

## FIRST SHOTS OF WAR ARE FIRED.

### Reported Battle Off Florida Coast.

### A Spanish Gunboat Pursued by a Monitor.

### Several Men Assert That There Was a Running Fire for an Hour.

### The Gunboat Nashville Captures a Spanish Merchantman, and the New York Captures a Spanish Passenger Steamer.

JACKSONVILLE (Fla.), April 22.—According to private advices received by the "Times-Union and Citizen" to-night, the first naval battle of the war took place opposite Boynton, about twenty-five miles south of Palm Beach, at 10 o'clock this morning.

George Lyman, a reliable man, and several others who were fishing in Lake Worth, which is separated from the ocean by a narrow strip of land, heard heavy firing and ran to the beach. They reported to the railroad agent and Postmaster at Lantana that a United States monitor was chasing and firing upon a Spanish man-of-war or gunboat conveying a coal or transport ship. The Spaniard replied shot for shot. All the ships were traveling with a bone in their teeth.

The men say they watched the battle for an hour, or until only the smoke from the funnels was visible on the southwestern horizon, in which direction they were traveling.

A special to the "Times-Union and Citizen" from Lantana says: "An eye witness has just arrived from Boynton, and reports a supposed transport vessel, southward bound, guarded by a man-of-war, pursued by a monitor, keeping up a heavy running fire.

This dispatch was dated 10 a. m.

### FIRST SPANISH PRIZE.

KEY WEST, April 22.—The first Spanish prize is the steamer Buena Ventura, from Pascagoula, Miss., for Rotterdam, with lumber. The Nashville fired a blank shot, which the Spaniard ignored. This was followed by a shot from a six-pounder. The Buena Ventura then surrendered, with her crew of twenty-eight men. The Nashville towed her prisoner into this harbor at 11 o'clock this morning, and put a prize crew on board. Both ships are lying well out in the stream. The news of the capture of the Spaniard set the people of this city wild. Work has been suspended and the docks are crowded with people.

The United States fleet was about twelve miles off Sandy Key light this morning at 7 o'clock when the Spanish merchantman Buena Ventura was sighted, bound north. The gunboat Nashville ran her down and put a shot across her bow from the four-inch gun on the port side aft, manned by Lieutenant Killingham. The Spaniard ignored the shot, but another, closer to her bows, brought her to. A prize crew under Ensign Magruder was put aboard.

Captain Lucarraga, in command of the steamer, was astonished. He said that he did not know that war had been declared, but when he was informed of the state of affairs, he shrugged his shoulders and accepted the situation philosophically.

The Nashville has taken on stores, and will return to the fleet, carrying Ensign Magruder, who will be relieved by Ensign Carleton of the Snow.

A body of marines is pacing the deck of the Spaniard, and her crew of twenty-eight are lounging about the decks in a nonchalant fashion. Not a man is in irons.

According to prize laws, Captain Maynard will turn the prisoners of war over to the United States District Attorney, who will decide the question of their disposition.

The monitor Puritan is taking on coal and water, and will sail to join the fleet to-night.

On excellent authority it is reported that the destination of the fleet is Matanzas. On board the flagship is Captain Aranguren, brother of the late Brigadier-General Nestor Aranguren. He will pilot the fleet to Matanzas. The Cuban pilots went on board last night after 12 o'clock.

The Detroit sailed to join the fleet this afternoon. It is said one or two ships will be left here, at least temporarily.

### ANOTHER STEAMER CAPTURED.

KEY WEST, April 23, 2:20 a. m.—An incoming tug reports that the New York has captured a Spanish passenger steamer plying between Havana and Porto Rico.

Havana to-day (not the warship of that name). The Spaniard tried to run away, but the New York gave chase, firing shot after shot until the Spaniard gave up and surrendered.

The torpedo flotilla is coming in. AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT. KEY WEST, April 22.—A rumor that the cruiser Alphonso XIII had been blown up by a cruiser belonging to the United States was current here this morning, but it is discredited by those best informed.

