THE WAR TAX BILL TAKEN UP

GENERAL DEBATE BEGUN IN THE HOUSE.

STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR PROMPT ACTION MADE BY MESSRS. DINGLEY AND DOLLIVER—AMENDMENTS TO BE OFFERED BY THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 27.—The general debate on the first tax bill to defray the expenses of the Spanish-American war was opened in the House of Representatives to-day in the presence of a large and imposing assemblage of spectators. An unusually large proportion of the members were in their seats and the galleries were crowded when Chairman Dingley of the Committee on Ways and Means arose to address the House. His exposition of the provisions of the bill was as lucid and satisfactory as his explanations of legislative measures always are, and his arguments and statements of fact showing the importance and necessity of prompt and favorable action on the pending measure were cogent, clear and convincing. He was interrupted a number of times by members of the minority, several of whom took the liberty to interject into his speech remarks which would have been more properly, if not profitably, reserved for the five-minute debate. Mr. Dingley bore the interruptions patiently and good-naturedly, and took advantage of them to make several telling points which he might otherwise have reserved until a later stage of the debate.

Toward the end of his speech Mr. Dingley turned his attention to the several propositions which the minority intends to offer as amendments—the income tax, coinage of the so-called seigniorage and various other relics of the free silver junkshop—and handled them without gloves. This portion of the speech, as well as the patriotic peroration, excited great enthusiasm and repeated and hearty applause on the Republican side.

ATTITUDE OF THE MINORITY STATED.

Mr. Bailey, who opened the debate in behalf of the minority, began with a protest against allowing partisan considerations to weigh or partisan prejudices to exhibit themselves in the discussion of the pending measure, and then went on to make them prominent. His tribute to the zeal and patriotism of members of all parties in the existing crisis was well deserved except by some men who sit in Congress to-day. One thing was noticeable throughout the speech, and that was the recurrence so frequently that it became monotonous of the pronoun "we." "We" will do thus and so; "we" will not do this or that; "we" cannot be led or driven by patriotic impulse to consent to this or vote for that. In a word, unless Mr. Bailey was altogether mistaken, "we"—the Democrats, Populists and Silver Republicans—are to vote as one man for all the amendments proposed in the Committee on Ways and Means yesterday, and then vote against the bill itself unless the amendments are adopted. While the speech was not the strongest in argument that has been heard in the House on that side of the question, it was delivered with a fluency and an amount of physical exertion which were impressive, and it excited a good deal of enthusiasm and applause among the members of the coalition of which Mr. Bailey is perhaps the most prominent leader.

DOLLIVER'S TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDENT.

The speech of Mr. Dolliver, of Iowa, who followed, was an unusually strong and eloquent one even for him, and his broad, patriotic and thoughtful treatment of the subject under consideration offered a striking contrast to that of the statesman who had preceded him. Mr. Dolliver's dissection and characterization of the various propositions advocated by Mr. Bailey were heartily enjoyed by the Republicans, and his glowing tribute to the patriotism, moderation, wisdom and statesmanship of President McKinley was received with hearty and generous applause, not only on the floor, but by many of the spectators in the galleries.

Mr. Bell, of Colorado, the Populist leader, next spoke, and was followed by Mr. Sayers, of Texas, who criticised the bill on account of the large amount of money to be raised at this time to carry on the war. It was altogether too large, in his opinion, in view of the fact that Congress would reassemble in December, and could make such further provision as might then seem necessary after the war had been some months in progress. He declared, and nobody doubted, that he would vote for any tax or any amount of loan that might be necessary to carry on the war; but he warned the House not to make the amount so large that a big surplus would be left in the Treasury after the war to tempt Congress to extravagance in appropriations and the Administration to prodigality in expenditures.

AN IMPORTANT AMENDMENT.

It is expected that the Committee on Ways and Means will offer several amendments to the bill on Friday. One provision which has given considerable difficulty is that relating to the tax on telephone messages, which was regarded as desirable and necessary on account of the tax to be imposed on telegraphic dispatches. Mr. Tawney, of Minnesota, who is an officer of a telephone company and has some practical knowledge of the telephone business, drafted the provision now in the bill, but was not thoroughly satisfied with it, and he has prepared a new one which, it is understood, he will offer with the sanction of the committee. It is one of great importance and general interest, and reads as follows:

That any person, firm or corporation owning or operating what is commonly known as a long-distance or toll telephone line or lines, whether such line or lines or any part thereof is or are operated separately or in connection with the similar lines of any other person, firm or corporation, shall on the first day of each month return to the Collector of Internal Revenue in and for the district in which such person, firm or corporation resides the number of messages transmitted over the said respective separate or connected lines during the preceding month, the said return to include the messages so transmitted from individual or corporate subscribers to the telephone service of said persons, firms or corporations, and from the respective public pay stations of the said persons, firms or corporations, together with the total sum received for each message so transmitted. Upon the failure of any person, firm or corporation to make such return they shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not exceeding $500.

