

suitable for them. There seems to be considerable misapprehension on the part of the general public as to the availability of officers on the retired list for active duty in times of war.

"No officer on the retired list of the navy shall be employed on active duty except in time of war."

Under this section it is apparent that if war should break out all officers on the retired list competent to serve will be subject to the orders of the secretary of the navy. Another statute bearing on this subject contained in sections 1,623 and 1,664 is as follows:

"In time of war, the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, may detail officers on the retired list to the command of squadrons and single ships, when he believes that the good of the service requires that they shall be so placed in command. In making said details, the president may select any officer not below the grade of commander and assign him to the command of a squadron with the rank and title of 'flag officer,' and any officer so assigned shall have the same authority and receive the same obedience from the commanders of ships of his squadron holding commissions of an older date than he would be entitled to receive if his commission was the oldest."

It thus appears that the president has power to assign any retired officer of the navy to duty during the progress of war, but that he can only assign him to the command of squadrons or ships by and with the advice and consent of the senate. There are many officers on the retired list in the full enjoyment of health and mental vigor, despite the fact that they are now 62 years of age, whose ability and experience would undoubtedly be of great advantage to the nation in case it proved necessary for the defense of its honor and dignity. Notable among these is Rear Admiral John G. Walker, recently retired for age, and who is now engaged in special duty as president of the Nicaragua canal commission.

WILL SECURE MANY SHIPS.

Two Brazilian Cruisers Coming to the United States—Other Vessels Obtainable.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Most of the time of today's cabinet meeting was taken up in the discussion of measures which have been put into operation for the acquisition of naval vessels by the government. One of the members said after the meeting:

"It is now altogether probable that we will secure two vessels that are under construction for the Brazilian government. It is not possible just at this time to show just how many ships the government will be able to secure. It has options on a number that have been offered, but nothing is likely to be definitely accomplished in the way of acquiring them until an examination is made into their condition, for which purpose a naval officer has been dispatched abroad. We do not want a lot of vessels that other nations have contracted to be built and now find are not up to expectations. I should not be surprised that we would be able to get about five or six vessels in all. The fact is notorious that there are not a great many really good vessels to be had, but I should not be surprised if we were able to get half a dozen formidable ones at least. The \$50,000,000 appropriated for war preparations will be expended in this country, except so much as may be used in the purchase of ships and in the acquisition of munitions of war that are not obtainable here.

"Yes, I think the sympathy of the British government in this controversy is with the United States. At any rate she does not side with Spain. I do not mean by this statement to have you infer that the Englishmen will openly advocate our cause and extend us substantial help, but that they will give us their moral support."

Negotiations for the purchase of the two Japanese cruisers now building at Philadelphia and San Francisco are off, and present indications are that no further steps will be taken toward acquiring the ships. The Japanese government appears to be even more desirous of securing these ships than the United States, and owing to the delicate character of the aspect of affairs between Russia and Japan, it is felt that Japan's needs are quite as urgent as those of this country.

MANNING THE NEW FORTS.

Reassigning the Artillery to Make Use of the Two Recently Created Regiments.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Orders were issued at the war department today for manning the newly established fortifications on the Atlantic coast from Boston to Galveston on the Gulf. They include the organization of the new artillery regiments. The Sixth regiment will have its headquarters at Fort Slocum, N. Y., and the Seventh at Fort Henry, Md. The location of these two regiments at the points indicated will necessitate the transfer of the artillerymen now occupying these garrisons to other places. Batteries B and C of the Fifth artillery, are at Fort Blount, and Batteries D and E are at Fort Henry. In organizing the new regiments, six men will be taken from each of the batteries now in service, so that each of the new batteries will have fifteen experienced artillerymen.

The orders for the manning of the artillery demand the most promptness in their execution, and it is expected that the movement of the troops to the various places assigned them will begin within the next forty-eight hours.

The new fortifications on Long Island head, at the entrance to the harbor, will be guarded by a battery of the Second artillery now at Fort Adams, R. I.

For the operations of the big guns on Sandy hook two batteries are at Fort Slocum, one at Fort Hamilton and another at Fort Mifflin.

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Fort Wadsworth will be utilized. It is expected that the Sandy Hook garrison will be established at once. The garrison headquarters band and one battery of the First artillery stationed at St. Francis barracks, St. Augustine, will be transferred to duty at Sullivan's Island, Charleston harbor.