FLEET LINED UP FOR BLOCKADE. KEY WEST, April 23, 2 a. m.—It is reported here that the United States fleet is lined up off the Cuban coast for blockade.

ORDERS TO INTERCEPT TWO VESSELS. NEW ORLEANS, April 22.—Orders have been issued to intercept and seize the Catalina and Miguel Joves, the Spanish ships which left here last night. The Louisiana naval reserve will be put in service to-morrow, part going to Mobile and the main body to the mouth of the river.

### IN WASHINGTON CIRCLES.

Two Further Important Steps Toward Activities.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—There were two further important steps in Washington toward activities, not to mention the overt act involved in the seizure of the Spanish vessel Buena Ventura off Key West. The first was the issue by the President of his proclamation announcing to the world a blockade of a number of Cuban ports, and the second was the signing by him of the bill providing for the utilization of the volunteer forces in war. Then, in addition, there was a notable retirement from the Navy Department in the case of Captain R. B. Bradford, Chief of the Equipment Division. Captain Bradford is not only an officer of high scientific attainments, but is equipped as well in practical experience in naval matters. Although he has not yet held his present office long, and by custom is entitled to nearly three years of further service here, he has become so impatient to join in active service that he to-day addressed the following letter to the President:

"I respectfully tender my resignation as Chief of the Bureau of Equipment of the Navy Department. It has been a great pleasure to serve during your Administration in my pending capacity, and I beg to express my thanks for the honor conferred upon me by your appointment to such a responsible office. This resignation is tendered only that I may ask for active service afloat."

Captain Bradford's resignation is similar to that of Secretary Long, viz., the addition of a request to have command of an active warship. The resignation will be accepted, and by virtue of his rank, as well as to the mark of high regard for him by the Administration. Captain Bradford will be given one of the best available ships in the navy. The naval authorities welcomed with pleasure the manifestation of patriotism on the part of a distinguished New York citizen in tendering to the Government such compensation his speedy steam yacht.

The naval officials feel very confident in the ability of the Oregon and Marietta, not only to protect themselves from the Spanish gunboat Temerario, but to destroy that craft if she ever comes within range.

The limitation of the blockade in Cuba to a certain part of the island was not officially explained to-day, but the plausible reason advanced for the Government's action was that by refraining from establishing a blockade over the eastern portion of the island, understood to be practically in the control of the insurgents, the way has been left open for them to freely receive all necessary supplies and munitions of war.

A formal order was issued by the War Department increasing the equipment of light batteries of artillery to six guns, six caissons, one combined forage and battery wagon and 100 horses.

The enforcement of this order will require 3000 additional horses, which the Quartermaster's department will purchase in Tennessee.

For purposes of transporting the army to Cuba, the Quartermaster-General's office has under consideration the question of the charter of the ships having the carrying capacity of 500,000 men.

No charters, however, have been closed. The report that the gunboat Nashville had captured a Spanish merchant ship gained rapid circulation throughout the Navy Department shortly after noon to-day. It caused excitement and was eagerly discussed as an overt act in sign of existing war. Secretary Long, however, had not received a word of the capture, except through newspaper sources. Notwithstanding this, naval officers credited the report and displayed it as though it was an accomplished fact. It said that a part of the crew had been placed on board and the captured vessel had a valuable cargo, including considerable coal. Among the officials the report caused much excitement, although it was said the disposition of a Spanish warship would have been more acceptable. There is said to be no question as to the right of taking Spanish merchant ships at this time. Two or three ships left Gelveston within the last day or so with considerable cargoes of cotton on board. Another Spanish ship is said to be en route from Vera Cruz, Mexico, with one million pesetas on board, representing the subscription of Vera Cruz to the Spanish in Cuba.

The military and naval preparations were devoid of sensational features to-day, and are becoming more systematic in their execution. In the absence of Mr. Roosevelt in New York, no ships were purchased, but the Secretary accepted one handsome steam yacht, the gift to the Government of a patriotic American citizen.

In the War Department all energies were bent towards the issue of the call for volunteers. The proclamation is delayed in issue until to-morrow, owing to the fact that it had been prepared in advance of the adoption of certain amendments to the bill. Up to the close of office hours no official announcement had come of the capture of the Spanish merchantman near Key West.

