BASE SLANDERS RESENTED.

MR. GROSVENOR FLAYS MR. LENTZ, OF OHIO.

THE LATTER ACCUSED THE PRESIDENT OF WITHHOLDING HIS MESSAGE TO HELP WALL STREET STOCKJOBBERS—A TREMENDOUS TONGUE-LASHING ADMINISTERED TO HIM.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 7.—The violent outbreak in the House of Representatives this afternoon was a significant indication of the eager desire and desperate determination of an unknown number of the members of the minority to reap some partisan advantage from the discussion of the Cuban question and the recommendations of the President. The speech of Mr. Lentz, of Ohio, which caused the outbreak, was one of the most disgraceful, indecent and reckless partisan harangues ever delivered in Congress, and the only consolation to be derived from it is the reflection that it will react with terrific force on its author and the members of his party who sympathized with and applauded it, one of whom was Mr. Bailey, of Texas, whose almost daily exhibitions of late have thoroughly disgusted those of his own party who are patriots as well as Democrats in such an emergency as now confronts the country.

The speech drew from General Grosvenor, of Ohio, some tart and pertinent observations, as well as some interesting and instructive facts which thoroughly exposed the groundlessness and baseness of Mr. Lentz's reckless assertions and the partisan malice which inspired them. In the course of his remarks General Grosvenor alluded to Cuban bonds which had been issued with their payment conditioned on the recognition by the United States of the so-called Cuban Republic. It is expected that these bond issues will figure pretty largely in any debate which may arise on a motion for the immediate recognition of Cuban independence.

Mr. Lentz made a vicious assault on the Administration, charging that the policy of delay was in the interest of stockjobbing in Wall Street. He alleged that Wall Street was in the possession of information that the message would not go in long before it was known at the Capitol, and profited heavily by the advance in the price of stocks which resulted. He even charged that there was no warrant for the alarming statements about the situation in Havana which were made as a justification for the delay of the message.

General Grosvenor not only indignantly denied that there was justification for the reports, but held Mr. Lentz up to scorn for imputing corrupt motives to the President. Mr. Lentz denied this, but the irate friend of the President gave him no mercy. He was thoroughly aroused, and laid about him with a veritable bludgeon, charging that the Democrats were seeking political advantage. Before he concluded he expressed the opinion that war was certain unless it was averted by Spain.

WAR TALK IN THE SENATE.

Some sharp war talk was indulged in by the Senate to-day. When consideration of the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill was resumed, the question pending was the amendment of Mr. Pettus, of Alabama, providing for such improvement of the harbor of Mobile as would enable war vessels to obtain coal and other supplies there. Mr. Allison, of Iowa, in charge of the bill, made a point of order against the amendment. This called out a bitter speech by Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, who charged the Appropriations Committee with discriminating against proper measures and threatened to assist in dissolving the committee. He followed with an argument showing the necessity of the improvement proposed, holding that it would open to the Government in time of war the coal fields of the South, and enable it successfully to fight the "treasonable monopoly" that had been formed to control the coal supply of the country in the event of war. The amendment was lost.

At 2 o'clock the bill had not been completed and was laid aside, the Senate devoting the remainder of the afternoon to eulogies of the late Senator James Z. George, of Mississippi.

THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE.

A SENSATION CAUSED BY MR. GROSVENOR'S REPLY TO MR. LENTZ.

Washington, April 7.—Little evidence of excitement existed when the House met at noon to-day. The public galleries were crowded, but empty gaps showed in the reserved galleries. Members seemed to have settled down to the conviction that they would have to wait with what patience they could the developments until Monday, when the message is to go to Congress. The chaplain prayed fervently for peace.

Mr. Hull, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, realizing the opposition to certain features of the Army Reorganization bill, said before the consideration of that bill was resumed that at the proper time he should move to strike out everything except the first two sections, providing for the three-battalion formation. The section providing for the expansion of the Regular Army in time of war to 104,000 would be stricken out. Debate then proceeded.

Mr. Sulzer (Dem., N. Y.), who supported the bill as it was proposed to modify it, made a vigorous pro-Cuban speech. If Cuban independence were recognized, he declared, Cuba would soon be free. He declared that the majority in Congress and the President little understand the intense feeling of indignation among the people of the country over the Maine affair and the delay in the calling of Spain to account. "Oh, for one day of Andrew Jackson in the White House!" he concluded. "He would say: 'Onward the fleet! Forward the whole line, and let the battle-cry be, Cuba must be free!'"

Mr. Lewis (Dem., Wash.) vigorously assailed the bill. He not only charged that it was part of a programme to increase the Regular Army in time of peace, but he declared that the three-battalion formation had proved a failure, and had been so characterized by the commander-in-chief of the British Army.