On each message so transmitted for a distance of thirty miles or more, the charge for which, according to such sworn return, does not exceed 25 cents, said person, firm or corporation shall pay a tax of 1 cent; when the charge exceeds 25 cents and does not exceed $1 50, 2 cents; when the charge exceeds $1 50 and does not exceed $5, 10 cents: Provided, that official messages of the United States Government shall be exempt from the taxes herein imposed upon telegraphic and telephonic messages.

It is Mr. Tawney's opinion that if this provision is embodied in the law it will yield a revenue of $10,000,000 a year. Of this total he thinks that the telephone companies of New-York alone will pay about $800,000, there being some five thousand telephone pay stations in the boroughs which constitute that city.

HARBOR REGULATIONS DISREGARDED.

ONLY GOOD LUCK HAS PREVENTED SEVERAL VESSELS FROM BEING BLOWN UP.

Washington, April 27.—Reports received by General Wilson, Chief of Engineers, show a reckless disregard of the published regulations for the protection of shipping and the mines and torpedoes recently located at the principal harbors on the Atlantic Coast. These regulations, which were intended as much for the safety of shipping as for the mines, prohibited vessels from entering or leaving ports between sunset and sunrise, except by special permission. Wherever possible patrol-boats were stationed at the entrances of harbors to warn vessels not to attempt to enter in the night or in the daytime without proper guides. These precautions have been disregarded in several instances, and the engineer officers express surprise that they were unattended by loss of life or the destruction of property. The other day a vessel entering the harbor of Baltimore got her screw tangled in the cable that had been laid to connect the sunken mines with the shore batteries. The cable was dragged about seven hundred feet before it became disconnected with the screw, and by some miracle the mines were not exploded. The engineer officers were put to considerable trouble and expense in relaying the cable in its proper place. A similar incident occurred in the harbor of New-York last night, when an incoming vessel dragged the cables and displaced several mines. Considerable damage was done to the system, but it is remarkable that none of the mines exploded and the vessels escaped injury. Owing to lack of funds, the Engineer Department is not able to maintain an effective patrol over the waters of New-York Harbor, but efforts will be made to induce navigators to respect the regulations of the Department in regard to this matter, as otherwise some serious casualty is sure to occur. Probably the fact that none has occurred already is due more to good luck than good management.

One is instinctively attracted by the natural fragrance of Lundborg's Perfume Vio-Violet.

PLANS FOR AIDING CUBA.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INSURGENTS CONFER WITH GENERAL MILES.

HOW CO-OPERATION WITH THE TROOPS OF GENERALS GOMEZ AND GARCIA CAN BE EFFECTED—ARMS AND SUPPLIES TO BE FURNISHED—RENEWED TALK OF RECOGNITION.

Washington, April 27.—Another conference has been held between General Miles, commanding the United States forces, and representatives of the Cuban civil and military authorities. The latter included Señor Quesada, Chargé d'Affaires of the Cuban Legation; Brigadier-General Nunez and Lieutenant Artiago, of the Cuban Army. Lieutenant Artiago has seen seventeen months' service in the field, and General Nunez has an intimate knowlege of all the ports of Cuba, having directed the movements of all filibustering parties.

The conference brought about a full discussion of the plans of co-operation between the United States and Cuban forces. The details of this co-operation are guarded with the strictest secrecy. The exploit of Lieutenant Rowan in landing near Santiago has been known for several days to both the United States and Cuban authorities, as they co-operated in executing this move. The Cuban authorities here furnished the guides and necessary papers to see Lieutenant Rowan through the Cuban lines.

It is in execution of the plans outlined in these dispatches on Monday for a landing at Santiago and Sagua, two points on the Cuban coast, one north and one south, respectively, with a view to effecting junctures with both General Gomez and General Garcia. Now that Lieutenant Rowan is on his way to effect a juncture from Santiago, it is not improbable that another juncture will be made by way of Sagua.

The first purpose of these movements, it is understood, is to bring about the full equipment of the insurgent forces, rather than to secure a joint movement between them and the United States troops. It is said that Garcia and Gomez together can muster 35,000 men, and that they will be able to make a strong forward movement on Havana as soon as they have arms, ammunition and medical supplies. The latter, and particularly quinine, are said to be greatly needed.

