

WAR BOARD KEEPS STILL TONGUE.

Not Giving Out Future Plans of Action.

Impression That Spaniards Are Not to be Pursued,

So Long as They Keep in Gulf of Mexico or Caribbean Sea.

Thought That Sampson and Schley Will Encircle Cuba, Maintain the Blockade and Convey Troops to the Island.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The official bulletin boards to-day failed to yield any news of the movements of either of the three fleets—Sampson's, Schley's or the Spanish squadron—and there is reason to believe that the department itself has received no information on that point.

The general impression to-day is that no particular effort is to be made just now to pursue the Spaniards, so long as they keep within the confines of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, but that Sampson and Schley, in combination, will encircle the island of Cuba, maintain the blockade and convey troops across the Florida straits, if necessary, meanwhile simply keeping a watch on the Spanish flying squadron to see that it does no mischief either to the American fleet, or by escaping into the Atlantic, to the seaboard cities.

Considerable pressure has come upon the Administration to have the campaign hastened, and there are thought to be signs of a resumption of the plans of the military leaders for the invasion of Cuba at the point where they were suddenly suspended by the announcement of the arrival of the Spanish flying squadron at Martinique.

The department professes to feel no apprehension that Admiral Dewey or his men are in any way endangered by their occupation of Manila Harbor on the present basis, but this cannot be said of the unfortunate inhabitants of Manila, if the present situation is protracted unduly.

There are indications that the War Department has been brought to see the wisdom and fairness of the suggestions thrown out by Major-General Merritt that his expedition should consist of not less than 15,000 men, and that at least a third of them should be seasoned troops from the regular army, capable of meeting on equal terms the veteran Spanish soldiers who garrison Manila.

General Merritt took occasion to deny very emphatically the accuracy of certain newspaper interviews published this morning, which placed him in the position of refusing to obey an order to proceed to the Philippines because his force was insufficient.

was supposed, and that it will be necessary, in all probability, to have her come to Norfolk for repairs. One shell smashed her low-pressure starboard cylinder, and another traversed one of her boilers. It would be possible to get along under one boiler and reduce the starboard engine from a quadruple to a triple expansion, but the efficiency of the boat would be very much lowered thereby.

CENSORSHIP ON PRESS.

Intimation That the Cabinet May Consider Such a Proceeding. WASHINGTON, May 17.—The Cabinet session to-day lasted until about 12:30 o'clock. Secretary Long came late and left a half hour before the others. Secretary Day also left early.

Secretary Long said that although the matter of rigid censorship on the press was not discussed at to-day's Cabinet meeting, the action of certain newspapers in publishing movements and campaigning plans was causing great embarrassment. The published interview with General Merritt at New York in the course of which he is reported as having expressed his unwillingness to take the command at the Philippine Islands without the Government gave him more than 15,000 volunteer troops, and complaining that such a command was inadequate to his rank, is likely to be the subject of an inquiry by the Government as to whether he was correctly reported.

Nothing was said at the meeting as to the reported purpose of the President to issue a call for additional volunteers, nor was the subject of sending more troops to the Philippines than the 15,000 already decided upon by the President. The Government is now in constant communication with Admiral Dewey, and his judgment as to the troops necessary to accomplish the subjugation of the islands will be followed.

A delegation of prominent negroes, consisting of Governor Pinchard, Colonel Lewis and Captain Judson W. Lyons, called on the Secretary of War to-day and urged that all of the ten regiments of immunes to be sent to Cuba be made up of colored men. They pointed out the special service the colored troops, bred in the Southern climate, and most of them used to conditions similar to those to be confronted in Cuba, would have in the campaign. Secretary Alger was not able to concede all the immune regiments to colored volunteers, but gave assurance that several of them would be composed of men of their race.

MOVEMENTS OF OUR FLEETS.

