not be interrupted for any purpose. Other officers of the department remained in their rooms during the day. President McKinley did not go to church to-day, but was busily engaged. Quite a number of executive clerks were also at work during the day. The best information obtainable here is that no reply to Spain's memorandum (for it appears that the response Senator Sagasta gave to General Woodford's last representations as to hostilities must come in the nature of a memorandum instead of a note) has been sent. This statement was made at the State Department by a gentleman who almost certainly would be in a position to know. The supposition that the last cablegram described as an eleven-page message, is a reply probably based on the fact that there are, as Madrid says, eleven pages of it, but that is not significant since the department uses a group cipher and it is said that eleven pages probably would be in reality a comparatively short message and the department has been calling Minister Woodford for several days, sending him information and instructions. These communications, it is stated, as indicated in the foregoing, have not been in the nature of a reply to Spain's last response, an abstract of which was given out after Friday's meeting.

The Navy Department has received a dispatch saying that the Spanish warship Carlos V. has been delayed from sailing for Ferrol up to this time because she was waiting for the arrival of twenty French machinists. Seven of these machinists were selected and taken aboard and the vessel departed for Ferrol. This confirms information which the Navy Department has secured. Freely that the Spanish navy is very poorly supplied with machinists for war vessels, and has been seeking experienced men in France.

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WASHINGTON, April 3.—There was comparative quiet about the White House and the departments to-day. The members of the Cabinet did not call on the President during the early part of the day nor did they visit the departments. The White House was in its usual state of Sunday quietude, Assistant Secretary Day being the only forenoon caller, remaining with the President for about half an hour. Judge Day did not go to the State Department and it is presumed will do most of his work of preparation for matters to be incorporated in the President's message at his home. Several of the higher officers of the State Department and clerks in charge of translating cipher cables were on duty. Some cable messages were received during the forenoon, but it was stated that none of them were on matters of much importance. It was stated that the department had no official information about the Consuls of the United States going to Havana for safety.

Secretary Long did not visit the Navy Department, but his mail was sent to his residence. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt was at the department for a short time attending to his correspondence. A number of naval officers and clerks were at their desks, principally those who have charge of active operations and the progress of the fleet. They were on matters of much importance. The naval officers read with interest and discussed the Associated Press Madrid bulletin regarding the movement of Spanish ships and torpedo flotilla. It was said that the flotilla perhaps had encountered bad weather in attempting to sail direct for Porto Rico, and might have been driven to the Verde Islands. It was also said that experienced naval officers were of the opinion that the flotilla had taken that course in order to avoid adverse winds and to find a better course by way of the Verde Islands. This would save coal, as sail power could be used to advantage. Some naval officers were of the opinion that they could not trust wholly to Madrid information concerning the movements of the Spanish warships at present, especially if the Spanish admiralty thought advantage would be gained by misleading the American Navy Department.

Both the War and Navy Departments have been considering bases of supplies in the event of hostilities and all available ports on the Southern and Gulf coasts have received attention. The general opinion is that the Gulf offers more and better places than the Atlantic Coast. Pensacola, Tampa, Mobile and New Orleans are all being considered. No one place will be depended on. The water stages given are: Pensacola 22 feet, Mobile 22 feet, Tampa 20 feet and the Mississippi 20 feet. This is the low water entrance. It is not intended that the big war vessels should be taken into these places to receive supplies. They will be coaled, provisioned and receive ammunition from lighters, which can be sent over the bars in the harbors. It is regarded as impracticable to attempt to get the big ships up to the wharves and recover their coming to land would not tend to increase the efficiency and discipline of the crew. It is said that Punta Gorda, farther south than Tampa, is being considered by the War Department as a pool for unloading troops and supplies in case an army was to be sent to Cuba. Light draught vessels could easily enter this bay for such a purpose.

Assistant Secretary Day came to the State Department early in the afternoon and immediately began dictating to his stenographers. He gave orders to admit one or two and would not be interrupted for any purpose. Other officers of the department remained in their rooms during the day. President McKinley did not go to church to-day, but was busily engaged. Quite a number of executive clerks were also at work during the day. The best information obtainable here is that no reply to Spain's memorandum (for it appears that the response Senator Sagasta gave to General Woodford's last representations as to hostilities must come in the nature of a memorandum instead of a note) has been sent. This statement was made at the State Department by a gentleman who almost certainly would be in a position to know. The supposition that the last cablegram described as an eleven-page message, is a reply probably based on the fact that there are, as Madrid says, eleven pages of it, but that is not significant since the department uses a group cipher and it is said that eleven pages probably would be in reality a comparatively short message and the department has been calling Minister Woodford for several days, sending him information and instructions. These communications, it is stated, as indicated in the foregoing, have not been in the nature of a reply to Spain's last response, an abstract of which was given out after Friday's meeting.

The Navy Department has received a dispatch saying that the Spanish warship Carlos V. has been delayed from sailing for Ferrol up to this time because she was waiting for the arrival of twenty French machinists. Seven of these machinists were selected and taken aboard and the vessel departed for Ferrol. This confirms information which the Navy Department has secured. Freely that the Spanish navy is very poorly supplied with machinists for war vessels, and has been seeking experienced men in France.