

ENSORSHIP TIGHTLY DRAWN.

War Department Succeeds in Its Purpose

To Keep Movements of United States Troops Secret.

Some Anxiety as to Safety of Transports Sailing From Tampa,

Owing to Reports of the Appearance of a Mysterious Warship in Cuban Waters—Sampson Acquainted of the Situation.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—It became apparent this afternoon that the War Department, through the energetic efforts of the censor, had succeeded entirely in its purpose to keep the movements of the United States troops a secret, for beyond question at the close of the day it was impossible to learn where were the United States troops which had been for weeks gathered under command of General Shafter in Florida. Stories of the appearance of a mysterious warship in Cuban waters floated through the Navy Department during the day. The officers quickly condemned them, declaring that if the boats were Spanish they were nothing more than some unarmored launches, and not to be feared by any number of transports conveyed by such fine gunboats as the Helena and Bancroft.

But when these stories reached the War Department they were received with a different spirit. Nothing is more helpless in warfare than an unarmed troop transport full of soldiers. She would fall an easy victim to the smallest gunboat and the soldiers, knowing their weakness in this respect, are loath to undertake to cross the Florida Straits until these disagreeable visitors had been removed from the pathway.

Without respect to the character of the strange craft that are said to be dodging the blockaders at Havana, they will be removed from the scene of action in short notice, as it is understood that Sampson has been acquainted of the situation, and will be expected to redeem his promise to provide safe conduct to the army when called upon. He has ample force to conduct the operations at Santiago to a successful issue, and still spare vessels of any power desirable for use in the Florida Straits.

It was pointed out to-day by a naval official that the Admiral, since the arrival of the marine battalion on the Panther, has at his disposal what he may regard as a sufficient force of men to capture Santiago, even before the troops arrive. The 800 marines on the Panther, added to the marines already with the fleet, would make a total of about 1,500 men. Without impairing the efficiency of his ships, Admiral Sampson could spare 1,000 blue jackets for a landing party, and with this total force of 1,500, if the insurgents who have been armed by the United States Government, do their share, it seems possible for Sampson to capture Santiago at short notice.

There seems to be a very decided air of expectation this afternoon among the officials who are acquainted with the Government's plans in the campaign that almost warranted a conclusion that an engagement of some kind was expected to-day.

Steady progress is making upon the ships under construction by the Government at the several navy yards, as revealed by the monthly report from the various reports to Chief Constructor Hieborn. On the battleships the Newport News people are ahead, having the Kearsarge and Kentucky 50 per cent. advanced toward completion, but the Illinois only 46 per cent. Cramp & Sons report the Alabama 53 per cent. along, and the Union Iron Works have progressed 38 per cent. with the Wisconsin.

Ten torpedo boats are now actually under construction and have been completed to the following extent: The Rowan, 26-knotter, building at Moran Brothers, Seattle, 98.5 per cent. The Dahlgren, 30-knotter, building at the Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me., 73 per cent.

The Tam Craven, 30-knotter; Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me., 50 per cent. The Farragut, 30-knotter, Union Iron Works, San Francisco, 80 per cent. The Davis and Fox, 22.5-knotters, Wolf & Zwickler, Portland, Or., 88 and 82 per cent., respectively.

The Mackenzie, 20-knotter, Charles Hillman, Philadelphia, 90 per cent. The Stringham, 30-knotter, Harland & Hollingsworth, Wilmington, Del., 28 per cent.

The Goldsboro, 30-knotter, Wolf & Zwickler, 7 per cent. The Bailey, 30-knotter, Gas Engine and Power Company, New Jersey, 2 1/2 per cent.

The submarine boat Plunger, building at the Columbian Iron Works, Baltimore, similar in many respects to the Holland, is said to be 72 per cent. advanced.

LANDING OF TROOPS.

Naval Officials Believe Sampson Has Already Paved the Way.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—It is believed here that the first reinforcement for Sampson's fleet has arrived to-day off Santiago. These are the 800 marines under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Huntington, who sailed three days ago from Key West on the steamer Panther. These marines had been encamped on the beach at Key West for several weeks undergoing the most severe drill and military training. They are intended not for distribution among the fleet, but as a landing force, pure and simple.