Action Taken to Prevent Spanish Gaining Any Knowledge.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Brigadier-General Greeley, Chief of the Signal Service and in charge of all strategic communications by telegraph and cable lines, has adopted energetic measures to prevent the Admiral of the Spanish squadron, now in Caribbean waters, from keeping posted on the whereabouts and movements of the United States squadrons and of our prospective naval and military operations.

Last night a telegraph to the New York manager of the Haytian Cable Company forbidding the sending or receipt of any messages, except official messages, to or from the United States Government, disclosing the movements of our fleets and ships. The manager answered this morning that the inhibition would be strictly observed.

General Greeley's order appears to cover the further decision referred to in the company's notice. The orders to these two companies were sent, as the channels of communication under their control seem to be, for the moment, the ones through which the Spanish Admiral and the Spanish authorities at Madrid and Havana are most likely to secure information as to our vessel movements.

While it was not suspected that spies were sending direct information, yet the transmission of press dispatches on this morning, which looked upon as likely to indicate to the Spaniards with sufficient certainty the general whereabouts and purposes of our fleets.

General Greeley's telegraphic orders supplement the written orders he had previously given to all cable companies, six in number, having lines from the United States. The written orders have been agreed to in writing by each of the cable companies, and now constitute an agreement with the Government.

Blockade at Manila Very Rigid.

Several Foreign Ships Refused Admittance. Belief That the City Will Soon Capitulate to Americans.

GEN. MERRITT'S REQUEST.

Presented at the War Department by Inspector-General Hughes. WASHINGTON, May 17.—Colonel R. P. Hughes, Inspector-General, with headquarters at New York City, was at the War Department to-day on a mission from General Merritt in connection with the assignment of regular troops to accompany the Philippine expedition soon to start from San Francisco.

General Merritt's preference for a larger number of regulars than it was proposed by the department to give him, has been known here for some time, and his views on that subject are shared by many of the army officials. They realize that General Merritt will have a delicate and important duty to perform as Military Governor of the Philippines, and they agree in expressing the opinion that the general should have an adequate and well disciplined force at his command to maintain order in a city that will be filled with discordant elements. There are not enough regulars in the West to furnish the number that General Merritt thinks should be sent on the expedition, and, consequently, Secretary Alger and the department officials have been considering the advisability of withdrawing about three of the infantry regiments from Tampa, where a large number are rendezvousing, and dispatching them post haste to the Pacific Coast.

Nothing was said at the meeting as to the reported purpose of the President to issue a call for additional volunteers, nor was the subject of sending more troops to the Philippines than the 15,000 already decided upon by the President. The Government is now in constant communication with Admiral Dewey, and his judgment as to the troops necessary to accomplish the subjugation of the islands will be followed.

A delegation of prominent negroes, consisting of Governor Pinchard, Colonel Lewis and Captain Judson W. Lyons, called on the Secretary of War to-day and urged that all of the ten regiments of immunes to be sent to Cuba be made up of colored men. They pointed out the special service the colored troops, bred in the Southern climate, and most of them used to conditions similar to those to be confronted in Cuba, would have in the campaign. Secretary Alger was not able to concede all the immune regiments to colored volunteers, but gave assurance that several of them would be composed of men of their race.

AT CHICKAMAUGA.

Volunteers Arriving at the Park in Great Numbers.

CHATTANOOGA, May 17.—To-day is one of the busiest in the history of Chickamauga Park. A number of regiments that arrived yesterday afternoon and last night remained in their camps over night, and in the early morning have been pitching tents and arranging their camps. Special trains are arriving hourly, and the Park is fast filling up.

The work of equipping the volunteers is keeping the ordnance officers busier than they have probably ever been before. The major part of the volunteers are equipped, and immense amounts of supplies must be issued them. Several special trains with arms and equipments are now en route.

Practically all here are enjoying the best of health, only about a dozen being troubled with slight ailments. There is no confusion, despite the immense amount of work, General Brooke personally seeing that everything is done in a business-like way.

Eleven regiments of infantry, one cavalry and five light artillery, 12,000 men all told, have reported to General Brooke, in command of Chickamauga army.

