

BLOCKADE AT CUBA'S CAPITAL.

Warships Remain Before the City

With No Present Purpose of Bombarding Forts.

No Fear of the Spanish Attacking North American Coast.

Growing Belief at War Department that the Campaign Proper in Cuba Will Not be in Full Swing Before Next Fall.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The war situation is substantially this: The blockading squadron remains passive before Havana, with no present purpose of bombarding or of drawing the fire of the shore batteries. The strategic purpose of an effective blockade of the Cuban capital is being accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the authorities here. There is no indication that a part of the fleet will be withdrawn for the purpose of affording additional protection to North Atlantic ports.

As to the reports of the imminence of a naval battle off the Philippines, the naval authorities here seriously doubt whether the Spanish fleet will make a stand against the American ships. Their reason for this belief is that the Spanish fleet is very inferior to the American force under Admiral Dewey. The department, therefore, is satisfied that the Spanish fleet will not go to do battle on the high seas with Admiral Dewey, but will remain in port to secure the protection of the batteries of Manila, and the department is not expecting an engagement for about two days. Without giving any foundation for setting this time, the department allows it to be surmised that the estimate is based on its knowledge of Admiral Dewey's whereabouts. There is no certainty that there will be an engagement at all in the immediate future, the main purpose of the American expedition being to seize and hold some suitable Spanish territory in the Philippines as a base of operations in Asiatic waters. It is possible that this can be done without attacking Manila at all, by seizing a suitable port on some adjacent island without fortifications, the sympathies of whose inhabitants are toward the insurgents.

No word had come to the department up to the close of office hours of the arrival of the Montserrat at Cienfuegos. The officials are inclined to believe that if she has gotten in that port she did so before the blockade of Cienfuegos had begun.

The very fact that the Madrid officials have rather ostentatiously declared that the Spanish fleet has sailed to bombard the cities on the North American coast is taken as a certain indication at the Navy Department of the utter improbability of such a movement. If this were contemplated the Spanish officials would be the very last to make their purpose public.

The Navy Department has yet had no arrangements for the care of prisoners taken by our warships, but the legal officers of the department think they should be sent to the Boston naval prison.

Some vexation was felt at the injury sustained by the Cushing. It is said that this is the first serious breakdown she had suffered in the nine years of her service. Likely the Navy Department will be able to replace her shortly, for President Malster of the Columbia Iron Works called at the Navy Department this afternoon to announce that the torpedo-boat McKee, a twenty-two knotter, would be ready for trial tomorrow. She will be sent at once to Norfolk to have the finishing touches added, and then will join the squadron.

In the War Department there is a growing belief that the campaign proper in Cuba will not be in full swing before next fall, when the rainy season has ended. That belief, however, has not prevented the officers whose duty it is to get the troops together from pushing their work with the greatest energy. Thus, within twelve hours after the Hull bill became a law, the department was able to begin to send out circulars prescribing the methods to be followed in recruiting the regular army up to its full war strength of 61,000 men. The enormous amount of work involved in thus increasing the army, regular and volunteer, has caused General Miles to abandon his Southern trip for the present.

The officials of the department were overwhelmed to-day with all sorts of protests and appeals against their action in making the assignment of troops among the volunteer forces, and many changes may be looked for. The State Department posted a notice

to-day stating it had been officially advised of the issuance of neutrality orders by Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden, Russia and Colombia. It is supposed also that official notice of Great Britain's and France's neutrality will be received by to-morrow. Including France and Great Britain, four of the six great Powers have declared their neutrality, namely, Great Britain, Italy, France and Russia. There remains of the great Powers Germany and Austria, neither of which have yet acted. The delay of Austria does not cause surprise, as Austria's sympathy with Spain is more pronounced than that of any other country of Europe. It is not doubted, however, that Austria will assume a neutral attitude sooner or later. The delay of Germany is felt to be due solely to Germany's consulting her own commercial interests before shaping the exact terms of her neutrality proclamation. From the first Germany and Great Britain have opposed the right of search as detrimental to British and German commerce. Thus far Spain has announced a much more radical doctrine than the United States on this matter. The Spanish order, published in the "Official Gazette" last Monday, announced the purpose of exercising the right of search of all merchant ships on the high seas. The President's proclamation of yesterday qualified the right of search by saying that "it is to be exercised with strict regard to the right of neutrals, and the voyage of mail steamers are not to be interfered with except on the clearest grounds of suspicion, etc."