The understanding among those best acquainted with the plans of co-operation is that the Cuban forces will advance on Havana and make a land siege, in conjunction with the blockade now in progress by the United States warships. In this connection there is renewed talk of a recognition of the Cubans, at least of their belligerency, and possibly their independence, and confident hopes were expressed to-day in high Cuban circles that recognition would be granted within the next two weeks. One of the first effects of this, it is said, would be to give the Cubans an official status at Washington, instead of their present unofficial status.

The conferences now held with General Miles and other officials are being productive of important results, and yet they are necessarily unofficial, in character, owing to the unrecognized status of the Cubans. Now, however, that Gomez and Garcia are being recognized as material factors in the contest, and are being treated with by the War Department, the destrability of their recognition at least as belligerents is being urged as warranting formal recognition.

It is said the co-operation already established is in itself a recognition of the de facto existence of the Cuban Army and of belligerency, and that the de jure recognition should follow. While these hopes are renewed in Cuban circles, it cannot be learned that the Administration has modified its attitude against recognition of any character.

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

NAVAL BILL IN CONFERENCE.

NO CONTROVERSY SO FAR OVER ANY OF THE PROVISIONS.

Washington, April 27.—The conferees on the Naval Appropriation bill met this afternoon and spent several hours going over the measure. They passed about one-third of the bill, proceeding as far as the paragraph for the Philadelphia Naval Home. There was no disposition to antagonize any of the portions of the bill so far as it was read. This includes the provision for the emergency enlistments of officers and seamen, carrying a maximum of $8,820,000 pay for the temporary war force. While this radically amended the bill as it came from the House, it was felt as a war provision it should be retained. It is, however, still subject to a final revision, although there was no indication to-day of a controversy.

STRATEGY BOARD IN SESSION.

CONSIDERING THE MOVEMENTS OF AMERICAN AND SPANISH WARSHIPS.

Washington, April 27.—The Navy Department was the centre of great activity to-day, Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt conferring with bureau chiefs and receiving many Senators and other public men. The policy of rigid secrecy as to strategic movements, orders to vessels, etc., continued, and no confirmation was possible of the various reports of captures in Southern waters.

The Strategy Board began another session about midday to take into consideration the latest reports of American and Spanish naval movements. Although members of the Board were extremely reticent, two of them minimized the reports that a fleet of Spanish warships was now on its way to this side. It was said that the official reports up to last night did not bear out the rumors of this movement. When asked as to the reported purpose of dividing the Flying Squadron with a view to utilizing some of the vessels along the North Atlantic coast to repel Spanish ships, a member of the Board shook his head and smilingly remarked: "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." It was inferred that a Spanish attack on North Atlantic points was not regarded as imminent by the Board, and that the division of the Flying Squadron was a question of the future in case a Spanish fleet should be definitely located off the northern coast.

Mr. Roosevelt said that the Navy Department had done nothing toward the purchase of the Holland submarine boat. It is understood that a naval board has examined this craft and has reported some objections to its practical usefulness; but this report, if made, is probably tentative, as the Department continues to have under consideration the question of the purchase of the boat.

AUXILIARY BOARD INCREASED.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER C. F. BRUNS, RETIRED, ADDED TO IT—SEVERAL INSPECTIONS, BUT NO NEW RECOMMENDATIONS.

The membership of the Naval Auxiliary Cruiser Board was still further increased yesterday by the addition of Lieutenant-Commander C. F. Bruns, United States Navy, of the retired list. The members of the Board were busily engaged in office work yesterday, preparing special lists of vessels.

Much regret was expressed by the Board for the untimely death of Commander Elmer, who was working with it in arranging for the patrol vessels. The lists of the Board and all information in regard to vessels will be at the service of Rear-Admiral Erben, who now takes charge of this work.

Chief Engineer Dixon and Harbor Supervisor Patch returned yesterday from Cleveland and Buffalo. They made favorable reports on the yachts Comanche and Enquirer, and recommended their purchase. These are speedy vessels, and are of light draught, although stanch and seagoing.

The yacht Aileen, which the Government now owns, was sent to the Quintard Iron Works yesterday to be fitted up for naval use.

The Board is desirous of securing a vessel with a complete refrigerating plant, and the only one yet offered is the old American Line vessel Illinois. Although she was built in 1873, she may have to be taken in lieu of something better and more modern in construction.