General Brooke to-day completed the assignments for the first division of the sixth provisional army corps, Major General James H. Wilson commanding, as follows:

First Brigade—Brigadier General, A. S. Hart; First Ohio, Colonel Hunt; Third Wisconsin, Colonel Martin T. Moore; Fifth Illinois, Colonel J. S. Culver.

Second Brigade—Brigadier General, C. E. Compton; Fourth Ohio, Colonel A. B. Coit; Third Illinois, Colonel Fred Bennet; Fourth Pennsylvania, Colonel D. B. Case.

Third Brigade—Brigadier General, H. W. Lawton; Sixteenth Pennsylvania, Colonel Huling; Second Wisconsin, Colonel C. A. Born; One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Indiana, Colonel George M. Studebaker.

The Third Pennsylvania, the crack Philadelphia regiment, eight companies, 639 officers and men, arrived here this afternoon. Colonel Robert Ralston is in command. The Third presented a fine appearance. They were handsomely uniformed and fully equipped.

The Sixteenth Pennsylvania, eight companies and about 800 officers and men, arrived this morning at 7 o'clock. The regiment is in command of Colonel Huling. This command was uniformed and provided with arms.

The Thirty-first Michigan Infantry, twelve companies, 1,022 men and officers, arrived this morning. The regiment is in command of Colonel Gardner.

Blockade at Manila Very Rigid.

Several Foreign Ships Refused Admittance.

Belief That the City Will Soon Capitulate to Americans.

Natives May Make an Attack Within a Few Days.

Belief at Port au Prince That a Naval Engagement Took Place on Sunday Near the Entrance to the Windward Passage.

HONGKONG, May 17 (Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—The steamer Esmeralda, which has just arrived from Manila with 400 refugees, chiefly Chinese, reports that the United States cruisers Concord and Boston are going to Iloilo, where they expect prompt capitulation, and to recapture the American ship Saranac, with a cargo of coal.

The blockade of Manila is extremely rigid and several foreign ships have been refused admittance. The rebels are useless as allies of Admiral Dewey. They are utterly disunited, quite half of them being in favor of Spain.

The Cavite arsenal was found empty. Colonel Miquel of the artillery committed suicide because he discovered that the ammunition was non-existent. Captain-General Augusti is trying hard to conciliate the rebels, and has authorized the establishment of native councils.

The Archbishop of Manila, in a pastoral issued on the 8th inst., said: "Christians, defend your faith against heretics who raise an insuperable barrier to immortal souls, enslave the people, abolish crosses from cemeteries, forbid pastors to perform baptism, matrimony or funeral rites, or to administer consolation or grant absolution."

Pending the arrival of troops from the United States the Americans defer hostilities ashore.

ATTACK MAY BE MADE ON MANILA.

LONDON, May 18.—The Hongkong correspondent of the "Times," telegraphing Tuesday, says: "Aguinaldo and the principal leaders in the recent rising left to-day in the United States dispatch boat McCulloch for Cavite. They will attempt to persuade the natives to attack Manila in a few days. They have promised Admiral Dewey to regulate their conduct in connection with the principles of humanity."

"The Americans are evidently anxious to complete their conquest before the arrival of the troops from San Francisco. British residents now take a more hopeful view, and a famine is no longer feared."

A dispatch to the "Times" from Manila dated May 13th says: "As a means of keeping the natives loyal and inducing them to refrain from assisting the Americans, Governor-General Augusti has instituted a consulting assembly composed of fifteen members of mixed and native blood. Its President is Senator Paterno, who achieved the late success and accompanied the rebels to Hongkong in December. Preparations are being made to send food supplies to outlying districts in case of bombardment."

"The Archbishop of Manila appoints June 17th as a day of rejoicing at the renewed consecration of the Philippine Islands to the sacred heart of Jesus."

WILL SOON BE COMPELLED TO CAPITULATE.