Fort Monroe is probably the strongest and best-equipped station on the Atlantic coast, and the garrison there will be called upon to man other fortifications, but not to an extent that would weaken its own efficiency. One battery of the First artillery at Fort Monroe will be transferred to Fort Morgan, Ala., which, in conjunction with Fort Gaines, commands the entrance to Mobile bay.

For the better protection of the national capital, one battery of the Fourth artillery at Fort Monroe has been ordered to Sheridan Point, Va. This fort is nearly opposite Fort Washington, and in connection with it commands the approach to Washington by water.

The batteries of the Fourth artillery stationed at Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, will be distributed between Delaware and Fort Mott, N. J., thus providing for the protection of Philadelphia, Trenton, Camden and other cities in that vicinity.

Fort St. Phillip, on the Mississippi river, just below New Orleans, will be garrisoned by a battery of the First artillery now at Jackson barracks, New Orleans. The other battery at Jackson barracks has been assigned to duty at Fort Point, Galveston.

Arrangements have been made by the chief signal officer of the army, by authority of the secretary of war, to establish immediate telegraph and telephonic connections between all the stations on the coast to which troops have been assigned.

OBJECTION TO FOREIGN SHIPS.

Use of Smokeless Powder in Guns Makes Them Undesirable.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The naval officers who are endeavoring to effect the purchase of ships abroad have encountered an obstacle that promises to give some trouble. This is found in the different calibers of the guns mounted on foreign-built ships and the United States navy standards. Not only do these guns differ in caliber from our own in most cases, but as they are almost all designed for the use of smokeless powder their combustion chambers are too small to use the ordinary brown powder with which the American navy is still supplied.

This obstacle is serious, but not insurmountable. It will require the procurement in Europe of a large quantity of ammunition in special sizes for these ships, as it would necessitate a good deal of time for our domestic ammunition makers to change their plants and make the special sizes.

AMMUNITION FOR THE OREGON.

Battleship Being Loaded With 400 Tons From Mare Island.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11.—The battleship Oregon is to receive at once 400 tons of ammunition. This quantity will prove a full complement for the forty-two magazines of the ship. Today the powder shot and shell was taken from Mare Island to the Oregon's anchorage in Mission bay.

Officers of the navy comment on the fact that the ammunition must be taken to the ship, because the vessel cannot go to the naval station at Mare Island to receive supplies, owing to the shallow water in the channel there. Estimates are on file in the navy department showing that the sum of \$280,000 would enlarge the dock at Mare Island so as to accommodate a big battleship and deepen the channel.

WILL COMMAND THE ST. LOUIS.

Commander William H. Emery to Be Placed in Charge.

NEW YORK, March 11.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: "Commander William H. Emery has volunteered to command the auxiliary cruiser St. Louis in event of that vessel's impressment into the naval service, and he will be ordered to join her before her departure from New York next Wednesday. In a capacity similar to that which caused Commander Brownson to sail on the St. Paul, Capt. Emery has selected as his immediate staff, Lieut. Nathan Sargent, an executive officer, at present recorder of the board of inspection and survey of the navy department, and Lieut. Frank F. Fletcher as navigator, now on duty at the torpedo station at Newport."

Yacht Anita Fined \$500.

HAVANA, March 11.—The American yacht Anita, which brought the congressional party here, has been fined \$500 for not having her papers in proper order. The party was presented at the palace this morning by Consul General Lee and cordially received by Capt. Gen. Briceno.

The Nashville Sails for Tortugas.

KEY WEST, March 11.—The United States cruiser Nashville sailed this morning for Tortugas island with 180 cases of oil for the fleet.

COFFER RIVER.

Popular steamer Noyo leaves Monday evening, March 14. Apply A. Chibberg, Scandinavian-American Bank building.

THREE MAINE BATTLESHIPS.

House Committee Authorizes Their Construction—Maximum Price for Armor Plate—Drydocks to Be Built.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Three new battleships of the staunchest type afloat were authorized by the house committee on naval affairs today and a provision for their construction inserted in the naval appropriation bill.

At the same time the committee agreed on a maximum price of \$400 per ton for armor plate, increased the force of naval marines by 473 men, and put matters in fair shape for a decision tomorrow on the construction of dry docks, probably four in number, capable of accommodating the largest-sized warships.

The committee was in session practically all day, and before the decision on the increase of ships was reached there was a long and interesting discussion. Representative Hawley, of Texas, moved that a cruiser be substituted for one of the battleships, but subsequently withdrew the motion. When the vote was taken there was but one dissenting vote. Mr. Tate insisted that two battleships would be sufficient to meet present needs.