It is understood that this matter of right of search is causing hesitation on the part of Germany, and that if it is satisfactorily established that German merchant ships shall not be subjected to harassment, Germany will adopt the same course as other nations.

The attitude of Portugal is felt to be more important just at present than that of any of the great Powers of Europe, owing to the presence of the Spanish fleet at the Cape Verde Islands, belonging to Portugal. Neither the State Department nor the Portuguese Minister at Washington has received word up to to-night as to the purpose of Portugal on the question of neutrality. This caused considerable apprehension in official circles here, as it was felt that Portugal's vicinage to Spain might induce her to withhold neutrality for a time. She owns the Cape Verde group, the Azores and the Madeiras, which would give the Spanish fleet three very important bases of operations. Late in the day the press dispatches from Lisbon, saying that the Cabinet council will declare neutrality to-morrow, relieves this apprehension considerably. The effect of the decree will be to compel the Spaniards at Cape Verde to leave immediately. It is felt, however, that Portugal has done her neighbor a good turn in deferring the proclamation until to-morrow, as the Spanish fleet has been lying in stores and coal for several days past, and doubtless will be fully equipped and ready to sail before the neutrality proclamation forces them out of Portuguese waters.

Members of the diplomatic corps dismiss the reports coming from Europe that another move towards European intervention will be made as soon as Spain suffers a decisive reverse. This is said to be purely conjectural, as no such move has taken form thus far by the exchange of notes. It is accepted as settled that no more ships intended for the American navy can leave the ports of those countries which have declared their neutrality. This result is most serious in the case of the cruiser Albany, now at the Armstrong yards, in England. The view among diplomatic officials is that neither the Albany nor the torpedo boat Somers can leave, even though the United States flag was raised over them before the proclamation of neutrality was issued. It is said the raising of the flag cannot avoid the manifest uses of the ships for war purposes.

PLANS OF CO-OPERATION.

Gen. Miles Holds Another Conference With Cuban Agents.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Another conference has been held between General Miles, commanding the United States forces, and representatives of the Cuban civil and military authorities. The latter included Senator Quesada, Charge d'Affaires of the Cuban Legation, Brigadier General Nunez and Lieutenant Artigao of the Cuban army. Artigao has seen seventeen months' service in the field, and Nunez has an intimate knowledge of all the ports of Cuba, having directed the movements of all filibustering parties. The conference brought about a full discussion of the plans of co-operation between the United States and Cuban forces. The details of this co-operation are guarded with the strictest secrecy.

The exploit of Lieutenant Rowan in landing near Santiago has been known for several days to both the United States and Cuban authorities, as they co-operated in executing this move. The Cuban Junta here furnished the guides and papers to see Lieutenant Rowan through the Cuban lines. It is in the execution of plans outlined in these dispatches Monday for a landing at Santiago and Sagua, two points on the Cuban Coast, one north and one south, respectively, with a view to effecting junctions with both General Gomez and General Garcia. Now that Lieutenant Rowan is on his way to effect a junction at Santiago it is not improbable that another junction will be made by way of Sagua.

The first purpose of these movements, it is understood, is to bring about a full equipment of insurgent forces, rather than to secure a joint movement between them and the United States troops. It is said that Garcia and Gomez together can muster 25,000 men, and that they will be able to make a strong forward movement on Havana as soon as they have arms, ammunition and medical supplies. The latter, particularly quinine, are said to be greatly needed. The understanding among those best acquainted with the plans of co-operation is that the Cuban

forces will advance on Havana and co-operate with the blockade by the United States warships.