LONDON, May 18.—The Hongkong correspondent of the "Standard" says: "It is expected, owing to the strict blockade and famine resulting from it, that the city of Manila will soon be compelled to capitulate to the American blockading squadron under Admiral Dewey."

DEWEY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

NEW YORK, May 17.—A special from Hongkong says that Consul Wildman has returned there from Kowloon Bay, where he took the insurgent leader, General Aguinaldo, and his Cabinet on the McCulloch. An arrangement was made for the insurgents to storm Manila.

The dispatch adds that it is absolutely necessary that American warships and a strong military force be sent to Admiral Dewey's aid at once.

WILL TRY TO RAISE SPANISH VESSELS.

CHICAGO, May 17.—A special to the "Journal" from Washington says: It is learned that in his last cable Admiral Dewey said that if wrecking apparatus were sent he would be able to raise a number of the Spanish warships sunk during the battle. The Admiral thinks that several of the gunboats can

be easily raised, repaired and made useful. In view of this the War Department has been hastening the preparations to dispatch the transports now on the Pacific Coast to Manila, and they are expected to leave San Francisco by Thursday.

DEWEY HAS PLANS OF MANILA.

CINCINNATI, May 17.—Wm. Doherty, an ornithologist and entomologist, who, in the interest of science, has traversed the four quarters of the globe and has gained a reputation as far-reaching as his travels, has just returned to his home here from the Philippine Islands via Hongkong and San Francisco. His latest distinction was in successfully passing the Spanish customs officers at Manila with complete plans of the city, the harbor, the fortifications and minute details of their armament, from Consul-General Williams to Admiral George Dewey. It was a dangerous proceeding, but Mr. Doherty carried it to a successful accomplishment. The plans and drawing were concealed in a newly laundered shirt, which was folded, pinned up and branded in the usual way and put with other clothing in his trunk. Arriving at Hongkong early in April, he delivered the supremely important papers to Admiral Dewey on the Olympia.

He is a modest gentleman, and deprecates notoriety and therefore has little to say on the subject except to state the bare facts.

NAVAL BATTLE.

Belief at Port au Prince That One Took Place on Sunday.

PORT AU PRINCE, May 17.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—A great sensation was caused here by the arrival to-day of the military commandant of the Isle of Tortuga, off the coast of Hayti, and due north of Port de Paix, near the entrance to the Windward passage, who brought word to the Haytian War Department of what is believed to have been a naval engagement on Sunday.

The commandant reached Port de Paix from the Isle of Tortuga in a canoe. He reported to the War Office that throughout the day of Sunday a very persistent cannonading had been heard east of the island, and that from its duration and intensity there was a strong presumption that a very serious action had taken place. A thick fog at the time made it impossible to distinguish any vessel that might be engaged.

CANNONADING IN GULF OF MEXICO.

GALVESTON (Tex.), May 17.—The Norwegian steamer Transit, Captain Schlyter, which arrived from Progresso, in quarantine last night, reports having heard heavy cannonading 100 miles off Galveston in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday while en route to this port. It lasted five to ten minutes, but the Transit did not try to investigate. The presumption is that the cannonading was a patrol boat in practice. Alarmists think it was by scouting vessels of the Spanish Cape Verde fleet last reported at Curacao.

SPANISH WARSHIPS.

Vessels in Martinique Waters Sail Toward Porto Rico.

ST. PIERRE (Martinique), May 17.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—The Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Terror and the hospital ship Alicante are still at Porto Rico. It is rumored that the repairs to the Terror are finished and that she will leave the harbor to-morrow.

The signal lights continue, and last night a large number were flashed from the hills. A Spanish vessel entered the harbor late at night, showing no light, rapidly scouted and left immediately.

About half past 10 last evening an earthquake shock was distinctly felt here. This experience, combined with the excitement caused by the presence and movements of the Spanish warships, keep up the public strain.

There is no doubt that the Spanish fleet which has been lying in these waters has now left Martinique, going direct to Cuba or Porto Rico.