MR. LENTZ ATTACKS THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Lentz (Dem., Ohio), in opposing the bill, declared that there would be no war; that the "peace party," which was speculating in stocks and bonds, would prevail. He said there was an irreconcilable disparity between the reasons given for the delay of the President's message and the dispatches from Havana. The message had been held back because Lee could not get Americans out of Havana, yet the press dispatches said all was quiet in Havana and that General Lee said he had not been recalled. He denounced the telegrams he and other members were receiving, urging them to stand by the President, and said they were dictated by financial greed.

Mr. Lentz referred to the note presented by the Powers. He read from it the words about the hope for peace in the settlement of the existing "differences with Spain." "We have no differences with Spain!" he cried. "We have 266 assassinated Americans, which Spain must account for!" (Applause in the galleries.)

"Yesterday," he said, "we had this House filled, the galleries overflowed and the Capitol grounds were covered with people, all expecting the President's message, which might lead to war. But finally, in the afternoon, came word that a message had been received from Consul-General Lee in Havana indicating that he wanted time, and the message was delayed on that account. Now, I don't believe anybody had authority for the statement from the Administration or any official that justified the rumor that prevailed here yesterday. A telegram by the Associated Press yesterday said that all was quiet in Havana and that General Lee told a correspondent that he had not been requested to leave. The other newspapers, notably 'The New-York Journal' have similar dispatches. If these statements are true, there was nothing to justify the statement sent to the Capitol yesterday. I say there will be no war."

Continuing, he charged that Congress was being overwhelmed by the telegrams, "dictated by commercial greed," all of which, he declared, emanated principally from Wall Street and Lombard Street. "It is the old question of the almighty dollar," said he. "It is the fall of stocks these gentlemen who control the Administration fear more than war. They care nothing for 266 assassinated Americans who went down in Havana Harbor, but they care everything for 99 cents plus 1 cent. I say, my friends, that we owe an apology to Judas Iscariot. I say he ought to be brought back and deified. If Judas lived in this age he would not have gone to the Potters' Field and hanged himself. He would have been sent to the United States Senate in due time, such a speculator as he was." (Laughter and applause on the Democratic side.)

Mr. Lentz proceeded to read statements to the effect that the delay in the message helped stockjobbers and that they had advance information. He read from the various stock reports to show that stocks went up all along the line when the news was received that the message would not go to Congress yesterday. In conclusion he referred to the note of the Powers to the Government and the President's response.

MR. GROSVENOR'S HOT REPLY.

Mr. Lentz's remarks brought Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, to his feet with an indignant reply, in the course of which he made some startling statements which caused a great sensation in the House.

"The gentleman from Ohio" (Mr. Lentz), said he, "has predicated a long speech here upon a statement of facts made by himself. He declares that no message came from General Lee yesterday, that it was a 'fake' report, that it was false, given out for a corrupt purpose by the President to influence the stock market. Every particle of this statement is without question absolutely false. (Applause on the Republican side.) I call upon the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Berry), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, to say whether I tell the truth or not when I say that such a dispatch was received from General Lee and was read by him. There is the answer. That is the character of the sort of assaults that are being made on American honor and the integrity of the President. Not only did the dispatch come on yesterday, but it came the day before, and appealed to the President of the United States. I read the telegram, and there are twenty men on this floor now that read the telegram, both Democrats and Republicans. It was read to the distinguished members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, and each and every one of them without qualification coincided with the policy of the President not to send the message in here at that time. I say again that yesterday, a most earnest and urgent protest came from General Lee. Is General Lee at one end of the ticker? (Laughter on the Republican side.) Some men can ascribe corrupt motives to other men; how they ever became educated to the idea that all men are corrupt, I leave to your imagination."

Mr. Lentz—If you knew this day before yesterday, why did you let the House and galleries fill up with people, and sit here and say nothing about it while Wall Street was speculating upon it?

THE REPLY TO THE POWERS.

Mr. Grosvenor—Wall Street was not speculating on it. That story is as false as the other. I say to the gentleman that the President intended to disregard Lee's message of Tuesday, and had his message signed and sealed and ready to be transmitted to both houses and yesterday morning when the final protest in the name of humanity came, as I have said, it was read before the committees of the two houses, and without a dissenting voice they advised the President against sending it here. Now, let me answer another proposition. He made a garbled statement here. He made a statement that the representatives of the great Powers in this city have to-day called on the President and asked him to delay. I stated that that was false. I have the statement here in my hand, and there is not one word said about delay. What the gentleman did not read is the response in which he put an end, without qualification, to all suggestions of delay or interference in any way whatever. Now, the gentleman is arraigning the President of the United States; he is sending a message to the enemy showing them that here in the midst of this House is a man who will charge the President of the United States with a corrupt purpose, with a corrupt intention, with attempting to stop the progress of the great march of patriotism. There is no word of delay in all the language which has been used in this connection.