In this connection there is renewed talk of the recognition of the Cubans, at least in the Gomez and Garcia, and possibly their independence, and confident hopes were expressed to-day in high Cuban circles that recognition would be granted within the next two weeks. One of the first effects of this, it is said, would be to give the Cubans an official status at Washington, instead of their present unofficial status. The conference now with General Miles and other officials are being productive of important results, and yet they are necessarily unofficial in character, owing to the unrecognized state of the Cubans. Now, however, the Gomez and Garcia are being recognized as material factors in the contest, and are being treated with by the War Department, the desirability of their recognition, at least as belligerents, is being urged as warranting formal recognition. It is said the cooperation already established in itself a recognition of the de facto existence of the Cuban army and of belligerency, and that the de jure recognition should follow. While these hopes are renewed in Cuban circles, it cannot be learned that the Administration has modified its attitude against recognition of any character.

In the event of Cuban recognition, it is probable that President Palma of the Cuban Junta would be the first Minister accredited from Cuba, with Senor Quesada as Charge d'Affaires at Washington and Senor Alberto as first Secretary. President Palma spends most of his time in New York, leaving Senor Quesada in active charge here.

APPORTIONING OF TROOPS.

War Department Besieged With Officials Suggesting Changes.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Senators, members of the House of Representatives and State officials crowded Secretary Alger's office at the War Department, suggesting changes in the apportionment of the troops the States were called upon to furnish, or asking for a change of rendezvous. Secretary Alger already has made several changes from the original designation of the character of troops wanted and the place of concentration.

Governor Hastings of Pennsylvania and his Adjutant-General came to Washington to-day to secure some modification of the order, so that that State's Secretary Alger took Governor Hastings' request under consideration.

Ex-State Delegate Garbey of Arizona told Secretary Alger that the Territory was anxious to furnish more soldiers than the call for, viz., two troops of cavalry. The offer was taken under consideration.

Now that the Hull army reorganization is a law, recruiting will be begun at once. Each company of infantry, cavalry and artillery will be recruited to its maximum strength permitted by law. A circular has been prepared by Major Carter, fully describing the methods and manner by which this will be done. This circular will be sent broadcast over the United States to-day. The officials believe that with active work by recruiting officers the regular army can be raised to its full war strength of over 61,000 men in a very short time.

Colonel Leonard Wood to-day started for the West to recruit his regiment of mounted riflemen.

Under the official apportionment of volunteers for the States, Colorado was called upon to furnish a light battery of artillery. At the request of the State authorities, the requisition was changed so as to call for a troop of cavalry instead of the battery.

General Miles has abandoned his proposed tour of inspection of Southern posts for the present, for the reason that he is too busily engaged with matters pertaining to the reorganization of the army to leave the city. At his recommendation the Secretary of War has authorized the purchase of 10,000 canvas uniforms for use in the Cuban campaign, and it is expected they will be ready for delivery by the time the advance guard is ready to march on Cuba.

STATE MILITIA.

Troops Mobilizing at Various Centers in the East.

ALBANY (N. Y.), April 27.—Governor Black to-day sent this message to Secretary Alger in response to the telegram received by him last Monday, asking if the State could furnish at once twelve regiments of infantry and two troops of cavalry.

"New York's full quota will be ready any hour you call for it."

This answer shows that a very large percentage of the guard has volunteered.

ST. PAUL, April 27.—Minnesota's volunteers will be mobilized in this city, the War Department has been notified. Governor Clough that he could use his own judgment. The full three regiments can be assembled within less than twenty-four hours.

CLEVELAND, April 27.—The Fifth Regiment, O. N. G., Colonel Kennan commanding, which has been mobilized here for several days, has been ordered by Adjutant-General Milne to start for Columbus Friday morning.

HAIL OF SHELLS INTO SPANISH FORTS.

The New York, Puritan and Cincinnati Bombard Port of Matanzas.

The Attack Was Short in Duration, but the Engagement of Telling Effect.

Great Damage Done to the Forts, and Believed Loss of Life to the Spaniards, but No Casualties Among the Americans, Shot From Spanish Batteries Falling Short of Their Mark.

KEY WEST, April 27.—The New York, Puritan and Cincinnati bombarded the forts at Matanzas this afternoon. The engagement began at 12:45 and closed at 1:15 p. m. There were no casualties on the American side.