SPAIN'S RESERVE FLEET.

NEW YORK, May 17.—A dispatch to the "Herald" from Cadix says: "The dock yard authorities here have announced that the reserve fleet, which would consist of the Pelayo, the Carlos V., the Alfonso XII. and the newly equipped cruisers, the Rapido and the Patria, together with the torpedo destroyers Audaz and Prosperina, will be ready for sea in the middle of the present week. There has been considerable difficulty in obtaining skilled engineers, Spanish engineers being unable to obtain the proper speed out of the torpedo catchers."

The Herald will probably accompany the fleet as a dispatch boat. It is popularly surmised that the above-mentioned fleet goes to the Philippines, but everything depends upon what may happen in Havana. Were the Spanish fleet to take a good position and should any misfortune occur to the United States warships, the men-of-war now in Cadiz would be directed westward, and not eastward. The Pelayo will be the flagship and several armed transports will accompany the fleet.

SPANISH FLEET SEEN OFF ST. THOMAS.

ST. THOMAS (Danish West Indies), May 17.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—It was reported here this morning that on Sunday last, from noon until 6 p. m., six or seven vessels slowly steamed westerly north of Tortola Island, forty miles east of St. Thomas. One steamer which approached the land showed the Spanish flag.

WATCHING FOR THE OREGON.

NEW YORK, May 17.—A special copyright dispatch from St. Lucia, V. I., to the "World" says: "A large steamer ship was sighted last night lying off the west coast of this island. Others were also seen to the northward of St. Lucia. These vessels are believed here to be a Spanish squadron, watching for the battleship Oregon, which may pass close to this island on its way to Key West."

SPANISH GUNBOATS IN PACIFIC WATERS.

SAN DIEGO, May 17.—Captain Letzke, commanding the United States ship Alert, now in this harbor, which sailed to-night for San Francisco, reports that there are two Spanish gunboats of about 150 tons, at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and that they have been there some time, much longer than the neutrality laws allow. This is the first news received of any Spanish warships being on the west coast of America. The news was given to Captain Letzke by the Captain of a Panama steamer

which called at Guayaquil. The Alert has orders to go out of commission on arrival at Mare Island. Captain Letzke will probably be ordered to command the Monterey, and the other officers, crew and modern guns will go to the Philadelphia.

FLEET BELIEVED TO BE OFF COAST OF VENEZUELA.

CURACAO (Dutch West Indies), May 17.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—The Spanish fleet is now supposed to be off the coast of Venezuela, or off the coast of Colombia. Only a portion of the fleet was allowed to enter this harbor to obtain provisions, cattle and coal, which were purchased here. Confirmation was obtained of the report that the Spaniards left one of their torpedo gunboats at Fort de France, Island of Martinique.

BLOCKADING SQUADRON.

Is Keeping a Vigilant Watch for Appearance of Spanish Fleet.

ON BOARD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS BOAT KATE SPENCER, OFF HAVANA, May 16 (via Key West), May 17 (Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—The ships of the American blockading squadron are keeping a vigilant watch for the appearance of the Spanish fleet, and would not be surprised should the Spanish men-of-war round Cape Antonio, the westernmost point of Cuba, and swoop down upon Havana. All our ships have been warned by Commodore Watson of the possibility of such a move, and our sailors are kept constantly in the tops, where they can sweep the horizon for thirty miles, looking out for the first sign of a hostile ship.

All the naval officers on the blockade station are anxious for a meeting with the Spaniards, and when informed that the latest reports placed them off the coast of Venezuela they jubilantly declared that the enemy could be hemmed in between the Windward Islands and the Yucatan Channel, and be destroyed. The only fear expressed was for the safety of the ships now on the southern coast of Cuba.

The torpedo boats and fast yachts of the auxiliary fleet keep the blockading ships in constant communication with Key West, whence the movements of vessels are directed.