Naval officers are confident with this small but well-disciplined landing force Admiral Sampson will be able immediately to take possession of such points on the coast in the neighborhood of Santiago as he may deem necessary to serve as a base of operations for the regular United States troops. With the marines in possession of the beach, and the American warships' shells clearing the country behind the Spaniards, there will be little danger in effecting the landing of the troops.

Though no official confirmation has yet reached the Navy Department to the effect that he landed marines at Canaimera, and that they are still in possession of a strategic stronghold on the hills near by, the naval officers here are inclined to give credence to the reports. They feel a pride in the fact that the navy, through its marine adjunct, has earned the distinction of having been the first to occupy the territory of Cuba. The marines who effected this notable feat were drawn, it is believed, from the whole fleet, and were perfectly capable and disciplined troops.

Officials here express the belief that troops have already sailed from Tampa, but no one in authority and advised of the facts will make the statement publicly. The destination of the troops can be only surmised, but it is felt that there still remains a necessity for concealing the exact time of the departure of the troops, and it is a noticeable fact that in spite of the understanding that obtained to the effect that the censor at Tampa would relax his rules as soon as the troops had actually departed, there is no authentic news direct from Key West or Tampa to-day.

It does not follow if the troops left Tampa yesterday they are on their way although such is generally believed to be the case, for the original orders to the military commanders contemplated a start in finality from Key West. At that point the transports were to be rounded up and taken in a convoy of some of the more formidable naval vessels. Assuming that the transports left Tampa yesterday morning, moving at squadron speed, they could scarcely do more than reach Key West to-day. Some time must be consumed in organizing the twenty-nine transports into the squadron, and in placing them under convoy, so that there is a probability that if Tampa was left yesterday the final start from Key West would not be before to-night.

Unmistakable signs of nervousness were exhibited by the army officers who saw the Associated Press bulletins to-day from Key West giving currency to the report that three Spanish men-of-war had run the blockade into Havana. A very serious question that arose was as to the identity of the ships if the report be true, and more than one officer immediately recalled the fact that the department was still in some doubt as to the exact whereabouts of all the Spanish warships, not alone of the fleet, but of others that had preceded it into West Indian waters.

The naval officers made light of these fears, taking their stand on Sampson's report that six Spanish warships were in Santiago harbor. They admitted that it would be no difficult task for a warship to run the Havana blockade at this moment, weakened as it has been by the withdrawal of the fast and powerful ships for service at Santiago. It is recalled, too, that there were reports of recent date from Jamaica of very heavy gales off the Cuban coast, and it is comparatively easy in blinding tropical squalls for a vessel to escape detection while running a blockade. Still, the impression is general that if any Spanish warships really passed the blockade line, they were little more than small gunboats that are numerous along the north Cuban coast.

CRUISER CHARLESTON.

Said That Her Mission is First to Take Island of Guahan.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 9.—The "Evening Post" says to-day that the cruiser Charleston will not go to the Philippine Islands, but that her destination is the island of Guahan, in the Ladrones group, which are controlled by the Spanish, and which are about 1,500 miles from Manila, and 3,500 miles from Honolulu. The chief city of Guahan is exceedingly well fortified for such a small place, and affords one of the best harbors and coaling stations in the Pacific. About six months ago the Spanish fleet, strengthened by the Spanish, present a formidable resistance in case of attack.

The "Post" says that the United States will seize the group and use the island of Guahan for a Pacific coaling station, in addition to any others she may seize in the future. The Charleston, the "Post" continues, was ordered to wait at Honolulu for the first fleet of transports that left this city and to take the ships to the Ladrones. It is asserted that the artillery which went on the Pekin was really intended for garrison the forts at Guahan, and that after quiet is restored on the islands are under the control of the United States the Charleston will, with the transports, go to Manila. It is said that the Monadnock will not stay at Honolulu, but will proceed to the Ladrones, and there remain as a permanent guardian of the interests of the United States.

ARMY APPOINTMENTS.