Great damage is known to have been done to Matanzas, and it is believed there was loss of life.

THE BOMBARDMENT A SUCCESS.

On board the flagship New York, off Matanzas, April 27, 2 p. m.—(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Matanzas harbor this afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but it is believed that the hail of iron which pounded in the forts must have caused loss of life to the Spaniards, though nothing is known definitely.

The engagement commenced at 12:57, and ceased at 1:15. The object of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda. A battery on the eastward arm of the bay opened fire on the flagship, and this was also shelled. About twelve 8-inch shells were fired from the eastern forts, but all fell short. About five or six light shells were fired from the half-completed battery. Two of these whizzed over the New York, and one fell short. The ships left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries having been accomplished.

In the neighborhood of 200 shots were put on board from the three ships at a range of from 4,000 to 7,000 yards.

Rear Admiral Sampson, when asked if he was satisfied with the result, said: "Yes, I am. I expected to be."

The half-completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently blown up by the shells.

All the ships engaged showed excellent marksmanship throughout the engagement, and when they were firing at the shortest range nearly every shell took effect. The forts which were bombarded were on a low lying point, and were considered merely earthworks. They did not make a good target, yet when the big guns were fired at the shortest range portions of the fort could be seen flying in the air at every shot.

ADMINISTRATION NOT YET NOTIFIED.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—So far as has been learned, the officials of the Administration were not notified of the bombardment of Matanzas this (Thursday) morning. The Navy Department keeps a full fledged telegraph office open in the building all night, and a confidential officer remains at the department all night to translate the messages as received. There was considerable business done over the wires till the early morning hours, but none of the dispatches were sent either to the White House or to the Secretary of the Navy.

IN BLOCKADED ISLAND.

Several Spanish Vessels Reported to Have Safely Arrived.

HAVANA, April 27.—(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—The Spanish coasting steamer Cosme Herrera, which ran the blockade on Saturday last, it appears, is not the only vessel that has reached this port since the blockade was established, as the arrival of the steamer Aviles from Neuvitas is also reported.

It is announced from Cayo Frances, near Calbarien, that two United States monitors captured two schooners loaded with coal, but discovering that they were German vessels released them.

Dispatches from Matanzas say an American torpedo boat destroyer has reached the port of Matanzas. Six shots were fired at her, and she retired. The Italian cruiser Giovane Boisan arrived here Saturday. Her band played the Spanish national hymn, and the forts and Spanish warships answered, their bands playing the Italian national hymn. The usual salutes were exchanged.

The local newspapers publish what they believe to be the names of vessels composing the United States blockading fleet, and incidentally refer to the Dauntless, now the dispatch boat of the Associated Press, which gave the Spaniards so much trouble, it is claimed, by landing filibustering expeditions on the coast of Cuba.

The Spanish gunboat Liberia, it is announced here, encountered near Cardenas, not far from Matanzas, an American torpedo boat destroyer, which opened fire on the Spanish warship. The gunboat, it is added, answered with eleven shots. It is claimed the American destroyer was damaged and retreated.

The Spanish steamer Montserrat, from Cadiz on April 10th, via Las Palmas, on April 13th, for Havana, has arrived safely, it is announced, at Cienfuegos. She had on board two millions in silver and a quantity of ammunition.

She is commanded by Captain Dechama, and is of 2,855 tons.

It is announced that the insurgent Brigadier-General also has been authorized to form a division of natives to fight against the United States troops. The Spanish officials say that the well known insurgent leader, Juan Delgado, and seventeen of his followers have been killed near Canoa.

nificent central plantation at Mapos, in the district of Sancti Spiritus, province of Santa Clara; Modesto Amull, a railroad employe, and Arturo Chalu and Jose Merille, prominent citizens, with some Spanish artillery. Captains and various others, have joined the insurgents. Senor Del Valle has been appointed a Colonel in the insurgent army.