A DEFENCE OF SENATOR HANNA.

After a prolonged wrangle over the question of an extension of time, Mr. Grosvenor proceeded:

"I call the attention of the gentleman and of the House," he continued, "to the statement he made that this was another stock-jobbing performance and that here was another purpose of delay in this declaration from the Ambassadors of the great Powers, so that Wall Street would run upward. I hold in my hand the statement that immediately upon the publication of this statement in the city of New-York the market became very weak and ran clear down upon every one of the leading articles in the market. See how easy it is to make a charge. Now, let me tell the gentleman something about bonds. It is very easy to charge a Senator. The Senator (meaning Mr. Hanna) has made a statement which I challenge any man to deny, that never in his life, not only not this year, but never in his life, did he buy a dollar of stock in Wall Street or anywhere else."

Mr. McMillin—Can he say the same thing about votes? (Laughter and applause on the Democratic side.)

Mr. Lentz—I mentioned no Senator from any State on the floor of this House. His name was mentioned in one of the articles I read.

Mr. Grosvenor—Everybody knew—does the gentleman say he did not intend to point out Mark Hanna?

Mr. Lentz—How could everybody know?

Mr. Grosvenor—Did you intend it to mean Mark Hanna? Be brave, now. Answer that. Did you mean Mark Hanna?

Mr. Lentz—What makes you think I meant Mark Hanna? (Laughter.)

Mr. Grosvenor—You mentioned Mark Hanna, and the record will show it.

Mr. Lentz—I will charge you with the responsibility of accusing Mr. Hanna. I have not. I described a certain individual.

Mr. Grosvenor—Oh, but the gentleman did use the name. I have been baiting him to say that.

Mr. Lentz—I deny it.

INDEPENDENCE AND CUBAN BONDS.

Mr. Grosvenor—Well, there is the record. Now, Mr. Speaker, let us see how the situation stands. The gentleman is greatly worried about bonds, and he read the name of John J. McCook in one of his raids this afternoon. Who is John J. McCook? Whom does he represent? What is he here for? How do he and the gentleman from Ohio stand with reference to this? I will show you that they are parties in a great conspiracy, one willingly so, the other I trust ignorantly so. Who is John J. McCook? He is the legal representative of the Cuban Junta of New-York, behind which stands $400,000,000, more or less, of bonds that can be validated by the recognition of the independence of Cuba by the United States, and they will be destroyed by a policy that drives Spain out of Cuba in the interest of the American people. (Applause.)

Mr. Lentz—Was it not announced that this same J. J. McCook was to be a member of the present Cabinet?

Mr. Grosvenor—I have heard that the gentleman and myself were each and both of us to be Governor of the State of Ohio, but we never got there. (Laughter.) I will tell you who John J. McCook is. He represents an interest running up into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and if he could get the United States to make a recognition of the independence of Cuba, and then fight to establish it by the United States, at a cost of $1,000,000,000, the holders of these bogus bonds will realize $400,000,000 and collect the money. That is where the bonds come in. Let us take the other side. I was told some time ago—just before the time that this trouble broke out—I was told that a party in the city of New-York sold short on the market to an extent that, if the condition things were in prior to the breaking out of this Cuban trouble had prevailed, it would have absolutely ruined him, although his estate is a very wealthy one. I have been told that from that day to this any proposition to provoke Spain to war, any motion in this country that would cause war between Spain and the United States, has been promoted by that gentleman, because the moment war is declared the short side of the market will put $1,000,000 into his pocket. Now would the gentleman tell us—

Several members on the Democratic side—"Who is it?"

THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT FALTERED.

Mr. Grosvenor—Tell us how anybody can be benefited by preventing war? How? I mean any stock broker, anybody who holds any stocks. How can that happen when prices are going up or down as each battle progresses and as each ship has to surrender? Then is the time that stocks rise and stocks fall. And were I a stock gambler—which, thank God! I am not—there would be no occasion more gratifying to my greed than war between the United States and another country. Why is it that every manufacturer of the United States wants an end put to this war? Because they want things to get back again to where they were before this agitation began. Why is it that the Treasury of the United States wants to put an end to this uncertainty? Because the revenue of the Government is being destroyed by this excitement and uncertainty. Therefore it is that the President, backed by his Cabinet and backed by the best judgment of this House and backed by the best judgment of the Senate, is proceeding as rapidly as possible to put an end to this war, and yet the gentleman says that the President has faltered. A charge no more serious than he has preferred has brought the head of many a man to the block; a charge more infamous than that could not be borne by any man in this country, to make it appear that the President has used the power that Congress has given him to operate upon the stock markets of this country. Prove that, and you would have a vacancy in the Presidency just as quick as you can establish it. The charges have no truth.