The vessels inspected yesterday included some of those of the Munson Line, and the tug Regulus. The latter is wanted for a collier. She is owned by Harvey & Co., and was built at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in 1878. She is 238 feet long, 38 feet beam and 21 feet deep.

The tug Gladisfen, of Camden, N. J., has been offered to the Board at its own price. She is 110 feet long, 20 feet beam, and 10 feet deep, and is fitted out for salvage and wrecking purposes. New boilers have recently been put in her.

The members of the Board will probably inspect a considerable number of vessels to-day. Lieutenant-Commander Kelley is expected to resume his work with the Board.

MORE POWERS NEUTRAL.

FOUR OF THE SIX GREAT EUROPEAN NATIONS HAVE DECLARED THEIR ATTITUDE.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA STILL DELAY, BUT ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE OTHERS—PORTUGAL AND THE SPANISH FLEET AT ST. VINCENT.

Washington, April 27.—The State Department posted a notice to-day saying that it had been officially advised of the issuance of neutrality orders by Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden, Russia and Colombia. To these should be added Great Britain, that country having issued a neutrality proclamation, although the State Department has not yet been officially advised of the fact. It is supposed, also, that the official notice of French neutrality will be received by to-morrow, as press dispatches announce that a proclamation was agreed upon at yesterday's Cabinet Council at Paris. The French Ambassador, M. Cambon, has not yet received any notice of the proclamation.

DELAY BY AUSTRIA AND GERMANY.

Including France, four out of the six great Powers of Europe have declared their neutrality, namely, Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia. Germany and Austria have not yet acted. The delay of Austria does not cause surprise, as her sympathy with Spain is more decided than that of any other country of Europe. It is not doubted, however, that Austria will assume a neutral attitude sooner or later.

The delay of Germany is felt to be caused solely by consulting her own commercial interests before shaping the exact terms of the neutrality proclamation. From the first Germany and Great Britain have opposed the right of search as detrimental to their commerce. Thus far Spain has announced a much more radical doctrine than the United States in this matter. The Spanish order published in the "Official Gazette" last Monday announced the purpose of exercising the right of search of all merchant ships on the high seas. The President's proclamation of yesterday qualified the right of search by saying that it "is to be exercised with strict regard of the right of neutrals, and the voyages of mail steamers are not to be interfered with except on the clearest ground of suspicion," etc. It is understood that this matter of right of search is causing the hesitation on the part of Germany, and that if it is satisfactorily established that her merchant ships shall not be harassed Germany will adopt the same course as other nations.

The action already taken by four of the six great Powers shows that there will be no concert of interference, either between the great Powers or between the three Powers constituting the Dreibund.

FORTUGAL'S ATTITUDE IMPORTANT.

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

Colombia is the only South or Central American country which thus far has declared neutrality. Spain has been counting much on the co-operation of Spanish-American countries, but there is no reason to doubt that all of them will adopt a neutral position.

NO MOVE TOWARD INTERVENTION.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps dismiss the report coming from Europe that another move toward European intervention will be made as soon as Spain suffers a decisive reverse. This is said to be purely conjectural, as no such move has taken form thus far by the exchange of notes.

It is accepted as settled that no more ships intended for the American Navy can leave the ports of those countries which have declared their neutrality. This result is most serious in the case of the cruiser Albany, now at the Armstrong yards, Elswick, England. The view among diplomatic officials is that neither the Albany nor the torpedo-boat Somers can sail, even though the United States flag was raised over them before the proclamation of neutrality was issued. It is said that the raising of the flag cannot avoid the manifest use of the ship for war purposes.

EXCITEMENT IN SYRACUSE.

ALL BUT SIX MEN OF THE FORTY-FIRST SEPARATE COMPANY VOLUNTEER.

Syracuse, April 27 (Special).—In response to Adjutant-General Tillinghast's order, the entire 41st Separate Company, with the exception of six members, has volunteered to go to the front. The places of the six, who gave good reasons for not being able to go, were filled immediately, and the company will go out with a full complement of men. The company has sent a request to Albany that it be among the first to be called out. About two hundred Syracusians have enlisted with the National Volunteer Reserves, and the local enlisting officer is kept busy swearing in those who want to go.

CREWS REFUSE TO SAIL FROM TAMPA.

CAPTAINS WANT TO COMPEL THEM TO KEEP THEIR AGREEMENTS—SIGNAL CORPS ON DUTY.