General Pando, the commander of the Spanish forces in the field, when last heard from was traveling from Trinidad to Sancti Spiritus on his way to the Jacaro-Morontoch, from which place he was to go to Manzanillo and Santiago de Cuba, inspecting the forts and other fortifications. From Santiago de Cuba, it is said, General Pando is going to visit all the ports on the north coast of the island, as far as Nuevitas. He will then go to Puerto Principe, to await developments.

The life of foreign newspaper correspondents in this city at present is far from being enviable. The recent expulsion of Mr. Ackers, the correspondent of the London Times, has caused more ill feeling against correspondents among the masses, if not among the military circles. The authorities, however, are doing everything possible to protect the foreigners, Americans included, but the authorities may not be able to prevent some isolated cases of attacks on correspondents.

The excitement caused by the recent developments in the political situation is very great, though of the subdued kind. In other words, the people may not be doing much, but they are thinking a great deal and are determined to make the best of the fight as possible. Correspondents are not allowed to obtain any information regarding the military and naval movements, and it is not wise for them to ask any questions. The quiet maintained by the people under the circumstances is astonishing to all who understand the Spanish character, and the only explanation which can be given is that the Spaniards are saving up their anger and hate for explosion which will occur when the United States troops land.

The Spaniards feel no doubt of the result of the fighting. They are dreaming day and night of victory, and are awaiting anxiously for the news of a defeat of the United States naval forces by the Spanish fleet.

News from Mexico and the Spanish-American Republics is also being awaited here, it being believed in some quarters that assistance is coming from those quarters in one form or another. Merchants here are looking for the day when Spanish misrule in the island will be ended forever; when the Stars and Stripes float over this unhappy land, and the red flag of Spain is hauled down forever.

THE TERROR'S CAPTURE.

The Bolivar Had Sixty Thousand Dollars in Spanish Silver.

KEY WEST, April 27, 1:10 p. m.—The Spanish steamer Ambrosio Bolivar, captured by the monitor Terror, has 80,000 in Spanish silver aboard, in addition to a cargo of bananas. The silver was taken on board the Terror. The steamer was bound from Port Limon, Costa Rica, for Havana when captured off Cardenas by the monitor. She was by the monitor, by Gunner Martin and a prize crew.

The fact that the cruiser Detroit came in to coal at about the same time led to the report that she had conveyed the Bolivar.

The prize court of inquiry appointed by United States Judge Leake at Jacksonville on April 24th to adjust the questions relating to the capture of prize vessels, met here to-day. G. Brown Patterson of this city presided, and the proceedings were conducted in secret. The findings will not be announced until the entire matter has been disposed of. The case of the Catalina, which was captured by the Detroit, and valued at \$400,000, was the first to be heard.

There is considerable speculation as to what disposition will be made of the crews and passengers who are aboard the prizes when captured. They number about 230. United States Attorney Stripping says that the crews and passengers are not prisoners, although the officers are detained as witnesses before the court.

District Attorney Stripping was in communication yesterday with Attorney-General Griggs, who informed him that the War Department had assumed control of the question, and the Attorney-General directed that all possible consideration should be shown to the captured Spaniards. The crews of the captured vessels have been offered their liberty, but as many are without friends here, they do not care to land in a hostile city, despite assurances of protection. They will, therefore, probably be brought ashore here and quartered in barracks under guard of Federal troops, where rations and all possible comforts will be provided for them.

A report from Washington to the effect that the prizes would be turned over to the navy, has caused some disappointment among naval men here.

The work of the court will consist merely of taking depositions, which will be submitted to the United States Court for final settlement.

NO BOMBARDMENT OF HAVANA

Until Serious Danger From Spanish Fleet is Eliminated.

CHICAGO, April 27.—A special to the "Times-Herald" from Washington says:

The Secretary of the Navy declares that Havana will not be bombarded until serious danger from the Spanish fleet is eliminated. He says the United States cannot afford to risk the loss of a warship until the armadas are destroyed or are no longer a menace to be greatly feared. It might be an easy matter to silence the guns of Morro Castle, and the neighboring shore batteries, but in the conflict American ships might be crippled beyond easy repair. The navy of the United States has a long coast line to defend, which compels a scattering of its vessels and its labors under the additional disadvantage of not knowing the objective point of the enemy's fleets. The American navy is not so strong but that the loss of a single ship might prove fatal in a naval engagement.