Mr. Lentz—I have already said to you that I deny that I said anything of the kind. I never said that a telegram had not been sent.

PINNING MR. LENTZ DOWN.

Mr. Grosvenor—"The Administration set the story afloat in the interest of stock speculation"—those are your exact words, as the reporters' notes will show. You made a charge that ought to condemn the President of the United States to impeachment and imprisonment. I for one have felt that it was a terrible assault upon the honor and integrity of Spain, what we did on yesterday, but it must be remembered that there was put up on the one hand the choice of insult to Spain, solemnly delivered by the President, an intimation to the whole world that there was danger of murder to American representatives in Cuba, or there was put on the other side the danger itself. We can have no more tragedy along this line until war comes to put the whole thing into the hands of tragedy.

Now, then, I will say that over again the statement of the insult to Spain that was deliberately hurled at her by the American people, that the Administration was compelled to put the chances of murder—not that the Government of Spain would do it, but the Government was so powerless to maintain order as that the citizens of a friendly nation are unsafe in her ports and might be overwhelmed by mobs and murder have taken place. Suppose the message had gone to Congress yesterday and suppose that last night the blood of that distinguished and chivalrous gentleman from Virginia had soaked the soil of Cuba. What would have been the verdict of the American people against the Administration? If there is a man in the House so far forgetful of his dignity as an American citizen of the humblest character to intimate that the President has been guilty of juggling a thing like that, I will not answer him.

Mr. Speaker, I did not suppose that in this American Congress it was necessary that I should make an explanation in order to defend the President of the United States from an insinuation like that. I am glad that the purpose of the opposition is now fully and clearly disclosed. I am delighted that because of a little change in the programme, wholly unimportant, except as it strengthens the daily augmenting power of the United States—a change made under stress of circumstances that would have controlled any civilized nation—I am delighted that the gentleman from Ohio has given us notice that every occurrence now and hereafter is to be taken advantage of for party purposes, and I am delighted that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Bailey) has two or three times now on each succeeding day pointed out with great delight that there are differences of opinion on the Republican side of the House. I suggest to the gentleman that when he opens a recruiting office to get volunteers to pass under his banner to fight the Administration he had better make a contract for the rent of his quarters from day to day, as he probably will not need them very long in the future.

THE OPPOSITION'S HAND SHOWN.

Here comes a matter which the whole world will say governed the Administration, as it ought to have been governed, and the world will be notified to-night that the President has been assailed by a distinguished Representative on the floor, his motives impugned, his integrity censured, the whole action charged as being instigated by criminal purpose, and this in a body that boasts that it is going to stand by the Administration.

Now, gentlemen, let me tell you another thing. This war will be fought under the banner of the Republican Administration of this Government, or it will never be fought at all. We may differ about how it ought to be inaugurated, and honestly. Some of you may have an opinion different from mine and I honor you for that. But when the times comes the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States will command the column that will crush the power of Spain, or it never will be crushed.

"Again, you will discover as you go along that the enemy on the other side—the opposition—are putting forward matters of legal interest—taking a position to-day that they did not take two years ago. It is not yet two years since it was proclaimed by the great Democratic lawyers of the Congress of the United States that there was no power in the Congress of the United States to recognize the independence of a foreign country, labored arguments filled 'The Congressional Record' to show that such recognition was not within the power of Congress, but lay exclusively under the Constitution, in the hands of the President. But, however that may be, when war is declared the President of the United States becomes at once vested by the Constitution with the power to conclude treaties with foreign countries, and he is at all times the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States.

SURE THAT WAR WILL COME.

"I have no more doubt," Mr. Grosvenor concluded, "that we are going to war than I have that we will live until next week. I may be mistaken; I pray to God that I may be mistaken. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we will go to war on a declaration substantially of Congress. My influence will be given for peace for whatever it is worth. My influence will be given to avert war, but the time is up, in my humble judgment, when we can avert it, and if peace shall prevail it must come from the action of another country rather than our own.

"Our position is taken, and we cannot recede. But let the policy of this Government be such that when the tocsin of war shall have sounded all the civilized world will say 'America is right!'" (Great applause.)

After Mr. Grosvenor finished his speech Mr. Bailey took the floor in a brief speech, in which he quoted several utterances of Mr. Grosvenor to show that the latter had shifted his position. He first quoted from one of Mr. Grosvenor's speeches of a week ago, in which he declared that the Administration would, when the time for action came, be for independence and armed intervention. Two days later he said in an interview independence without armed intervention, and now he said armed intervention without independence.