Tampa, Fla., April 27 (Special).—Four schooners lying at Port Tampa, loading with phosphate for foreign ports, will probably remain here for some time on account of the war with Spain. The captain of one of the vessels went before United States Commissioner Crane yesterday to ascertain what could be done to compel members of his crew to make the voyage. He stated that the men had all signed for the round trip, but that they now refused to sail from this point while the present conflict exists for fear of capture.

The crews of the other vessels take the same stand, and the captains will not be able to secure men to take their places. One of the captains stated that they would wait until all the vessels are ready to sail, and then request the Government to detail an armed vessel to accompany them out of the Gulf. The request will be made in a day or two.

The contract for supplying lumber for the base of the three-gun battery to be established at Egmont Key has been awarded by the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, and the work will be begun at once. Four detachments of the Tampa and Port Tampa divisions of Naval Militia left last night for Tortugas, Key West, Egmont and Sanibal Island to begin active duty as a signal corps. There are five men in each detachment. The other men of the division cheered their departing comrades and envied their good fortune in being selected for active service.

Savannah, April 27.—By request of the Postoffice Department, the Plant Line steamships Mascotte and Olivette will sail from Tampa hereafter on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9 p. m., and from Key West on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 p. m.

A WAR COMMITTEE IN UTICA.

Utica, April 27 (Special).—Oneida is the first county in the State to organize a War Committee. A meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms last night, called by fifty-six well-known Uticans, and a committee was appointed.

It will endeavor to have the places of employment of those who volunteer retained for them when they return from the service of the Government, and is authorized to take charge of all matters relating to filling the present quota and any future quotas asked for. The committee was also directed to take immediate steps to organize one or two more regiments, which will represent Oneida County, and turn them over to the Government if they are desired. Over three hundred Uticans have volunteered in the American Volunteer Reserves, in addition to the two hundred members of the two separate companies located here.

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RESTAURANTS MAY RAISE PRICES.

THE INCREASE LIKELY TO BE SEEN SOON IN THE CHEAPER PLACES—HIGH-CLASS HOTELS NOT EASILY AFFECTED.

With the pronounced rise in the price of meat, cereals, vegetables and other edibles as a result of the war, there is a possibility that prices will be raised in restaurants, cafés, dining-rooms and hotels generally for meals served. The war tax on liquors, ales and beers, mineral waters and so on is likely to be borne by the manufacturers, the consumer getting by way of equalization a smaller quantity or inferior quality for the old price. So far as can be learned, no rise in prices has resulted as yet.

The higher prices will probably be seen first in the cheap restaurants, where the proprietor has a narrow margin of profit. At the large hotels, in expensive cafés and better-class restaurants no increase will come until prices have taken an exceptional upward flight. In these places the cost of the raw material used is little in comparison with the price charged for serving the meal prepared. Various hotel-keepers and restaurant-keepers seen yesterday said they had yet no idea of raising their prices. On the other hand, the owners of small restaurants and eating-houses are said to be viewing the increased cost of material with apprehension, and will raise prices as soon as the cost of meats and vegetables climbs any higher.

YACHTING CRANK CAUSES A SCARE.

CITY ISLAND PEOPLE GET THE POLICE TO ARREST HIM AS A SUPPOSED SPANISH S.Y.

A rakish schooner yacht, with a fierce-looking, swarthy skipper, appeared off City Island on Tuesday and gave the inhabitants a scare. The yacht came to anchor close to the schooner Glendy Burke, carrying thirty tons of dynamite, bound for Boston, and a report speedily spread that the man was a Spaniard and was cutting telegraph and mine wires.

Detectives Dillon and Farrell, of the Westchester station, arrested the supposed Spaniard yesterday and searched the boat. There were found two rifles, several pistols, some ammunition, and provisions enough for one man for two years. The man was taken before Chief McCullagh. He said his name was Sigismund Brewer, and he was a Hungarian. Eighteen years ago, while a medical student, he left Hungary and came to this country. He finally went into the clothing business in Trenton, N. J., and made some money. Believing that some one was trying to kill him by poisoning his food, he bought the boat from Nathaniel Herreshoff and sailed in her to get away from his enemies. He came along the Sound from Boston to enlist and fight the Spaniards.

The man had $250 with him. Chief McCullagh recognized him as a man who two years ago asked the police to protect him from people who were about to poison him. Regarding him as a crank, the Chief let him go yesterday, and instructed the police not to hinder him. Brewer is forty-one years old and is a little flighty. He said he lost his anchor, and that was why he drifted near the Glendy Burke.