Up to noon to-day nothing has been received by the Government indicating that the Spanish fleet had left Cape Verde Islands. What may be the purpose of the Spanish Government as to disposition of this fleet is not known, but the belief among high officials is that Spanish vessels will be sent before the American or Cuban waters. It must

be realized, it is said, that cut off from a coal supply, they would be at a great disadvantage and would run a great risk of total annihilation. Nor is it believed that Captain-General Blanco will be in a hurry to precipitate a conflict, and therefore it is not expected that Captain Sampson's fleet will have very much to do during the next few days, but to prevent supplies from entering Havana. Nevertheless, it is believed that hostilities will not be delayed longer than necessary to get our army within supporting distance. When that is accomplished our navy will not delay an hour, but will attack the fortifications.

There were many rumors at the Navy Department to-day as to the movements of the fleet, and it is understood that the change will not be made until other provision is made for just such service as that. To allow Commodore Schley to go to sea on a long cruise, leaving exposed the great cities of the Atlantic Coast and numberless unprotected small towns without some kind of a naval force to keep off the torpedo boats and gunboats, would be very bad strategy, so that unless something unexpected happens Commodore Schley is likely to be detained near by Hampton Roads until Commodore Howell's patrol fleet is ready to replace it.

The Secretary of the Navy has asked Congress for authority to enlist volunteers without limit as an auxiliary naval reserve for coast defense. Captain Sampson will be nominated Rear-Admiral, but after the war closes he will drop back to his old rank. This step is taken to insure Sampson's command as ranking officer.

### THE ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

Its Departure From Key West to Blockade Cuba.

KEY WEST, April 22.—The North Atlantic squadron, except the monitors Terror and Puritan and the smaller cruisers, sailed from Key West at 5:45 o'clock this morning headed for the Florida Coast. The skies were growing gray with the coming dawn, when the formidable family of destroyers quietly and unostentatiously steamed away, presumably for the shores of Cuba.

Besides the two monitors, the ships left behind are the gunboat Helena, the cruisers Marston, and the torpedo boat Dolphin and the torpedo boats Cushing, Dupont and Porter.

Throughout the long night unceasing activity on the vessels of the fleet told weary watchers on shore that the long-awaited advance on Havana was being made, and that nothing official on which to found their belief.

Washington advices of yesterday indicated the probability of a movement during the night or to-day, but the naval men ashore disclaimed any knowledge of orders. They still averaged that their condition of uncertainty was still unchanged.

Early in the evening, however, came the first realization of the fact that the tedious period of inaction was nearing its close. The signal was hoisted recalling all the men to the ships without delay, many interpreted this as a precautionary measure, especially in view of the fact that a number of officers, including several from the flagship, remained ashore, and the fleet for the night. About 11 o'clock there occurred a decided change in the situation, when a special boat hurried from the flagship with orders to all still ashore to immediately return to the ships. Midnight found the city empty of soldiers, and the harbor lights, which it had grown so familiar, save one or two recalcitrant jacks, whose convivial patriotism had run away with their sense of duty, there was not a naval man to be found in town.

The theater of action was transferred to the harbor, where a glittering panorama was enacted until daylight appeared slowly over the waters of the Gulf. For many days past the flagship majestically swung at anchor about seven miles out, flanked by her gorgeous sisters, the Iowa and the Indiana. To the eyes of Key West the great smokestacks were barely visible, while the hulls lay like indistinguishable shadows in the distant waters. The inner harbor, however, offered a striking picture, crowded with monitors, cruisers, gunboats and little but sinister torpedo boats, fitting noiselessly in and out of the maze of greater vessels lying at anchor.