The President Sends Another Long List to the Senate.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—The President sent these nominations to the Senate: Volunteer army—To be Major General—Warren Keifer of Ohio. To be Brigadier General—John P. S. Gobin of Pennsylvania.

Henry E. Noyes, Second Cavalry, to be Colonel; Major Wm. A. Rafferty, Second Cavalry, to be Lieutenant Colonel; Captain William Callus Hennessee, Eighth Cavalry, to be a Major; First Lieutenant Jos. T. Dickman, Third Cavalry, to be Captain; First Lieutenant John Reynolds Landis, First Cavalry, to be Captain; First Lieutenant Wm. T. Johnston, Tenth Cavalry, to be First Lieutenant; Second Lieutenant Wm. H. Osborne, First Cavalry, to be First Lieutenant; First Lieutenant John R. Williams, Third Artillery, to be Captain; First Lieutenant L. Anderson, Fourth Artillery, to be Captain.

Volunteer army—A. A. Wiley of Alabama to be Colonel Fifth Regiment Volunteer Infantry. To be Commissaries, with rank of Captain—Thomas H. Simms of Arkansas, James E. B. Stuart of Virginia, Carroll M. Mercer of Maryland.

To be Chief Commissary, with rank of Major: Captain George W. Sturch, Third United States Infantry. To be Assistant Quartermasters, with rank of Captain—Albert Gilbert of New York, Lawrence Baker of New York, Jonathan N. Patton of Iowa.

Volunteer army—To be Chief Quartermaster, with rank of Major, David H. Hemphill of South Carolina. Navy—Janus Raynor Whiting of New York, Assistant Surgeon.

THE VESUVIUS.

Authorities Urged to Give the Dynamite Cruiser a Chance.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—The advocates of the dynamite gun as a weapon of warfare are urging the authorities here to bring the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius into more active service, where she can demonstrate her ability against the fortifications at Santiago and other points of attack.

The Vesuvius has on board three sizes of dynamite projectiles, namely, those carrying 500 pounds of dynamite, 300 pounds and 100 pounds. Another projectile carrying fifty pounds is available, but none of these are carried by the Vesuvius at present. She was equipped by the heavier class of dynamite shells, as it was designed to give her real experience as a factor in warfare.

The claims made for her have never been subjected to the practical test of real war, but it was believed that the present war would afford an opportunity for showing whether this mode of using dynamite was practicable. Thus far, however, the Vesuvius has not figured in any of the actions in West Indian waters, nor have the ships from that quarter that she was among been available for active work.

The friends of the gun believe that one or two of the shells containing 100 or 200 pounds of dynamite could be fired in Morro Castle would make short work of that fortress. They say a single dynamite projectile would have a more destructive effect than the broadside of an entire fleet.

It is pointed out also that the elevation of the dynamite guns could be used for sending dynamite shells high in the air, and then dropping them like a mortar ball in the midst of the fortifications.

These views were called to the attention of naval officials to-day, and the desire was expressed that the Vesuvius be given a chance to throw a few hundred pounds of dynamite into Santiago. Some of the naval officers think that the Vesuvius has not trained her guns upon Santiago, thus far, because of the feeling of danger which attends the handling of these guns. It is said that if a Spanish shot pierced the vessel and got into her dynamite magazine it would result in a terrific explosion and the wiping out of the ship, officers and crew.

There is considerable hesitancy also over firing the huge masses of dynamite, as naval officers believe that it has not yet been proved that they will not explode before getting under way. These are some of the causes leading up to the lack of service of this cruiser. There is a desire, however, to find out one way or the other what dynamite will accomplish in warfare, and the appeals will probably result in bringing the Vesuvius into the ranks of the fighting ships.

PROTEST FROM THE BRITISH.

Spain Will Have to Answer for Treatment of Walter Bett.

NEW YORK, June 9.—A copyrighted special from St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, to the "Evening Journal" says: Suspected of having furnished the United States with information of the mining of San Juan Harbor, Walter Bett, Secretary of the British Consulate at that port, has been banished from Porto Rico by order of Governor General Macias. Mr. Bett was imprisoned in a dungeon for fifty-six hours, and during that time was subjected to gross maltreatment.