The general opinion is that there will be no more of the enemy in the direction of Cuba so long as the Spanish fleet remains in American waters, or until it is met and beaten.

The blockade of Havana has been maintained without incident since the Conde Venadito and Legaspi attempted to draw our ships under the big guns of the Santa Clara battery on Saturday evening. The French frigate Dubourdieu, which entered the Havana harbor a week ago, after an unpleasant incident, which necessitated the firing of two shots across her bows by the Frenchman would show his flag, passed on this afternoon at 6 o'clock and headed northwest. The Dubourdieu is a long school ship carrying 6-inch and 5-inch guns and 1-pounders, besides two torpedo tubes. The Mayflower ran close enough to the frigate to establish the Frenchman's identity, and the shot off our flag was not saluted. She had on board many refugees, and is bound, probably, for some Mexican port.

The activity along the coast continues. Squads of Spanish cavalry and parties working upon fortifications destroy Terror and the hospital ship Alicante are still at Porto Rico. It is rumored that the repairs to the Terror are finished and that she will leave the harbor to-morrow.

EXPECTING THE CAPE VERDE FLEET.

CHICAGO, May 17.—A special to the "News" from Key West says: "The Wilmington crew were amazed to see Morro Castle's flashlights last night, for the first time since the blockade began. It was suggested that the Spaniards were expecting the Cape Verde fleet."

AT HAVANA.

Seven American Warships in Sight Off the City.

HAVANA, May 17.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press).—Inquiries from the palace here show that Captain-General Blanco was unwilling to receive Lieutenant-Brainard, U. S. N., the special agent of the Government of the United States, in the matter of the proposal to exchange Spanish prisoners for the two newspapermen, Messrs. Thrall and Jones, because the General considered the Lieutenant was not empowered with sufficient authority. Therefore, he simply accepted the documents presented by the Lieutenant, and consulted with the Spanish Government on the subject.

The answer from Madrid has not yet been received. On Sunday morning, the day the representatives of the United States Government arrived off this harbor on a small steamer bearing a flag of truce, there were five American vessels in sight of Havana and four of them were in sight the same afternoon. In addition, a vessel supposed to be a Norwegian frigate, was in the offing. Yesterday there were five vessels in sight off this harbor.

The French cruiser Dubourdieu left Havana yesterday for Hayti, having on board a number of French refugees.

The Spaniards say that an American force attempted to make a landing on May 13th at Tabla Agua Beach, and that after two hours' firing the Americans retired.

Three American warships were reported off Mariel on Sunday, three were sighted off Cardenas and there are some American ships off Cienfuegos.

It is announced at the palace that a Spanish force on Saturday last was engaged at Chimbourazo, Province of Havana, with a combined force of insurgents under the leadership of Maya, Acela Colazo and Jacinto Hernandez. The whole insurgent force is said to have numbered 800 and it is alleged that the enemy lost eleven men killed. The Spanish loss is officially reported as being two Lieutenants and three soldiers wounded.

There were seven American warships in sight off Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.

The Captain-General of Porto Rico has cabled to Captain-General Blanco saying that although the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico took place at rifle shot distance, not a gun of the forts was silenced, and he adds, the Spanish losses were only eighteen men wounded among the troops composing the garrison, and a few persons wounded.

The Captain-General of Porto Rico has cabled to Captain-General Blanco saying that although the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico took place at rifle shot distance, not a gun of the forts was silenced, and he adds, the Spanish losses were only eighteen men wounded among the troops composing the garrison, and a few persons wounded.

There were seven American warships in sight off Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.

The Captain-General of Porto Rico has cabled to Captain-General Blanco saying that although the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico took place at rifle shot distance, not a gun of the forts was silenced, and he adds, the Spanish losses were only eighteen men wounded among the troops composing the garrison, and a few persons wounded.

There were seven American warships in sight off Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.

SAGASTA'S TASK NOT AN EASY ONE.

Having Difficulty Forming New Cabinet.

