

MILITARY SITUATION AT PRESENT.

No Forward Movement of Troops to be Made,

Either Upon the Islands of Porto Rico or Cuba,

Until Location of Cervera's Squadron is Definitely Known.

The Details of Organizing the New Force of Seventy-Five Thousand Volunteers Not to be Taken Up by the War Department for Some Days.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—The military situation as at present determined upon by those in authority is to make no forward movement of troops, either upon Porto Rico or Cuba, until full and definite information is received as to the location of the Spanish squadron and its possibilities as a factor in the aggressive movements of Spain.

Steps have been taken to secure early information as to whether Admiral Cervera's squadron is inside Santiago harbor, and whether the American squadron has such advantage of position outside the harbor as to make the escape of the Spaniards practically impossible.

Unless the Navy Department succeeds in securing some direct and official information respecting the Spanish and American fleets within the next twenty-four hours through the aid of the West Indian cables, it will resort to the use of dispatch boats.

It can again be affirmed on the highest authority that at the close of the day the Navy Department had had nothing more than a belief, founded upon unofficial advice, that the Spanish squadron was lying in Santiago harbor and no news as to Commodore Schley's whereabouts.

The reports from the newspaper dispatch boats as to the movements of Sampson's and Schley's squadrons during the past week are very mystifying, even to the naval officers here, and one of them called attention to a statement coming from the West Indies to the effect that twelve war vessels were seen for a short time off Cienfuegos on Wednesday.

It was announced to-day that Holland, the inventor of the submarine boat of that name, was expected here to-morrow to discuss with Captain O'Neil, Chief of Ordnance, the feasibility of using the novel craft in an attack upon the Spanish squadron at Santiago if the vessels are still there.

An important phase to the military programme is a decision not to take up the details of organizing the new force of 75,000 volunteers for at least a week or ten days.

tinatively new regiments. It would have the advantage of filling every regiment in the service, instead of leaving most of them with a depleted organization.

The War Department is anxious to obtain the views of the Governors of the States and Territories in regard to the filling of their maximum strength regiments already furnished by them under the first call of the President.

A number of minor points coming up constantly in relation to the second call for volunteers are being passed upon in a general way at this time.

He made this decision known to the Governor of Indiana, who asked for information, and he stated the same thing to Representative Hull of Iowa, who has an organization of colored men with colored officers in his district.

Secretary Long Without Information as to Their Whereabouts. WASHINGTON, May 27.—When Secretary Long started for the Cabinet meeting to-day he was without information in addition to that possessed yesterday morning as to the movement of the fleets in the West Indies.

The department is in exactly the position it has occupied for the last few days, so far as its knowledge of the fleetings is concerned. It is believed, however, that the fleet in the West Indies is in Santiago harbor, and that Schley is lying in wait outside.

The department, having waited as long as dignity seemed to require for news directly from the squadron, it is believed, has now taken steps to secure it through its own inquiries, and consequently it may be expected at any moment that some of the dispatch boats or scouting vessels will bring news of the squadron to one of the cable stations probably in Havana.

There was a revival this morning of the almost daily rumor that General Miles was about to depart on his trip to Tampa, which is, of course, contrary to the direct beginning of the invasion of Cuba. As a matter of fact, there is just as much foundation for this statement to-day as during any day in the past week.

Another rumor, which was revived to-day with some degree of plausibility, related to certain attempts on the part of representatives of European Powers to secure peace through direct representations to the United States Government.

The following is a copy of a report made by Rear Admiral Sampson, concerning the action at San Juan de Porto Rico: "Upon approaching San Juan it was seen that none of the Spanish vessels were in the harbor. It was, therefore, considerably in doubt whether they had reached San Juan and again departed for some unknown destination, or whether they had not arrived.

None to be Made Until Spanish Fleet is Disposed of. WASHINGTON, May 27.—At the

close of the Cabinet meeting to-day it was authoritatively stated that although the Government had no official information on the subject, there was no reasonable doubt that Admiral Cervera's fleet was in Santiago harbor, and that Commodore Schley was on guard at the entrance.

The work of equipping and mobilizing the volunteer army will be pushed with all possible vigor, with a view to being in perfect readiness for any call that might be made when the Spanish fleet shall no longer be a serious factor in the war problem.

TWO MORE TRANSPORTS. The Pacific Mail Steamships Colon and China Chartered. WASHINGTON, May 27.—Two more steamships, the China and the Colon of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, were chartered to-day by Assistant Secretary Melkjohn of the War Department to carry troops to the Philippine Islands.

Mr. Melkjohn succeeded in communicating with C. P. Huntington, the President of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, by telegraph in Iowa last night, while the latter was on his way East, and as a result of propositions the China and Colon were secured.

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ADMIRAL CERVERA'S SQUADRON.

The Spanish Fleet Still at Santiago,

According to Advices Received at Madrid From Blanco.

Also Said That an American Fleet Is Blockading the Harbor.

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MADRID, May 27.—Blanco cables that Cervera's squadron is still at Santiago, and that the bulk of Sampson's squadron is blockading that port. Schley's squadron is watching the Yucatan passage.

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ron this morning into a state of ferment and anticipation.

She brought news that the Spanish squadron under Admiral Cervera, for which Commodore Schley is looking, was at Santiago de Cuba.

The flying squadron is now one of the strongest aggregations of fighting ships ever gathered together.

Some concern is felt for the Scorpion, which left here last night to take dispatches to the cruiser Minnesota at Santiago.

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among the officers and the men over the news, although it is not absolutely certain.

Since Rear-Admiral Sampson's squadron left Key West an intensely close watch has been kept for the Spanish fleet, in spite of the belief that it was at the south of Cuba.

The fleet as at present constituted, without Commodore Schley's command and without the ships actually engaged in the blockade, forms the most powerful squadron ever assembled by the United States navy.

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MERRITT'S ADVENT AT THE BAY

Already Felt Among the Volunteer Soldiers.

Orders That Troops be at Once Properly Equipped.

The Seventh Regiment Furnished With Complete Outfits.

The Fleet of Five Vessels Constituting the Second Expedition to Manila Not Expected to Get Away for at Least Ten Days.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 27.—General Merritt, who will command the American forces in the Philippines, and who arrived from Washington last night, has established his headquarters in this city at the Palace Hotel.

General Otis will to-morrow take up his residence at Fort Richmond, and will have the volunteers now encamped there under his eye at all times.

Arrangements have been made by General Otis for the establishment of a military hospital near the site of Fort Richmond.

It is not expected here that the transport fleet of five vessels which will make up the second expedition to go to Manila with reinforcements for Admiral Dewey will get away for at least ten days.

The work of repairing the New Orleans is being rushed at Mare Island, and she will doubtless convey General Merritt and his staff to the Philippines.

One good effect of General Merritt's advent has already been felt. He has ordered the troops not already supplied with proper equipment to be furnished at once with everything necessary to make them comfortable and ready for active service.