Mr. Grosvenor caused some merriment on the Democratic side when he said the statements quoted were substantially in the same direction.

Then turning his attention to some of Mr. Grosvenor's remarks, Mr. Bailey indignantly repelled the idea that if war came it was to be a Republican war. "It would be a war of the people of the United States against Spanish tyranny on the island of Cuba," said he, amid tumultuous applause.

After some further debate on the bill, Mr. Hull's motion to strike out all but the first two sections of the bill was carried. The bill was then recommitted—150 to 61.

At 5:50 p. m. the House adjourned until Monday.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE MOBILE HARBOR DEFEATED—MR. MORGAN HAS A TILT WITH MR. ALLISON.

Washington, April 7.—Comparatively little interest was manifested to-day in the proceedings of the Senate. When the Vice-President's gavel fell at noon the galleries were scarcely half-filled, and the attendance on the floor was smaller than it had been for several days.

Mr. Allison moved that when the Senate adjourned to-day it be to meet on Monday next, and the motion was agreed to.

Consideration of the Sundry Civil bill was then resumed, the question pending being on an amendment offered by Mr. Pettus to appropriate $300,000 for the improvement of the Mobile harbor in order that warships might reach the wharves to coal and receive other supplies. It had been pressed by the Alabama Senator as an emergency war measure.

Mr. Pettus, in support of his amendment, said it had received the approval of the Secretary of War. He pointed out that if any difficulty was to be had with a foreign nation at this time or in the immediate future the scene of trouble would probably be in Southern waters. He regarded it as very important that the appropriation be made in order that ships of war should have proper facilities at that port.

Mr. Allison, in charge of the bill, made a point of order against the amendment, although he expressed his sympathy with all proper measures for the National defence. He said the rule to exclude this amendment was proper. He had been given to understand, he said, that if this amendment were adopted other similar amendments, all based on the idea of National defence, would be offered. This would open the entire field of river and harbor improvements. To this appropriation the Appropriations Committee was unanimously opposed, although every member would go to any length in support of the National defence.

Mr. Morgan made a sharp attack on the Appropriations Committee, charging that the committee exercised too great power. It usurped power that did not legally belong to it. "I want to say to the chairman of the committee (Mr. Allison), for whom I have always had the greatest respect and whose conduct of the affairs of the committee I have admired for many years, that he would better look out or the Senate will dissolve that committee and distribute its business among the various committees of the Senate, and I will be one to help do it."

"As for the threat implied by the Senator from Alabama," interrupted Mr. Allison hotly, "if I know myself I do not crave the work that is now imposed upon me by the Senate. If the Senate wants to dissolve the committee it may do so without delay."

Mr. Morgan, resuming the discussion, said that already a great coal combine that is to control the price of coal to be supplied to the Government at Southern ports was heard of. He hoped the report was not true, but he realized, he said, the opportunity for such a treasonable spoliation of the Government. He pointed out some of the advantages of opening the coal fields of the South by the improvement suggested in the pending amendment. The Government would thus be enabled to obtain its coal in any quantities at reasonable rates near the theatre of action in case of hostilities. "I do not know, Mr. President, whether war is coming or not," said he, "I have never myself done anything that might involve this country in war, but it seems to me that the sworn testimony now before the Senate is sufficiently strong to compel us to strike in defence of the honor and dignity of the country and in memory of our dead seamen entombed in the mud of Havana Harbor. I am willing to vote for a declaration that may involve us in hostilities because I believe that we have a just cause."

Mr. Morgan was of the opinion that if a railroad company had brought the amendment into the Senate it would have passed without a murmur of dissent from the committee, and he did not think that in the present circumstances there should be the slightest hesitation to pass it, because, although it had not received the approval of any committee, it had received the sanction of the Secretary of War. "I am willing," said he, "to do anything that will succor the United States Navy and strike down the monopoly that seeks to prey upon the Government."

Mr. Hawley inquired what, if any, arrangements had been made for the planting of big guns at the entrance of Mobile Harbor to defend it in case an attack should be made.

Mr. Morgan replied that as the Secretary of War had recommended the proposed improvement, he doubtless had in mind a provision for the defence of the harbor in case of need.

Mr. Allison had a telegram read from Secretary Alger saying that while he was willing that the improvement should be made under the discretion of the Secretary of War, he thought the outer bar should be left for the present, so as to prevent the too easy egress of foreign hostile ships. "It is better, not to the Secretary's mind, that we open wide deep harbors that would admit warships. It would be simply one more place to guard."

On this telegram the Chair overruled Mr. Allison's point of order, and submitted the question to the Senate whether the amendment should be considered. An aye and no vote was taken on this proposition, and resulted in the negative, 26 to 33. The vote had the effect of ruling the amendment out of order.