When the twilight fell last night this scene was unaltered. The signal lights on the distant trio of ships and those closer in shore had been the custom ever since the assemblage of the fleet here, but last night varicolored lights glimmered their messages across skies almost without cessation. The first streaks of the morning light were crossing from the east, and two bells just sounded from the ships, when a tiny, and to unfamiliar eyes, an almost imperceptible line of fire appeared on the sky above where lay the flagship. A moment or two later, and the signal staff of the Cincinnati, lying off Fort Taylor in the inner harbor, flashed into colored light, acknowledging the call. The Puritan and Helena joined in the incandescent signals, and soon the skies were kaleidoscopic, as ship after ship answered, and new lights ticked messages fraught with the gravest importance and creative of history. What words, of course, no one ashore knew, but the few who watched with straining eyes from the docks described no interpreter to tell that it meant hostile action.

The message was not long in delivery, but sunrise had fully come and the last letter flickered and went out. Then the witnesses saw that the movement had actually begun under cover of the night. The big ships could still be discerned in the distance, but the others had moved toward them, the flagship drawing other ships of the squadron to her. The Wilmington an Amphitrite had slipped from their anchors and advanced within hailing distance of the flagship.

It was just 5:42 when the New York, without unnecessary display, moved pompously and slowly toward the outer waters of the Gulf. The red light flashed the signal to eager eyes on the following fleet, and told them to get in motion at last. To those ashore it looked as if the New York was somewhat in advance of the line, with the Iowa and Indiana following on either side, but separated from her by a good stretch of water. As the line advanced toward the horizon the ships spread out, until there was a distance of three

## CUBAN PORTS ARE NOW BLOCKADED.

### A Proclamation to That Effect Issued.

### Note Also Sent to Representatives of Foreign Nations

### Notifying Them of Our Policy as to Privateering and Neutrality.

### The State Department Considering the Question of Calling Upon Congress to Take Action Relative to a Declaration of War.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—One of the most important acts of the President was the signing and issuing of a proclamation announcing the blockade of Cuban ports.

Following up the formalities beginning with the blockade proclamation, the State Department this afternoon addressed an identical note to all of the representatives of the foreign nations accredited to Washington, notifying them of the policy to be pursued by this Government, in the matter of privateering and neutrality. This was followed by the sending of cable messages to all American Embassies and Legations abroad, containing the same information in a little more succinct form for presentation to the Governments to which they are accredited. The statement was precisely similar in terms to that telegraphed by the Associated Press last Wednesday, and its formal adoption by the Government as the line of policy to be pursued was not prevented by the criticism passed upon it in the Senate yesterday by Money of Mississippi.

In brief, it declares that our Government will not resort to privateering; that enemy's goods on neutral bottoms, save contraband, are exempt from seizure; that neutral goods not contraband under the enemy's flag are exempt from seizure, and that blockades, to be binding, must be effective. In substance, these are the principles laid down in the agreement of Paris of 1856.

The officials are not disturbed at the semi-official notice from Madrid that Spain will refuse to be bound by the same principles and forbid privateering, for they are satisfied that the great commercial Powers will not tolerate the practice of privateering under the Spanish flag.

Inasmuch as there exists a great amount of misapprehension, not only among foreign countries, but also among American shippers, as to the character of merchandise that is contraband and liable to seizure during the progress of war, the following unofficial but authentic statement has been obtained from a high official of the Government:

CONTRABAND OF WAR. In determining, according to the law of nations, whether merchandise is contraband of war, it is classified:

1. Absolute contraband.
2. Occasional or conditional contraband.
3. Goods not contraband.

The first class includes all goods of an essentially warlike character. The second class includes provisions, naval stores, coal, horses, certain kinds of machinery, certain forms of steel, iron, etc., which are subservient to warlike use and which are destined for the use of the enemy. They are contraband or not, according to occasion and conditions as to their character, shipment and destined use. Every such case depends on its own facts.

The third class includes articles not suited to warlike use, such as church service and musical instruments, household wares and goods and other such like articles and including many that are purely of a mercantile character.

No article of merchandise is contraband unless transported beyond the territorial waters and jurisdiction of the neutral State, nor unless destined for an enemy's port or for an enemy's use, or for an enemy's ship on the high seas, which belligerent ships are permitted to police in search of enemy's ships and contraband of war.