British Consul General Crawford has made a formal protest to his Government, and serious international complications are imminent. The day after the bombardment of San Juan by the ships of Admiral Sampson, General Macias caused an extensive system of mines to be installed in the outer harbor, in anticipation of a return of the ships and a subsequent bombardment. Although the greatest care and secrecy were observed by the Spanish in mining the harbor, the details of the work were conveyed to Consul General Hanna. He is now making an extensive report of the operations to the Navy Department.

SANTIAGO REPORTED TAKEN.

Rumor Current at Turk's Island

That the City is in Possession of the Americans.

Exchange of Lieutenant Hobson and Other Prisoners Delayed.

Five Spanish Warships Sighted on Northern Coast of Cuba, Three of Which Are Reported to Have Forced Blockade at Havana.

CAPE HAYTIEN (Hayti), June 9.—8:40 a. m.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—A man who arrived here to-day in a schooner from Turk's Island, one of the Bahamas, and about 110 miles north of Hayti, says it was reported there that Santiago de Cuba had been taken by the Americans.

Cable communication between Cape Haytien and Cuba is still interrupted.

THE MERRIMAC PRISONERS.

They Will Not Be Exchanged for Some Time.

WITH THE BLOCKADING FLEET OFF SANTIAGO, June 8.—10 a. m.—(Via Mole St. Nicholas, June 9, 6 p. m.—Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—Lieutenant Hobson and his heroic companions in the exploit of sinking the collier Merrimac in the entrance to the harbor of Santiago, will not be exchanged for some time.

To-day Admiral Cervera sent a flag of truce to Admiral Sampson with a message that the prisoners were in the hands of the military authorities, and that their case had been referred by the Military Governor of Santiago to Governor General Blanco. The plan of exchange submitted by Admiral Sampson to Admiral Cervera is thus temporarily frustrated.

CUBA ISOLATED.

The United States cruiser Marblehead and the auxiliary cruisers Yankee and St. Louis were successful in cutting the cable at Guantanamo yesterday, after firing on a Spanish gunboat and the old-fashioned fortifications. Cuba is thus cut off from all communications with the outside world.

SCHLEY'S TACTICS.

Gains Information About Spanish Fleet and Army at Santiago.

OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA (Saturday, June 4th, via Kingston, Jamaica, Monday, June 6.—9 a. m.—Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—After driving the Spanish fleet at Santiago de Cuba into a more protected position in the harbor by the bombardment of Tuesday, Commodore Schley opened communication with the insurgents eighteen miles from Santiago to the east. They were urged to obtain, if possible, the names and numbers of the vessels of the fleet inside the harbor, as the contour of land at the entrance made it impossible to accurately determine by a view from the American fleet just how many vessels of the Spanish squadron were there.

On Friday afternoon Lieutenant Sharp of the Vixen went to the place of rendezvous and received from the insurgents a map of the harbor, showing the entire Cape Verde fleet, with the exception of the destroyer Terror, inside and close up to the city under the protection of the guns mounted on Blanco battery at the northern extremity of the harbor. The ships there, according to this chart, are the Cristobal Colon, Vizcaya, the Almirante, Oquendo, the Maria Teresa and the Reina Mercedes (destroyed by the American warships since this dispatch was written), all cruisers of the first class and heavily armored, together with three torpedo boats. The definiteness of this information naturally gave Commodore Schley great satisfaction.

With Admiral Sampson's arrival Wednesday, the blockade was much strengthened, and the plans to starve the city, its troops and the enemy's fleet were pushed vigorously. Just how long Santiago can stand besieging is a matter of conjecture.

Since Sunday last, when Cervera's squadron was penned up by Schley, nothing has gone in, and the auxiliary cruiser St. Paul captured about 4,000 tons of coal consigned to the port. It is thoroughly believed that only a short

time will be needed to bring Santiago to the starvation basis. Naturally the fleet has a supply, perhaps for two months, but the Spanish soldiery cannot be sustained on this.

An important fact was learned to-day from the insurgents with whom communication has been opened. There are not 20,000 soldiers, as has been stated, in this part of the province of Santiago de Cuba, but only about 6,000. Even these are badly fed and much disheartened.