There is the additional consideration that when the troops have been landed in Cuba there must be a fleet able to keep the line of supplies open and to co-operate in the reduction of Spanish strongholds. It is a common habit to despise the power of Spain, but naval officers say it is a mistake in the case of the armadas. A chance shot or two might weaken the American squadron just enough to give the enemy a victory

PHILIPPINES THE NEXT POINT.

Spanish Hourly Expect Engagement.

The American Asiatic Fleet Sails for Manila.

Thought It Will Reach Its Destination Within Sixty Hours.

The Spanish Fleet Greatest in Point of Number of Vessels, but the Latter Considered More Formidable as to Fighting Qualities.

MADRID, April 27.—6 p. m.—An official dispatch has just been received from the Governor of Manila, capital of the Philippine Islands, in which he announces that he expects to hear hourly of an engagement between the Spanish and American squadrons.

There is a report in circulation here that some of the Spanish cruisers now gathered about Manila will be used later to scour the Pacific and destroy American commerce in those waters. OUR ASIATIC FLEET SAILS FOR MANILA.

LONDON, April 28.—The Hongkong correspondent of the "Times" says: The American fleet, headed by the flagship Olympia, sailed at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) direct for Manila. The British cruiser Immortalite will follow the American squadron.

The Hongkong correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says: United States Consul-General Williams, after spending the evening ashore with Consul Wilman, accompanied the American squadron. Thirty insurgent leaders here wanted to accompany it, but Chief Aguinaldo, as their representative, will take charge of the insurgent forces as Manila.

Admiral Dewey has issued strict orders that no barbarous or inhuman acts are to be perpetrated by the insurgents. The primary object is the capture of the Spanish fleet, which Admiral Dewey thinks more important than capturing Manila. He is determined to prevent its preying upon American vessels.

On reaching Manila he will demand its capitulation within half an hour of his arrival. His men are in the best of spirits, and in excellent health. There have been nine desertions, including six Chinese, one Italian and one German, during the fleet's stay at Hongkong. Every preparation has been made. The ships are cleared and painted for battle, and the general opinion is that the fight in these waters will result in an easy victory for America. Her ships carry 122 guns, as against 96 of the Spanish fleet.

The co-operation of the American fleet with the rebels has been kept a strict secret. The latter await the arrival of the fleet, when Manila must soon succumb. Its defenses are in a wretched state. The Manila press, on the contrary, says there is great enthusiasm among the population for Spain, and that an obstinate resistance will be offered to the Americans, but the papers qualify their bold allegation by referring to the phlegmatic character of the natives, which prevents any excited expression of opinion.

These journals say, too, that treason of a few hundred or a few thousand rebels does not affect the virtue of the race, and they haughtily add that the Philippines will prove worthy of Spain. The Governor of the Philippines has issued several proclamations. One required all able-bodied Spaniards to enroll themselves for military service, and accorded permission to foreigners to join. Exemption is granted to all American citizens. One extraordinary proclamation has excited great disgust here. It asserts that "the American people are composed of all social excrescences, who have exhausted our patience and provoked war with their perfidious machinations, their acts of treachery, and their outrages against the law of nations and international conventions."

COMPARISON OF FLEETS.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The United States Asiatic squadron, mobilized at Mirs Bay, China, consists of the flagship Olympia, one of the best cruisers afloat, Captain C. V. Gridley, Rear Admiral George Dewey, Commander-in-Chief, Cruiser Baltimore, Captain N. M. Dyer, cruiser Boston, Captain Frank Wildies, cruiser Concord, Commander Asa A. Walker, cruiser Raleigh, Captain F. B. Coghlan; gunboat Petrel, Commander E. P. Hood; dispatch boat Hugh McCullough, steamer Nanshan, store ship; steamer Zafro, collier.

The Spanish fleet at the Philippine Islands may be able to resist the United States fleet for a short time with the

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

(Continued on Seventh Page.)