No final and exhaustive definition of contraband articles can be given. They are changing with the progress of invention. Some articles were formerly contraband which are not now, and the converse is true. Each belligerent Government is competent to determine what it will treat as contraband. Its proscription of contraband articles is conclusive. If such proscription should be made in outrageous disregard of international law or treaty rights, neutral States affected would probably interpose. Neither belligerent can treat goods as contraband in violation of its

treaty stipulations with a neutral power as regards the subjects of that power. Anyone desiring to ship goods to a foreign port in neutral vessels would profitably consult any existing treaties between Spain and the Government of that port.

The belligerent right of capture as against a neutral exists only either in a case of contraband of war or of enemy's goods aboard, or of a violation of an effective blockade, and in other analogous cases where the conduct of the neutral justifies the belligerent in treating its property as enemy property. If Spain adheres to the principles "free ships, free goods," as this Government proposes to do, only contraband goods are subject to capture in such ships.

Inquiry at the Navy Department as to the story that our Government has arranged for the seizure of the Hawaiian Islands, and the establishment of a coaling station in Hawaii, failed to secure any positive statement on the subject. There is good authority for believing that the story is exaggerated, and that all that will be done is to provide for the establishment of a coaling depot and its adequate protection.

### ARE NOW LAWS.

### Proclamation for Volunteers and Embargo Resolutions Signed.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—It was unusually quiet at the White House during the forenoon, largely in anticipation of the assembling of the President's official council, for it was regular Cabinet day. Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and Senator Cannon of Utah were with the President early to-day. Senator Cannon's visit, however, was largely of a personal character. He expressed the belief that there would be a formal declaration of war made by Congress to-morrow, and that it would be put through the Senate within a few minutes after noon, when the period of adjournment would expire. He said he did not think the department for the Government to take such action until after the limit had expired.

Arrangements were made early to-day for the assumption of office at 11 o'clock of Mr. Smith, the new Postmaster-General. Associate Justice Shiras of Pittsburgh administered the oath to Mr. Smith at the White House shortly before the Cabinet meeting.

Senator Davis, as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, was in conference with Mr. McKinley for half an hour. In his conclusion he announced that there had been a material change in the situation, and that everything was progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. Gary, the retiring Postmaster-General, remained only long enough to witness the taking of the oath by his successor, and then feeling badly the President and his colleagues good-by.

### PROCLAMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS SIGNED.

Secretary Alger to-day took to the White House for the President's signing of the proclamation prepared at the War Department for 100,000 men to serve as volunteers for one year. In many respects the call follows the outlines of the first made by President Lincoln on April 15, 1861, when he asked for 75,000 men. Necessarily, however, the number of volunteers is asked. If the precedents are followed, Secretary Alger, promptly upon the issuance of the proclamation, will require the Executive of each State to cause to be immediately detached from the militia the quota it may be called upon to furnish. The Governors will communicate the time at which such militia will be expected at the rendezvous, where they will be met by officers of the United States to muster them into the service of the Government. Following this the Secretary of War will designate officers for the muster service, and they will report at places in each State where troops will be rendezvoused. President Lincoln's first call was for 75,000, but the total number furnished was 91,816.

It was signed before the meeting adjourned, and will be promulgated, it is understood, at once.

### EMBARGO RESOLUTIONS ALSO SIGNED.

The embargo resolutions of Congress were also discussed at length, and finally approved by the President. These will be put into effect immediately. They will effectually prevent the landing at any Cuban or other Spanish port of coal and contraband articles. Customs officers will be instructed not to grant clearance papers to any vessels so laden, and if a false statement is made as to their destination, they will not be permitted to pass the blockade, and will be subject to seizure.

During the meeting, General Greeley, the Chief Signal Officer of the army, was called in, as was also Mr. Marean, the local manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, but the nature of their business was not disclosed.

The Cabinet discussed a number of important matters bearing upon the situation, but the members were unusually reticent in regard to them. The President and his advisers consider the war now on, and no time will be lost in forcing the issue.