The new warships provided for will be of the finest pattern. It will be two years, doubtless, before they can be placed in commission. One of them, the committee decided, should bear the name of the ill-fated Maine.

The appropriation for their construction was not fixed, it being referred to the sub-committee on appropriations. The cost, it is expected, will be about \$5,000,000 each.

The committee also agreed upon a provision authorizing the secretary of the navy to purchase armor plate by contract or otherwise, at a cost of not exceeding \$400 per ton. This was agreed to, however, only on the express proviso that this item should include the nickel used in the armor, for which a large outside per cent. heretofore has been paid by the government.

One of the features of the bill was an agreement for an appropriation of \$135,000 for outfitting, rationing and uniforming 473 additional marines.

The question of establishment of the new drydocks went over for action tomorrow.

With the amounts to be paid for drydocks and for armor plate in the aggregate not yet determined, the bill, as it now stands, carries in all something like \$5,000,000, which, however, will be largely augmented by the other committee.

SCHEME OF SETTLEMENT

A Suggestion as to How the Present War in Cuba May Be Peacefully Terminated.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Projects for the settlement of the Cuban question are numerous, but most of them are regarded in official circles as unworthy of serious consideration. One plan, however, has been presented to the president, which has received the approval in a general way of leading men, whose counsels have weight with the administration, and there is reason to believe it is the subject of studious reflection in the cabinet. The proposed plan gives to Cuba all the rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed by Canada, Spain reserving to herself only such rights as England exercises over her colonies.

The statement as presented to the administration is as follows:

"Constantly recurring outward incidents in the relations of Spain and her country and the overwhelming evidence of a shocking condition of affairs in Cuba, which of themselves justify some interference, have brought the country to a state of feeling, which, while most anxious for peace, demands that the government should bring the whole affair to a close. Can we bring it to a close and avoid the clash with Spain?"

"If we insist upon immediate Cuban independence we must back the demand by force, for neither Spain nor any country with any self-respect could tolerate such interference in what we must recognize as her domestic quarrel, without resentment and resistance. It would involve a double loss of the most enlightened inhabitants, who favor trying autonomy. This is evidenced by their being able to maintain in New York a newspaper of their own, which is ably supported by their views."

"If we are to intervene as a compulsory arbitrator, are they to be left wholly out of account, together with Spain, and only the insurgent party considered? Fair arbitrations are not conducted on one-sided a basis.

"Suppose, now, we say to Spain that in the interest of humanity and peace, and for the preservation of our own commercial interests, we insist upon a cessation of hostilities, and that we will take advantage of it to inform the Cubans that for the sake of the same compelling considerations they must concede something. Spain's plight is a desperate one, and she could honorably listen to such a proposal. The Cubans, on the other hand, would certainly hear respectfully any views we present to them in regard to a settlement, and could not fail to follow them."

"The precise terms can be worked out later. But it is not unreasonable to expect that should Spain offer such self-government as the whole world will recognize as fair, putting Cuba in the same condition as an English colony and withdrawing from the island, as soon as quiet is restored, such a nominal military force, we might properly insist upon its acceptance. This would be a substantial victory for Cuba, would leave Spain to retire with self-respect and would leave Cuba better off than she has ever been. Independent, Spain has vainly tried to put down the insurrection; the insurgents have vainly tried to drive Spain out and establish a government, and the only way to bring about speedy peace is to take into consideration the claims, rights and feelings of both parties.

"We are in a position to insist that the terms offered Cuba be fair and generous, such as would enable her to make her own laws, lay and collect her own taxes, and provide in every way without hindrance, for her own prosperity and growth. It is expected that Spain will never carry out such an arrangement, but if she is suggested it would be impossible for the old conditions ever to return. Inasmuch as Spain would retain at least a nominal sovereignty, such an arrangement would be much less humiliating to her than to be compelled to relinquish at once all rights and claims upon the island.

"The time may possibly come when, by the operation of the law of the strongest, Cuba will fall to us permanently. If this prove correct, the methods suggested here the way for that by giving her an opportunity to gain some experience in self-government first. If she is to be independent, as very possibly may turn out to be the case by and by, a preliminary stage of genuine autonomy would be desirable at this time for the purpose of undertaking the responsibility of governing her. It is unwise and unnecessary for the United States to assume political or financial responsibility in the case, either or both of which most of the plans so far advanced involve.