An amendment proposed by Mr. Carter providing that it should not be necessary for disbursing officers and heads of departments to submit to the auditor official telegrams and that a certificate of the amount with the telegraph companies from the proper officer should be accepted by the auditor was adopted.

Mr. Carter explained that in time of war especially many confidential telegrams were sent and received by the Government—telegrams that ought not in any circumstances to be submitted to this auditor, if the clerks in the auditor's office who had nothing to do with such contents.

Mr. Gray offered an amendment providing for an appropriation of $250,000 for continuing the improvement of the harbor at Wilmington, Del., and it was agreed to.

Mr. Brooker secured the adoption of an amendment providing that of the sum of $200,000 appropriated for the improvement of the harbor of Cleveland, Ohio, $100,000 should be used for the repair and extension of the levee of the Muskingum River, at Zanesville, Ohio.

At 2 o'clock the bill was laid aside, and Mr. Walthall, of Mississippi, presented resolutions on the death of his late colleague, Senator James Z. George. Those who paid tributes to the memory of Senator George were Mr. Walthall, Mr. Proctor, Mr. Turpie, Mr. Hale, Mr. Tillman, Mr. Gray, Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, and Mr. Money. At 4 o'clock, as a further mark of respect, the Senate adjourned until Monday.

THE ARMY BILL RECOMMITTED.

HOPE OF REORGANIZATION PRACTICALLY GONE FOR THIS SESSION.

Washington, April 7 (Special).—The action of the House of Representatives to-day in recommitting to the Committee on Military Affairs by a vote of 150 to 61 the bill for the better organization of the line of the Army, after all except the first two sections had been eliminated on motion of the committee, and the second one amended so as to limit the total number of enlisted men in the Army in time of peace to the number now authorized by law, probably destroyed the last hope of legislation at this session to reorganize the infantry arm of the service on a modern basis. The most formidable source of opposition to the measure was that brought to bear by the National Guard organizations of the several States, which was taken advantage of by all those members who for various other reasons were opposed to the bill, so that the striking out of all the sections which were so bitterly fought by the militia organizations did little to strengthen the measure.

Another powerful factor in the opposition was the almost unanimous sentiment of the Demo-Pops against any increase, however slight, of the Regular Army. As the bill stood, when recommitted, the total increase in time of war would have amounted to only five thousand enlisted men. Still another cause of the defeat of the measure, and the one which ought not to be overlooked, was the fact that the House of Representatives has not been in a condition during the last two days to deal with such legislation. Members have been striking and talking about nothing except the Cuban situation, the report of the Maine Court of Inquiry, the expected Message from the President and the imminent prospect of war with Spain. Scarcely a score of members appeared to pay any attention to or take any interest in the debate, much of which was exceedingly instructive as well as interesting. Under different circumstances the discussion would have commanded attention, and the bill would have received fair and intelligent consideration on its merits.

SCOVEL PROMPTLY ACQUITTED.

Camden, N. J., April 7.—Lawyer H. S. Scovel, senior counsel for Ell Shaw, was this afternoon found not guilty of the charges of embracery. Scovel was charged with attempting to bribe Jurors Meshaw and Shiller, two of the panel of jurors which had been selected to try Ell Shaw, who was charged with the murder of his mother and grandmother, October 13 last. The jury was out about ten minutes.

Easter Wedding Presents

Messrs. Tiffany & Co. announce that the annual display of their sterling silver products for the Easter Wedding season is now complete.

The improved labor-saving methods of their new Forest Hill Works have contributed materially to an attractive revision of prices throughout their entire stock.

Tiffany & Co.'s products can be purchased only direct from their own establishment.

Tiffany & Co.

UNION SQUARE NEW YORK.

THE PRESIDENT'S CALLERS.

THEY EXPRESS THE OPINION THAT THE SITUATION IS UNCHANGED.

GENERAL LEE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO LEAVE HAVANA ON SATURDAY—NO ALTERATION OF THE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

Washington, April 7.—Senator Cullom, of Illinois, who brought some friends to present to the President, and Representatives Grosvenor, of Ohio, and Cannon, of Illinois, the latter the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, were the first callers at the White House to-day. Senator Gray, of Delaware, a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, was with the President for some time.

Senator Gray later said he believed that all the Americans who intended to get out of Cuba would be got out safely. He believed that neither General Woodford nor General Lee would be at his post after the opening of next week. He thought the precautions taken by this Government and the threatening state of affairs at Havana with relation to American citizens tended to stimulate the Spanish Government to afford better protection. He did not think there was any likelihood of an armistice between Spain and the insurgents. Such an act, he said, naturally would have an effect on the situation, but the mere offer of one, unaccepted by the Cubans, whatever might be the part it would play in the sentiment of other Powers, would not, in his opinion, change our attitude in any way.