SUPPORT FROM SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

The Board of Managers of the Sons of the Revolution held a meeting yesterday at No. 146 Broadway, at which these resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we, the Sons of the Revolution, laying aside all political difference of opinion, actuated by a warm and enduring love of our country, do hereby offer to the Government of the United States, as did our fathers in their day and generation, our unswerving loyalty and support.

Resolved, That from now until peace be declared the Stars and Stripes and the flag of this society be displayed daily from our office.

NO LEGAL PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYES.

A business man of East Twenty-fifth-st. yesterday wrote to The Tribune asking if there was any law of the State bearing upon the discharge of employes by an employer in case such employes were members of the National Guard and volunteered for war service in Cuba. Colonel Olin, chief of Major-General Roe's staff, said yesterday that there was no law on the subject. A member of the National Guard may be discharged by an employer at any time if he enlists in the service of the Government. Colonel Olin said that the only protection for militiamen who may enlist consisted in public opinion or in the patriotism of the employers.

Several large firms in the city have declared that they would pay the salaries of employes who were members of the National Guard and volunteered for service in the war, but such action was entirely voluntary. One large employer of men in the city announced a few days ago that he would pay the salaries of militiamen in his employ while they were away fighting, provided the regiments were ordered out for the service, but he would not pay the salaries of such men who volunteered as individuals.

NO NEWS OF THE ALOEDENE HERE.

The steamer Aloedene, which was chartered by the New-York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company, is now due at Havana, and what the American fleet will do with her is a question that is interesting all those who have knowledge of the immense amount of supplies sent on steamers of this line to Cuban ports just prior to the outbreak of war with Spain. The Aloedene sailed from this port on the morning of April 22 with a large cargo of provisions, as well as two armored cars, designed for military use, on her main deck. She should have arrived at Havana yesterday morning providing that she was able to run the blockade. At the office of the line it was said last night that nothing had been heard of her as yet. When asked for details in regard to the cargo of the steamer the agent of the line refused to give out any information, and he promptly said, when asked as to whether or not the company thought the steamer would be able to land its cargo, "That is no person's business except our own."

Another steamer of this same line arrived in port yesterday afternoon from Progreso, Mexico. She did not touch at Havana, as is usual for vessels of this line, but came directly to this port. The steamer Seneca, of the same line, sailed from here on Wednesday last for Nassau and Havana. She reached Nassau yesterday morning, where she received orders to discharge her cargo and return to this port without attempting to stop at Havana. After she arrives in port the New-York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company, although an American line, will have no ships afloat flying the American flag, as they have tied up all their American vessels and have chartered British and Norwegian bottoms to carry on their Mexican business.

IN PRAISE OF THE PRESIDENT.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Life Underwriters' Association of New-York, held Tuesday at the Marlborough Hotel, the following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we convey to the Hon. William McKinley, President of the United States, our appreciation of the conservative, firm and statesmanlike methods shown in the conduct of the affairs of his great office throughout this critical period in the history of our country;

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States by the secretary of this association, signed by the president.

QUIETER FEELING IN WHEAT.

There was a quieter feeling in the local wheat market yesterday than on Tuesday, and, although the upward course of the market continued, the close showed much smaller net gains than on the previous day. The Liverpool market went off a little, and that worried the speculators, although Paris showed increased strength. The opening here was at about Tuesday's last figures, but selling for the long account soon set in, and, with few buying orders received for execution, prices began to fall. In the afternoon, however, the morning sellers regained their confidence and began to buy again, prices raising materially. May closed at $1 22, a net gain of ½ cent as compared with Tuesday's last quotation; July, $1 01⅝, no change, and September, 90 cents, net gain ⅝ cent.

TO GO DIRECT TO HAVANA.

BELIEF THAT THE RED CROSS RELIEF STEAMER WILL NOT WAIT AT KEY WEST—FREE INGRESS FOR HER AT HAVANA EXPECTED.

The relief steamer State of Texas, which left this city last Saturday with supplies for Cuba, is expected to reach Key West this morning. There she will wait further orders before going to Cuba. It had been anticipated that the vessel might be delayed at Key West until she could accompany the body of troops which, it is supposed, will be landed at some point on the Cuban coast in order to form a base of supplies for the army of invasion. But, according to a letter received from the State Department yesterday by Stephen E. Barton, president of the Central Cuban Relief Committee, the supplies will be sent to Cuba at once. The letter, which is signed by Second Assistant Secretary Adee, reads as follows:

I have to confirm your telegram of the 23d inst., as follows: "State of Texas cleared 3:30 to-day under United States Red Cross flag. Hubbell, Duncan and Bangs, Red Cross representatives, only passengers. She carried 1,200 tons. Will report at Key West on Wednesday night or Thursday morning." Miss Barton has been in consultation with this Department, and has received instructions from the Navy Department. The necessary orders have been issued by the latter permitting the vessel to pass the blockade.