SANTIAGO BOMBARDMENT.

Sampson's Object Attained—Clear Way for Landing Troops.

ON BOARD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH BOAT DAINNT, LESS OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, June 8, via Kingston (Jamaica), June 9.—7:30 a. m. (Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—Communication between the island of Cuba and the outer world was severed yesterday. The Kingston-Santiago cable was cut on Monday, and the Marblehead, Yankee and St. Louis cut the Haytien cable running into Guantanamo Bay yesterday. The ends were buoyed, and Rear-Admiral Sampson can re-establish communication with Washington direct. The Marblehead also engaged and drove a Spanish gunboat into Guantanamo harbor, and shelled and reduced the antiquated fortifications. The insurgents co-operated on the land side. The place is being held until troops arrive. It is contemplated to establish a general base here.

Communication between the insurgents and the fleet is constant. The Cubans are active, and arms, ammunition and supplies for them were landed by the Suwanee yesterday in great quantities. The insurgents and Spaniards fight daily.

The Marblehead, on Monday, when the insurgents shelled the Spaniards, who fled to the mountains, checking the path in their retreat with dead and wounded.

Santiago is on the verge of starvation. All the food has been seized for the army and navy, and the troops and sailors are on half rations. Rear-Admiral Sampson has officially declared that the purpose of the bombardment of Santiago was to clear the way for the troops. The object has been attained.

He particularly commended Eusebio Palmer for approaching within 150 yards of the Spanish batteries and learning that the Spaniards were re-mounting guns.

The American naval commander is anxious to bring about the exchange of Lieutenant Hobson and his gallant companions of the Merrimac. The Admiral sent the Vixen with a flag of truce to the entrance of the harbor yesterday, offering to exchange for the Lieutenant and his party some prisoners taken from a prize of the Marblehead of Cienfuegos. Admiral Cervera considered the matter all night, and sent word to-day that he is powerless. He referred the matter to the Military Governor, and the latter in turn referred it to Captain General Blanco.

TORPEDO BOAT ESCAPED.

The New York and New Orleans Failed to Sink Spanish Craft.

OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Saturday, June 4, 2 p. m. (via Kingston, Jamaica, Monday, June 6, 9 a. m.—Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—The firing by the New York and New Orleans, briefly reported last night, was directed against a Spanish torpedo boat destroyer, probably the Furor or the Pluton. The character of the enemy was not definitely known until the next day, when the torpedo boat Porter found two loaded torpedoes floating off shore. Neither of them had been discharged. One sank, but the other was hoisted on board the Porter. It exactly fitted the description of the torpedoes carried by the Pluton and Furor.

It is believed the torpedo boat destroyer escaped. She was seen by the New Orleans when too far away to do any damage, and the heavy fire must have driven her back. When the New York arrived she would have time to sink along the shore and back into the harbor.

The daring attempt of the Spaniards, which was fortunately frustrated by the vigilance of the New Orleans' lookout, is the first instance of its kind since the beginning of the war. As seen from the flagship, the scene was brilliantly dramatic. The New York was lying several miles to the east of Morro Castle. The New Orleans was on the starboard and close in shore, ready to pounce upon any craft which might attempt to steal out under the shadowing hills. Shortly after 10 o'clock the New Orleans flashed her private signal. It was answered by the flagship, and in a few minutes colored lights sprang up on the water. They signified that the enemy was in sight. A little later she burned another colored light. This meant that a hostile torpedo boat was approaching, although, later, Captain Folger of the New Orleans, was not certain whether this was correct.

Instantly the semicircle of blockading ships flashed night signals. For six or seven miles, east and west of the harbor, they twinkled brilliantly in the darkness and then went out. Simultaneously a flash of fire opened from the New Orleans' sides.

On board the flagship men and officers scrambled out of their bunks and hammocks in response to the call, "General quarters." They stood in groups on deck and around the guns watching the short sharp flames which showed the activity of the New Orleans. The flagship was then too far away to hear the sound. The New Orleans kept her brilliant searchlights playing in all directions, and other ships near her did the same.