Strikes Many Snags in Selection of Advisers.

Newspapers Discuss Expediency of Continental Alliances.

Republican Press Favor France and Russia, Also Expecting Much From the Attitude of Emperor William of Germany.

LONDON, May 18.—The Madrid correspondent of the "Standard," telegraphing Tuesday, says:

"Senor Sagasta spent the whole day in conferences with several members of the last Cabinet, and in fresh negotiations with the leaders of the right wing of the Liberals, Senor Gamazo and Senor Mauro, who insist on obtaining as a condition of their joining the Ministry a well-defined programme upon the following points:

"The war; the internal question; the colonial policy of the West Indies and the Philippines; home affairs and finance, both for present urgent and war means and for the future reorganization.

"Senors Gamazo and Mauro aim at vigorous action in every respect, to convince both the enemies and friends of Spain that the nation itself and the new Cabinet intend to show themselves equal to the task of facing all present emergencies, and of arriving at definite solutions.

"The Spanish papers resolutely discuss the expediency of continental alliances, which they affect to consider one of the principal objects of the future Cabinet. The Republican papers urge an alliance with France and Russia, at the same time agreeing with the monarchical papers in expecting much from the attitude of Emperor William. The Ministerial papers are equally keen and bitter against alliance between the United States and England."

CABINET NOT CONSTRUCTED. MADRID, May 17.—Some of the newspapers to-day asserted that Senor Sagasta and Senor Gamazo would reach an agreement at the conference this afternoon to form a coalition Cabinet, while others expressed the opinion that Sagasta would encounter so many difficulties that he will be compelled to abandon the project.

It was announced semi-officially this evening that the reconstructed Cabinet would be made up as follows, probably:

President of the Council, Senor Sagasta.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senor Castillo.

Minister of War, Lieutenant-General Correa.

Minister of Marine, Vice-Admiral Butler.

Minister of the Colonies, Senor Gamazo.

Minister of Finance, Senor Lopez Puigcerver.

Minister of the Interior, Senor F. R. Capdepon.

Minister of Justice, Senor C. Grolsard, Minister of Public Instruction, Senor Romero Giron.

Midnight.—The composition of the new Ministry is still undefined, but it is regarded as certain that Senor Gatodo will enter the Cabinet. It is also remarked that Senor Capdepon may finally take the Colonial portfolio, and that in such an event Senor Anon or Admiral Camara may become Minister of Marine.

GEN. AZCARRAGA ASSAULTED. LONDON, May 17.—The Madrid correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says: "General Sancho Mira to-night was assaulted by Lieutenant General Azcarraga, Minister of War in the last Canovas Cabinet, and the head of the Ministry organized after the murder of Canovas. The incident occurred in Puerto del Sol. They were separated, and the military officers will probably prosecute General Mira."

DEMAND REPRISALS UPON AMERICANS. MADRID, May 17.—At the moment of his departure from the Cape Verde Islands Admiral Cervera, in command

of the Spanish fleet, is believed to have been in sight of Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.

The Captain-General of Porto Rico has cabled to Captain-General Blanco saying that although the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico took place at rifle shot distance, not a gun of the forts was silenced, and he adds, the Spanish losses were only eighteen men wounded among the troops composing the garrison, and a few persons wounded.

There were seven American warships in sight off Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.

The Captain-General of Porto Rico has cabled to Captain-General Blanco saying that although the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico took place at rifle shot distance, not a gun of the forts was silenced, and he adds, the Spanish losses were only eighteen men wounded among the troops composing the garrison, and a few persons wounded.

There were seven American warships in sight off Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.

The Captain-General of Porto Rico has cabled to Captain-General Blanco saying that although the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico took place at rifle shot distance, not a gun of the forts was silenced, and he adds, the Spanish losses were only eighteen men wounded among the troops composing the garrison, and a few persons wounded.

There were seven American warships in sight off Havana this afternoon, and rumor has it that the Spanish fleet is making for an important port of the United States.