Mr. Barton thinks, consequently, that as soon as the State of Texas arrives at Key West she will be instructed to proceed to Havana. As the vessel is sailing under the Red Cross flag, Mr. Barton said it was absurd to suppose that the landing of the supplies would be opposed, nor did he think that there would be any difficulty in the work of distribution. When the State of Texas touches at Key West she will take on board Miss Clara Barton, D. L. Cobb and several Red Cross nurses. Arrangements are now being made for the sending of a second relief ship to Cuba.

Dr. Lesser, chief surgeon of the American National Red Cross, has informed the society that five well-known Cuban doctors have offered their services to the Red Cross, either for hospital work or for helping in the relief of the reconcentrados. It has been decided to accept the services of the doctors, and they will be requested to hold themselves ready to respond to an immediate call. Requests for enrolment from doctors and nurses are being received daily from all parts of the country, both by the Red Cross and the War Department. All applications are referred to the New-York society for examination and acceptance by Dr. Lesser.

The superintendent of the Colored Industrial School at New-Brunswick, N. J., has written to the Central Committee offering to take as many Cuban refugee children arriving here as the accommodations at the school shall permit.

NAVAL RESERVE TROUBLES SETTLED.

OFFICERS AND MEN SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE AUTHORITIES—CAPTAIN WEEKS BACK FROM WASHINGTON.

The discontent among the Naval Reserves on the New-Hampshire has disappeared since the issue of the Yankee detail. No new orders were sent out yesterday, and Captain Miller said last evening that, as the men were more comfortable on board the New-Hampshire than they could be for several days on the Yankee, he would keep them in their present quarters for a while. Captain Miller also reiterated his former statement, that the New-York Naval Reserves were prepared to obey any orders received.

An incident on board the New-Hampshire last night illustrated how war levels all ranks. When The Tribune reporter reached the spardeck he recognized in an orderly who was pacing up and down the son of a wealthy manufacturer in this city, who has the entire management of his father's business and superintends several hundred employes. He was just about to greet the reporter when an officer appeared on deck.

"Great Scott," said the orderly, "I'll have to keep moving," and he resumed his pacing without any further attempt at conversation.

There were fewer visitors on board last night than usual, and those who did reach the deck of the ship were questioned as to their purpose on board before being allowed to move about the ship. More stokers and firemen were selected for enlistment, and it is probable that the required number will be secured by to-night. All of the men of the Yankee detail are said to have passed satisfactory examinations.

Captain Weeks, who is in command of the Massachusetts Naval Brigade, returned from Washington yesterday, and informed his officers and men that his interview with Secretary Long had been a very satisfactory one. The members of the Massachusetts will each receive twelve months' furlough. The majority of those now in New-York will take advantage of this leave of absence, and volunteer for twelve months' service in the Regular Navy. They will be kept together, and their officers will retain the posts they now hold. This arrangement has proved acceptable to about 90 per cent of the men. The remainder will return today to Massachusetts.

FEW TRANSACTIONS IN WALL STREET.

When the Stock Exchange on Good Friday did a business amounting to only 165,457 shares, many thought that the customary holiday might as well have been taken. But there have been leaner days since then, the leanest of all yesterday, when the total transactions were only 83,398 shares, the lowest level for a full day recorded in several years. In London it was the first day of the fortnightly settlement, but there was no general covering of short contracts there, the market remaining extremely dull. The local market went off a trifle at the opening, but the losses were speedy recovered. From then on to the close the market was dull and inert, with occasional unimportant fluctuation. Final prices in most of the issues showed small net gains. The only stocks in which the dealings amounted to more than 10,000 shares were Sugar, of which 12,000 shares were sold, the net advance being ¼ per cent, and Northern Pacific preferred, sales 12,000, net gain 1⅜ per cent. Of St. Paul, which made a highly favorable statement of net earnings, only 6,887 shares changed hands, the final quotation showing no alteration from Tuesday's close.

STRONGLY AGAINST PROPOSED BEER TAX.