"It should be shown that the Spanish government and its officials are innocent of any complicity in the disaster to the Maine, and a prompt disclaimer is made,

with an expression of regret and an offer to arbitrate the question of responsibility and the amount of indemnity, if any was found due, the United States could hardly refuse the principle of arbitration in settling the question.

"The Maine disaster, however, is a distinct incident and should be considered by itself."

SENOR POLO AT HIS POST.

Spanish Minister Is Sure That Neither Side Wants War—He Commends Autonomy.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Senor Luis Polo y Bernabe, the new Spanish minister, was seen at the Spanish legation today by an Associated Press reporter, and for the first time since his arrival consented to speak concerning Spanish affairs, observing such reticence on certain phases as diplomatic propriety required.

Since the minister's arrival, he has received a cablegram from Capt. Gen. Blanco, stating that the Cuban cabinet had designated Senor Svelles, of New York, and Barria, secretary of the Havana Chamber of Commerce, to act with Senor Angulo in negotiating a commercial treaty between the United States and Cuba.

Speaking of the present policy of Spain in giving autonomy to Cuba, the minister said:

"This government has granted autonomy on the broadest and most liberal lines. It is designed to give the Cubans the complete direction of their internal affairs, and realizing the honorable ambitions of the Cubans, while at the same time maintaining the historic allegiance of Cuba as a colony of Spain. Already much has been accomplished, and there is the fullest confidence that the plan will be carried into full execution. The naming of Cuban delegates to come to Washington and arrange a commercial treaty shows how fully the plan of autonomy grants to the Cubans control of their own affairs."

The minister was then asked if he viewed

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ed the political conditions between the United States and Spain as indicating war. After a moment's hesitation he answered gravely:

"I am sure that the United States does not want war, just as I am sure that the Spanish government does not want war, and will do everything honorable in its power to avoid such a calamity."

Senor Polo's first official business after his credentials are presented to the president will be in connection with the new commercial treaty between the United States, Spain and Cuba.

Senor Polo was formally received in his official capacity by Secretary Sherman and Assistant Secretary Day at the state department at 11 o'clock this morning. He was accompanied by Senor de Bosa, who has had charge of the Spanish legation since the departure of Senor de Lome, and was by him introduced to the secretary and assistant secretary of state.

The two gentlemen came at the hour indicated by appointment and were received immediately upon their arrival at the department. Their visit was comparatively brief and the conversation was purely perfunctory, being devoted almost entirely to the consideration of the arrangements for the minister's call formally upon the president for the presentation of his credentials.

CATHOLICS LOYAL TO FLAG

Americans Will Not Give Support to Spain—Archbishop Ireland Speaks Plainly.

CHICAGO, March 11.—"No true American Catholic will think of espousing the cause of Spain against that of this country, because the former is a Catholic nation," said Archbishop Ireland in an interview here today. "To do that is to set oneself down as traitorously inclined."



ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.

to the teachings of his religion as well as to the country which it is his bounden duty to defend against all enemies, both internal as well as external."

The words of the Archbishop were in reply to a question as to what he thought of the advice alleged to have been given by a Catholic priest in New York state to his parishioners. Archbishop Ireland is en route to his home in St. Paul from Washington, where he has been for several days.

"It is an infamous suggestion," he continued, "and it would seem as if it could only emanate from a bitter enemy of the faith, for it is directly opposed in every respect to the spirit of the teachings of Catholicism."

His attention was also called to a suggestion which has been the subject of some discussion that the Pope's sympathies in the pending controversy with Spain were strongly enlisted on the side of that nation, because of its religious affiliations.

"Insofar as implies that the pope will use his office to aid Spain as against this country, the suggestion is as infamous as the one first mentioned. Whatever honor he may take in this matter will be with the single idea of averting, if possible, a war between two Christian nations. He looks upon the possibility of war between this country and Spain with horror and as the viceroy of God considers it his bounden duty to help bring about an adjustment of the pending difficulties between the two nations. That is the only way in which his influence is or will be exerted."

BUSINESS PANIC IN SPAIN.

All Securities Decline and Foreign Exchange Bonds to an Immense Premium.

MADRID, March 11.—The anxiety as to the relations between Spain and the United States, which has pervaded financial and commercial circles for several days, culminated Thursday in a heavy fall in funds, all the securities of exterior and interior debts declining 1 per cent. Foreign exchanges have risen in an unprecedented degree, prices on Paris being 35 per

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