Up to late in the forenoon there had not been any important development at the White House. The President announced to some of his callers that he regarded his message to Congress as a closed document unless there is an unexpected radical change in the existing situation.

Representative Grosvenor said that unless there was a revision of the facts, which he did not deem at all probable, there would be no revision of the President's message. Mr. McKinley, he said, was conscious of the criticisms passed on the Administration for delay of action and said he expected it, notwithstanding the danger threatening Americans on the island.

Up to 11 o'clock four members of the Cabinet and Assistant Secretary Day had been with the President. They were Secretaries Sherman, Long, and Bliss and Attorney-General Griggs.

Judge Day, after a conference with the President, said he expected Consul-General Lee would leave Cuba by Saturday. The Americans on the island were being got off rapidly, and about Saturday he believed the situation would permit General Lee to return to the United States.

Representative Taylor, of Ohio, one of Mr. McKinley's personal supporters in the House, talked over the situation with the President and later stated his belief that there was no present outlook for a change in the situation before the message goes in on Monday. Representatives Hawley, of Texas, and Simpson, of Kansas, both saw the President on personal matters. Senator Elkins made his usual call. Representative Steele, of Indiana, who was at the White House for a little while, but did not see the President, expressed his opinion that Spain would yield to the United States.

Secretary Gage arrived shortly before noon and joined his colleagues. While they were together Commander Bradford, Chief of the Naval Bureau of Equipment, was summoned to give suggestions. Secretary Long and Commander Bradford remained with the President for a few minutes after the others departed.

Representative Alexander, of New-York, and Representative Livingston, of Georgia, brought parties of friends on a sightseeing trip. The White House, however, was closed all day and only a few persons gained admission to it. Hundreds of strangers received the disappointing announcement that the receptions had been postponed indefinitely, and many more received similar responses to inquiries to-day. A large delegation of Pennsylvania school-teachers who arrived late last night was on hand bright and early, but had to go away unsatisfied.

QUESADA'S TESTIMONY TAKEN.

HE TELLS THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ABOUT THE CUBAN REPUBLIC.

Washington, April 7.—The House Committee on Foreign Affairs had Mr. Quesada, of the Cuban delegation, before it for an hour to-day. He was asked as to the Government of the Republic of Cuba, which the United States is asked to recognize, and members say he gave a full and satisfactory statement. He described the territory in possession of the insurgents, and the system of government in Puerto Principe and Santiago provinces. In the former province, he said, there were 250,000 people who acknowledged allegiance to the republican Government. Four hundred thousand dollars, he said, had been collected in taxes. The capital of the Republic had been twice dislodged, but it was in working order.

Mr. Quesada denied emphatically that the Cuban republic had issued $200,000,000 of bonds. Only $1,000,000 of bonds had ever been issued, and less than $600,000 of those had been sold.

He said a declaration of war against Spain by the United States would be a declaration against all Spain's subjects, and, if not coupled with the recognition of Cuba or recognition of belligerent rights, would include the insurgents, now regarded as subjects of Spain. Mr. Quesada thought this feature of the case needed careful scrutiny.

Mr. Quesada, when asked to state for the Associated Press the position that he now maintains in regard to affairs on the island, made the following statement:

"Our position has so often and so emphatically been expressed that the American people cannot misinterpret it. Anything which means the perpetuation of Spanish sovereignty in the island, whatever its apparent liberal form, and come from whom it may, will not be accepted by the Cuban patriots. We oppose any intervention which does not have for its declared object the independence of the island."

Tomas Estrada Palma, delegate of the Cuban Provisional Government to the United States, when asked this morning if he had any comments to make on the statement presented in New-York yesterday by Horatio S. Rubens, counsel of the Cuban Junta, dictated the following reply:

"All I care to say is this: That the Cubans are struggling for absolute independence. They have made tremendous sacrifices for achieving this purpose. They consider themselves already emancipated from Spanish rule. Therefore, they will resist all interference intended to compel them to pay anew an allegiance to the sovereignty of Spain."

Asked what position he would consider it likely the Provisional Government would take in view of a possible armistice, he said:

"If the American Government acknowledges the independence of Cuba and recognizes the actual Government of the Cuban Republic, I think it would not be difficult to accept by the Government of the Republic of Cuba an armistice with the purpose of assuring the peace of the island."

MINING THE DELAWARE RIVER.

STEPS TAKEN TO PERFECT THE DEFENCES OF PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia, April 7.—A detachment of engineer troops has arrived in this city, and the men are now awaiting orders from Major W. C. Raymond, United States engineer in charge of the Delaware River defences. They were sent to Fort Delaware, on the west side of the river thirty-three miles below Philadelphia, and their services will be used in placing submarine mines in the channel of the river, in order to complete the system of defences which are clustered about Fort Delaware.