On the decks of the New York the marines were crouched down peering into the darkness, with their rifles on their knees, watching for the sailors' most dreaded enemy, the torpedo boat. The lookouts were in every conceivable spot, and guns were trained in the direction where the New Orleans seemed to be firing. Every now and again sparks and red fire flew up in the distance, like the explosion of shells. Many persons then thought they were exploding on the torpedo boat, but to-day it is believed that they found their mark on shore.

The moon, which had been hidden behind the clouds, came out at about 11 o'clock. The New York was then steaming at full speed toward the shore to head off, if possible, the re-

reat of the enemy into the harbor. The evolution had to be carried out with great care, to avoid getting in the line of fire. The searchlights played frequently, and private signals burned brightly.

A dim object like a small boat enveloped in smoke was seen in the port hand from the signal bridge, and Ensign Murlin reported to Captain Chadwick, "a torpedo boat one point forward on the port beam, sir, headed this way."

Captain Chadwick, with Rear Admiral Sampson, was on the forward bridge. Before the shot was fired from the flagship this curious, lurking in the darkness, it must have been two or three miles away from the New York, and the same distance away from the New Orleans. The Oregon, grim and big, crossed the New York's bow in the direction the torpedo boat was reported. The torpedo boat was still headed for shore. When a mile away and close to Morro Castle an object was seen from the cliffs. It was thought to be a torpedo boat, and the New York's forward eight-inch guns belatedly opened fire. The torpedo boat loved out a hideous noise, lighting up the crowded decks and filling the air with bright smoke. On shore a few sparks close to a dark object showed where the shells struck.

After a careful watch the New York steamed back to her station, and the men went back to their hammocks. There had been no firing from the forts, and accounts differ as to whether the torpedo boat did or did not return the fire. At any rate no damage was done.

Captain Folger reported that he had sighted a small steamer, perhaps a gunboat, that she had failed to answer the private signals, and that he had fired on her. He believed she had escaped along the beach or had been destroyed—he could not tell which.

That ended the night attack, and the fleet returned to its anchorage in the harbor. It was not until the Porter found the torpedoes that the danger of last night's affair was fully realized. The Porter was steaming two miles from shore, and well to the eastward of Morro Castle, when two torpedoes were seen floating on the water. Ensign Gillis jumped overboard and swam around them. He tried to unscramble the war noise, but the torpedo itself turned too easily in the water.

He returned to the Porter, and Commander Fremont finally got one of the torpedoes safely on board. The other sank as he was getting it in.

Commander Fremont then brought the torpedo alongside the New York. It was a fourteen-inch Whitehead of modern make, and worth \$3,500. It was in perfect condition, and had any of our ships struck it while it floated it would have exploded and perhaps sunk the ship.

It is possible that there were two torpedo boats out last night, although only one is believed to have approached anywhere near our ships.

The ability of a Spanish torpedo boat destroyer to get out from the harbor is not regarded as a sign that the Merrimac does not block the channel leading into it. Torpedo boats draw so little water and have so little beam that it was scarcely expected that the sinking of the Merrimac would prevent them from coming out.

Two curious pictures of war were presented yesterday. In the afternoon the Spanish chief of staff was sitting amicably in Admiral Sampson's cabin, and saying, over a glass of wine, "You know there is nothing personal in this, and a few hours later his torpedo boat apparently comes out and tries to blow the Admiral and his ship out of the water."

SPANISH WARSHIPS.

Report at Key West That Three Forced the Havana Blockade.

KEY WEST, June 9.—Four suspicious looking vessels, thought to be Spanish warships, are or have been attempting to elude the blockading squadron off Havana and enter the port. When last seen, on the night before last, they were in the channel, about eighty miles off Havana, and heading in the direction of Havana.

A Government tug from Carlenas joined the American fleet off Havana yesterday afternoon, bringing messages for Commodore Watson from an auxiliary gunboat. This was to the effect that on Tuesday night a Spanish gunboat followed the American fleet, and which sighted four vessels, thought to be battleship, two cruisers and a torpedo boat, between Salt Cay and Parde Del Cruz light. The gunboat followed them, and when within speaking distance hoisted the private fleet signal.