According to the general opinion among the brewers at the meeting of the Brewers' Association on Tuesday night, the proposed increase of tax on malt liquors will necessitate a curtailing of the production of beer and an increase of the price. The retailers deny that they make a big profit. In the large cities the great sale by pail measure, they say, is without profit. They acknowledge that it would not do to increase the price of beer by the glass, so the consumers may expect more foam and less beer if the proposed tax becomes a law. The brewers are bitter in their opposition to the proposed tax. They declare it will be ruinous to the business of the small brewers. There was less beer brewed in 1897, they assert, than in 1893, and from 1893 to 1897 the normal increase has disappeared. When $1 a barrel, the present tax, was imposed, beer was $12 a barrel. Now beer is $5 a barrel, so to make the tax $2 a barrel, the brewers say would be ruinous.

TOO OLD TO FIGHT, HE KILLED HIMSELF.

James Moore, of Corona, killed himself yesterday because he could not go to the front to fight Spain. He was a member of the 22d Regiment, New-York National Guard, and served his term, receiving an honorable discharge several years ago. When the war between the United States and Spain broke out he tried to enlist again in the regiment, but was informed that as he was forty-seven years old, two years beyond the age limit for recruits, he was ineligible. This made him despondent.

He was found unconscious at 3 a. m. yesterday and died soon afterward. He had killed himself by turning on the gas.

BIBLES TO BE SENT TO CUBA AGAIN.

The disturbance in Cuba compelled the American Bible Society two years ago to suspend its operations and withdraw its agents, who in the previous twelve years had circulated more than fifty thousand copies of the Scriptures among the people. The society is now issuing an appeal for special funds to resume the work. The Presbytery of St. Louis adopted a resolution recommending that the society send its colporteurs to Cuba as soon as the way is clear, and subscribed $238. A part of this sum has already been forwarded by the St. Louis Bible Society. It is regarded as fitting that Bibles should go across the Cuban isle in the wake of the American Army.

CAPTAIN M'BRIDE'S FAREWELL.

Many prominent officers of the Volunteers of America, including Commander Ballington Booth and Mrs. Booth, gathered at the Volunteers' headquarters, No. 34 Union Square, yesterday afternoon to bid farewell to Captain Charles H. McBride, the commander of the volunteer post at Glens Falls, N. Y., who has been ordered to join the 3d Regiment of the Indiana National Guard. Captain McBride is a member of the regiment and his father is the colonel of it.

PREPARING CLOTHING FOR POOR CUBANS.

St. Paul, April 27.—Numerous church and other organizations in this State are actively preparing clothing and raising funds for the suffering poor in Cuba. The Distaff Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has taken up the work and are preparing clothing. They think they are the pioneers in the work. It is expected to distribute all the supplies through the Red Cross Society.

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BALTIMORE HARBOR PROTECTED.

MINE FIELDS EXTENDING A DISTANCE OF TWELVE MILES—A STEAMER PULLS UP A TORPEDO.

Baltimore, April 27 (Special).—Fields of submarine mines extend from the entrance of Baltimore Harbor twelve miles down the channel to Chesapeake Bay. Several steamers have caught their propellers in the wires, but the mines, it is claimed, cannot be exploded without the electric spark.

The Donaldson Line steamer Hestia yesterday ran across one of the mine fields, and her propeller tore up a cable and drew a large torpedo to the surface. The torpedo or mine was filled with gun-cotton, and it is a wonder that it did not explode.

Stringent regulations have been issued governing navigation through the channel. All the regular Chesapeake Bay steamers are now required to enter and leave port in daylight. Government tugs are stationed along the mine fields to warn all vessels.

Side-wheel steamers have to take chances going through shallow water, as they are not allowed to churn up the channel. Some engineers contend that the mines cannot be exploded by contact, but others say it is a dangerous experiment to attempt.

CANADIAN ENLISTMENTS REFUSED.

TWO HUNDRED OTTAWA MEN WANT TO JOIN, BUT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Ottawa, Ont., April 27 (Special).—Some two hundred Ottawans have applied at the United States Consulate office here for enlistment in the United States Army. Their applications were, however, refused, as Colonel Turner has no authority to enlist men, and also because it is against the neutrality law. It is current rumor that several local militia officers intend taking commissions in the American Army.

The soldiers intended for the Yukon to preserve law and order there are arriving here, and will leave shortly for Fort Selkirk, where they will establish a fort.

COL. BINGHAM WANTS ACTIVE SERVICE.

HE APPLIES FOR A PLACE IN THE FORCE TO INVADE CUBA.

Washington, April 27.—Colonel Bingham, the engineer officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, is desirous of taking an active part in the military operations for the invasion of Cuba. He has made formal application for service with the volunteer troops to be raised in Connecticut, which is his native State, with special preference for command of the organization in case it is ordered into the field. He is willing, however, to serve as lieutenant-colonel of