It is understood that Major Raymond has everything arranged to put the Delaware River in a good state of defence at a moment's notice. The submarine mines, which are a most important part of the defences, are ready to be anchored at the points selected, and the guns so far mounted at Fort Delaware and Fort Mott, the latter on the New-Jersey side of the river, are considered sufficient, in connection with the mines and other plans, to prevent any hostile fleet from ascending the river. The location of the mines is naturally kept secret. It is said, however, that they will be placed in the channel at various points between the two forts and deep water in Delaware Bay, covering a distance of several miles. It is also said that a project has been discussed for planting mines at the entrance to the bay, between Cape May and Cape Henlopen.

THANKS OF CONGRESS FOR LEE.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY HIS OLD FRIEND WHEELER, OF ALABAMA.

Washington, April 7.—Representative Wheeler, of Alabama, to-day introduced in the House a resolution extending the thanks of Congress to Fitzhugh Lee for the courage, efficiency and good judgment he has displayed in the performance of his duties as Consul-General at Havana. Representative Wheeler and General Lee are lifelong friends. They are both graduates of West Point and were at the Military Academy at the same time.

MR. ROBBINS MOVES FOR WAR.

Washington, April 7.—Representative Robbins, of Pennsylvania, has introduced a resolution calling attention to the cable message from General Lee as to the imperilment of the lives of American citizens if the President's message should be submitted to Congress before Monday, and recognizing Cuban independence. It declares that a state of war has existed between the two nations since the Maine destruction and directs the President to order at once the North Atlantic Squadron from Key West to Havana to demand the safe conduct of all Americans from the island and for the squadron to bombard Morro Castle and close the port of Havana if the Spanish refuse to comply. It also directs that the Spanish Government be ordered by the President to withdraw her army from the island and her navy from Cuban waters.

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THE MACHIAS LEAVES BOSTON.

SEALED ORDERS SENT ABOARD AT THE LAST MOMENT—CREW DRILLED AT THE GUNS.

Boston, April 7.—The gunboat Machias, Commander Merry, sailed from the Charlestown Navy Yard at 11:30 o'clock this forenoon. It was supposed that she was going to Key West. Just as she was getting under way a signal was hoisted from the receiving-ship Wabash, requesting that a boat be sent ashore. Commander Merry sent out of the lieutenants to the Navy Yard landing, where an officer handed him a package of sealed orders, with which he returned to his vessel.

Provincetown, Mass., April 7.—The Race Point life saving crew reported this afternoon that the gunboat Machias, supposed to be on her way from Boston to Key West, lay to off the point for three hours while her crew were drilled at the guns. She had not sailed at dusk.

QUICK-FIRING GUNS ON THE TOPEKA.

A LARGE CONSIGNMENT FROM FRANCE PLACED ON BOARD THE CRUISER.

London, April 7.—Some eighty-four packages of quick-firing guns, etc., arrived at Southampton to-day from Havre, and were transported by a special tug to Weymouth, where they were embarked on board the United States cruiser Topeka, formerly the Diogenes.

SPANISH TROOPS KILLED.

SOLDIERS HARD PRESSED BY INSURGENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES—ADVICES FROM CHINA AND JAPAN.

Vancouver, B. C., April 7.—From the latest papers from Hong Kong it is learned that there have been exciting times recently in the Philippines, Spanish troops being surprised and massacred. The Bolina staff of the eastern extension telegraph were recently besieged for five days on account of Spanish soldiers taking refuge there. From a Spanish gunboat marines were landed and the station was opened after hard fighting between the detachment and the rebels. Two days afterward the British cruiser Edgar arrived. About the same time General Monet and 1,000 men arrived overland. General Monet said he had five engagements between Bolina and Lingayen. The insurgents suffered heavy losses and the Spanish losses were one lieutenant and one soldier. The garrison and priests of neighboring villages had been killed, only six soldiers succeeding in escaping.

War is raging in the island of Luzon, and is rapidly assuming as serious proportions as the rebellion of 1896-'97. Attacks were made upon the Spanish quarters at Subigandapalit, the rebels capturing and carrying off large quantities of ammunition. All the northern provinces are affected. The natives refuse the taxes. Many of the rich natives and half-castes are closing their business places and are preparing to leave the islands. The provinces of Zamabales, Tarlac and Pangasinan are in open revolt.

News has just reached Manila that the telegraph line connecting the cable with Manila was destroyed by the rebels on March 7 near Bolina.

QUEEN REGENT APPEALS TO THE QUEEN.