The stranger, answered with three masthead lights, which was not the required signal, and immediately thereafter they put out all their lights.

The gunboat cruised after the strangers for two or three miles, once approaching within 2,000 yards, but eventually abandoned the chase and reported to the nearest ship of the blockading fleet. Advice were then sent to Commodore Watson by the Government tug, and he dispatched a ship to Key West.

The commander of the gunboat which followed the four vessels says he is satisfied they were Spanish warships, either trying to get into Havana or lying in wait for transports. The affair, however, is involved in doubt. The British cruiser Talbot left Havana on Tuesday and she may have been one of the vessels sighted by the gunboat.

KEY WEST, June 9.—The officers of the monitor which has been on blockading duty off Havana, and which reached here this afternoon to replenish her coal bunkers, confirm the story that a small American scout boat had sighted four strange warships in the Nicholas Channel, steaming westward. The monitor brought dispatches from Watson to Remey.

THE WAR REVENUE MEASURE.

The Conferrees Reach an Agreement.

Concessions Made by Both the Senate and House.

Bond Issue Reduced to Four Hundred Million Dollars.

A Substitute Agreed to for Silver Seigniorage Amendment to Simply Authorize and Direct Coinage of Silver at a Certain Rate Per Month.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—The war revenue bill as agreed upon by the conferees of the House and Senate will no doubt become a law. The bill provides that the Act shall take effect on the day succeeding the date of its passage except as otherwise specially provided for.

The conference report on the bill as submitted to the House this afternoon was as follows: The House accepts these Senate provisions: Allowing rebate of 7 1/2 cents on the sale of fermented liquors instead of 5 cents as provided by the House. Imposing special taxes, etc., with an amendment striking out insurance agents and also making the tax as to theaters apply to cities exceeding 25,000 population only. The amendment striking out House provision imposing a special tax on retail tobacco dealers. The provisions relating to the stamp taxes on life insurance policies, but reduced to 8 cents for each hundred dollars of insurance to be paid only once at the issuance of the policy; and a corresponding reduction on weekly payment insurance.

The proprietary medicine and perfumery amendments of the Senate, with a reduction of the tax of about one-third. The Senate amendment providing that stamps may be affixed on medicinal articles held in stock as when such articles are sold by the retailer.

The Senate amendments imposing an excise tax of one-fourth of one per cent, on corporations refining sugar or petroleum, measured by their gross receipts exceeding \$250,000 and also the Senate amendment imposing a stamp tax of one cent on the sale of each sleeping and parlor car ticket sold by the company issuing the same and also the Senate legacy and inheritance tax provision.

The House recedes from its tonnage tax provision. The Senate amendment imposing a duty of 10 cents per pound on imported tea with an amendment providing that the duty shall take effect on the passage of the Act.

The Senate amendment relating to a mixed flour with a substitute embodying the bill on the same subject as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Senate recedes from its coinage of the silver seigniorage amendment, and a substitute is agreed to simply authorizing and directing the coinage of not less than 1,500,000 silver dollars per month from the silver bullion as provided by the Act of July 14, 1890.

The Senate accepts these House provisions: Placing the increased tax on fermented liquors stored in warehouses. The certificate of indebtedness and loan provisions of the House, with a reduction of the amount of bonds authorized to \$100,000,000.

The House accepts the Senate rates on cigars and cigarettes, and the Senate accepts the House proposition imposing an additional tax on stocks on hand, but reducing the tax on such stocks one-half and excepting from its operations stocks not exceeding 1,000 pounds of tobacco, 20,000 cigars and cigarettes.

The House accepts the Senate amendment imposing a stamp tax on all speculative sales on stock and produce exchanges.

The Senate recedes from its amendment imposing stamp taxes on articles sold under a trade mark or any name or designation not open to general use. The following is an abstract of the provisions of the bill: A tax of \$2 on all beer, ale, porter and other similar fermented liquors, for every barrel containing not more than 31 gallons, and a like rate for any other quantity or fractional part of a barrel.

SPECIAL TAXES FROM JULY 1ST. 1.—Bankers employing a capital not exceeding \$25,000, \$50; employing a

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