### CUBAN PORTS BLOCKADED.

### Proclamation to That Effect Issued by the President.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The following proclamation announcing blockade of Cuban ports was issued to-day: By the President of the United States. A PROCLAMATION. Whereas, by a joint resolution passed by the Congress and approved April 20, 1898, and communicated by the Government of Spain, it was demanded that said Government at once relinquish its authority and Government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and the President of the United States was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such extent as might be necessary to carry said resolution into effect; and

Whereas, in carrying into effect such resolution, the President of the United States deems it necessary to set on foot and maintain in a blockade of the

north coast of Cuba, in including all ports of said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda, and the port of Cienfuegos, on the south coast of Cuba;

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, in order to enforce the said resolution, do hereby declare and proclaim that the United States of America, has instituted and will maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos, on the south coast of Cuba, aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States, and the laws of nations applicable to such cases. An efficient force will be posted so as to prevent the entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid.

Any neutral vessel approaching said ports and attempting to leave the same without notice or knowledge of the establishment of such blockade will be duly warned by the commander of the blockading forces, who will endorse on her register the fact and the date of such warning, and when such endorsement is made, and if the same vessel shall again attempt to enter any blockaded port she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port for such proceedings against her and her cargo as prize as may be deemed advisable.

Neutral vessels lying in any of the said ports at the time of the establishment of such blockade will be allowed thirty days to issue therefrom. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this 22d day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY. By the President: John Sherman, Secretary of State.

### DECLARATION OF WAR.

### Congress May be Called Upon to Take Such Action.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The State Department is now considering the advisability of requesting Congress to declare war. While there is no absolute necessity for the immediate declaration, there are several reasons why the adoption of such a course could prove advantageous to us.

Strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the State Department to induce it to make a proper recommendation to Congress to serve as a basis of action. It is held that unless a formal declaration is issued we cannot set in motion the neutrality laws of foreign countries, and, in fact, would be practically in the position that Spain occupied toward Cuba—denying that war exists, in spite of the actual facts.

There is another reason of material importance just now that may influence action. That is that the army and navy may be prevented from calling for the services of retired officers. It being the fact that in some cases the statutes provide that this may be done only upon "a declaration of war." This is notably the case with the medical corps of the army, which is likely to be under a number of retired officers of that branch of the service. In the navy also it is extremely desirable that the Secretary have the power to avail himself of the services of retired officers to replace in the navy yards and stations the younger officers, who are needed afloat.

### HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

### May Now be in Possession of United States Authorities.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—Advices from Honolulu, dated April 14th, just received here, state that it was rumored that the United States Admiral Miller would formally take possession of the islands in the name of the United States as a coaling station, on the following day. It was impossible, however, to verify the report before the steamer Rio de Janeiro sailed for San Francisco on the 16th inst. The advices received were as follows:

HONOLULU, April 14.—The Stars and Stripes may wave over the Government buildings to-morrow morning. At a late hour this afternoon information has been received, apparently from the highest authority, that the American Minister Sewell and Admiral Miller will take formal possession of the islands in the name of the United States to-morrow morning. It was a foregone conclusion when the Zealandia left San Francisco on the 10th inst. that war would be declared with Spain, and it is stated that President McKinley has taken advantage of his increased power to seize the islands as a coaling station. It is impossible at this late hour either to find confirmation or denial of the rumor, but it comes from such high authority that it smacks very strongly of the truth. The statement has been frequently made that in case of war between the United States and Spain the American flag would surely be raised here. In a recent Washington dispatch it was stated that the State Department had rendered an opinion that the President could make such a seizure in case of necessity.

A local paper recently printed the following: "Admiral Miller has made the statement that he is in Honolulu for the purpose of annexing the islands to the United States. The remark was made voluntarily and without reserve to a Government official."

"At his town residence the Admiral was asked what he thought of the Cuban situation. He declined to discuss, but a moment later added 'My chief concern is right here. I am here to annex the Spanish Islands, and will not leave until that is accomplished.'"

### MEETS WITH FAVOR AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—It was learned at the Capitol to-day that the President in conversation with Senators asked them what they thought of the proposition to take the Hawaiian Islands, as well as the Philippines, as a war measure. Those in favor of annexation of Hawaii express the hope that the San Francisco report is true.

Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations are generally without information as to the plan of the Administration in Hawaii, but some of them endorse the idea of securing the Pacific Islands by seizure at this time, in view of their strategic importance.

Senator Davis, Chairman of the committee, is among those who hold this view. He said to-day that he considered that the United States would be entirely justified in taking the islands in case of war as a war measure. "They would," he said, "be necessary for our

## NO CRISIS IN SPANISH CABINET.

### Sagasta Will Continue as Premier.

### One Minister Will Resign to Command a Fleet.

### A Royal Decree Issued Calling for Thirty Thousand Reserves.

### The Failure of the Torpedo Flotilla to Cross the Atlantic Said to Be Deliberate Disabling of Engines by the Engineers.

MADRID, April 22.—A royal decree has been gazetted calling out 30,000 men of the reserve of 1887.

All persons consulted by the Queen Regent have advised a continuance of the Sagasta Cabinet. It is probable, however, that the Minister of Marine, Admiral Bermejo, will insist upon resigning in order to take command of a squadron.

Patriotic enthusiasm reigns through Madrid. The Queen Regent had a long conference with General Weyler, and the European diplomats had frequent conferences with Senor Gullon, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Queen Regent also consulted with Senors Silveira and Romero Robledo, Conservatives. The former said he agreed with the declarations of Marshal Martinez de Campos, when the latter said: "There are only two parties in Spain. One is for peace, and the second is for war. The first has failed, and the second ought now to be called."

The Premier, on leaving the palace at 2 o'clock this afternoon, declared there was absolutely no foundation in the rumors of a Cabinet crisis. The Premier during the day announced that the Senate will meet to-morrow and the Chamber will meet Monday.

An immense crowd witnessed the military parade in front of the palace this morning, and intense enthusiasm was displayed when the young King appeared on a balcony. A big demonstration has been arranged to take place before the Military Club to-night.

"El Epoca," Conservative, discusses the question of privateers, and expresses a doubt of the truth of the report that the United States has renounced this option, "inasmuch as America and Spain were the only nations that maintained the option at the Congress of Paris in 1856." The paper insists that "all the arguments then advanced by the United States for upholding the option now are in favor of Spain, who will not renounce it."

"El Epoca" says also that "Spain does not consider fair the declaration of the neutral powers as to contraband of war, thus favoring one of the belligerents, namely, America," and it cites the case of England in 1855, who opposed stoutly the action of France in the Tonquin war in declaring rice contraband. "All that England then alleged in favor of British subjects," says "El Epoca," "can be urged from Spain respecting coal, which is the bread of life, of industry, without which modern wars are impossible."

Respecting the blockade of Cuba, "El Epoca" calls to mind and invites the attention of Europe to the fact that "both America and Spain accepted clause four in the declaration of Paris, providing that 'a blockade must be effective, and not on paper.'"

"El Epoca" declares that twice the present American fleet would not be adequate to establish an effective blockade of Cuba. Moreover, under the established rules, a blockade requires previous notification to the authorities of Cuba and the powers, allowing all shipping a definite time to clear out of the blockaded ports.

### THE SPANISH FLOTILLA.

### Reason for the Fleet Not Crossing the Atlantic.

ST. LOUIS, April 22.—The following dispatch has just been received at the Associated Press office in this city from the "Tribune," Galveston, Texas: "It is reported by Captain Barnett of the British steamer Astou, which arrived here to-day from Los Palmas, Canary Islands, that the delay of the Spanish torpedo flotilla, which was attributed to rough seas, was in fact due to the deliberate disabling of the engines by the engineers who did not want to cross the sea. Repairs, it was stated, were made by local mechanics as the engineers could not be trusted."

GALVESTON (Texas), April 22.—The British steamer Astou, Captain Barnett, arrived this morning from Las Palmas, Grande Canary, one of the Canary Island group. Captain Barnett arrived at Las Palmas March 31st, two days after the Spanish torpedo flotilla left that port. He was reliably informed that the machinery of several torpedo boats and torpedo boat de-

(Continued on Sixth Page.)