

EIGHT PEOPLE SLAIN BY WIELDER OF AX

Family of Herman Moore and Two Misses Spillinger Slain in Moore Home at Villisca, Iowa.

MYSTERIOUS, DIABOLICAL CRIME

VICTIMS KILLED WHILE THEY SLEPT AND HEADS ARE CRUSHED TO PULP—ENTIRE MOORE FAMILY OF FATHER, MOTHER AND FOUR CHILDREN SLAUGHTERED BY UNKNOWN FIEND—NO MOTIVE FOR CRIME BUT RELATIVE IS BEING SOUGHT—ENTIRE COUNTRYSIDE AND STATE MILITIA JOINS IN SEARCH—MOORE LEADING MERCHANT AND SPILLINGER GIRLS MEMBERS OF WEALTHY AND PROMINENT FAMILY.

Special to Times-Republican.

Villisca, June 10.—Joseph Moore, a prominent Villisca citizen and business man, his wife and four children and two women, supposed to be Mrs. Van Gilder and her daughter, relatives of the Moores, were found murdered this morning in the Moore home. Their heads had been mashed to a pulp, and an axe covered with blood and human hair was found in the house and is supposed to have been the instrument with which the crime was committed.

Murdered in Beds.

All were murdered in their beds. There is no definite clue to the murderers, although search has been made, it is said, for one person suspected by the authorities.

Owing to the terrible mutilation, the identity of the two women could not be absolutely established this morning, but the Van Gilders, who lived a few miles from Villisca, are known to have been visiting the Moores yesterday, and last night all attended an entertainment, so it is felt certain the victims are the women named.

No Motive Known.

No motive was committed, and it seems clear that only a desire for revenge could have prompted the murder, unless the work was done by a madman.

List of Victims.

- JOSEPH MOORE and wife. HERMAN MOORE, 11 years old. CATHERINE MOORE, 9 years old. PAUL MOORE, 7 years old. MISS EDITH SPILLINGER, 20 years old. MISS ELANCHE SPILLINGER, 18 years old.

Owing to the terrible mutilation the identity of the two women could not at first be established. They were believed to be Mrs. Von Gilder and her daughter, relatives of the Moores, but later they were positively identified as the Spillinger sisters, daughters of a wealthy farmer living a few miles from Villisca.

Horses' Neigh Gives Alarm.

Horses neighing in the barns at the Moore home caused a woman neighbor to notice that no member of the family appeared to be up and about the house. She investigated and after failing to effect an entrance to the front door, called her husband, who also failed. The city marshal was summoned and the doors forced.

Moore and his wife were the first to be discovered. They were lying in their bed in a front room. Then came the finding of the bodies of the two guests and later those of the children in a third room. The oldest of the children, a boy, was only 12 years old.

Meat Diabolical Crime.

The entire absence of a known motive for the crime makes it one of the most peculiar and diabolical ever committed in the state. Showing the terrible execution wrought by the person who committed the wholesale crime, early identification of the two young women was that they were Mrs. Von Gilder and her daughter, who were in Villisca last night and were understood to have remained at the Moore home all night. Mrs. Von Gilder is a sister of Mrs. Moore.

Two Killed Upstairs.

The two Spillinger girls were daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spillinger, wealthy people residing near town. Mr. and Mrs. Moore and their four children, were found dead in their beds on the first floor of the house and the Spillinger girls were murdered in their beds in an upper room. All were clothed in their nightgowns and were undoubtedly slain in their sleep, and all had their heads crushed.

Moore Leading Merchant.

Mr. Moore was one of the leading business men of the town and was engaged in the implement trade. The

family is one of the most prominent in that section of the state.

Last night the Moores attended a church entertainment in which their children took part. They were accompanied home part of the distance after the close of the program by neighbors. The Spillinger girls had remained with them rather than return to their homes, late at night. There are several homes located close by the Moore home and great wonder is expressed that the murderer could have entered the place, killed the eight people and escaped without an outcry being heard.

Von Gilder is Sought.

Mrs. Von Gilder is a divorced woman who resides with her father near town. She and her husband have been separated about nine years and Von Gilder's place of residence has not been known publicly, at least, for many years. It is now rumored that he was seen in town Saturday.

Whole Country Aroused.

Company F of the National Guard, and hundreds of citizens, armed, are scouring the country in search of the assassin. People from long distances are coming to town and at noon there were 5,000 here.

The most intense excitement prevails here and people from all parts of Montgomery county are flocking to Villisca. The victims of the tragedy were widely known in this section, and commanded the highest respect. Not one of the victims is known to have had an enemy.

Leaves Finger Prints.

The bodies of the eight, with the one exception, one of the Spillinger girls, lay in their beds as the asleep, with the bed clothes not even disarranged. Blood spots on the front door near the knob shows how the murderer left the house, although the door was locked and the keys missing. The murderer left finger prints which are certain to identify him with the crime as he is ever apprehended. These prints are being carefully guarded.

The blinds in the house were all carefully drawn and a lighted lamp was found in the center of the room occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Parents Prostrated.

The parents of the Spillinger girls are prostrated and have not been able yet to leave their home to come to town to care for the bodies of their children, and the scenes at the Spillinger home have been most distressing. None of the bodies has yet been removed from the house, pending the visit of the coroner's jury.

EXCHANGE OFFICIAL COURTESIES

Officers and Men of Visiting German Squadron Entertained.

New York, June 10.—Exchanges of official courtesies occupied much of the time today of the officers of the visiting German squadron while sight seeing filled the hours on shore of the harbor. The more formal part of the program today began with a visit of Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, U. S. A., in command of the department of the east, to Rear Admiral Von Reuber-Paschwitz, on board the Moltke. General Bliss was accompanied by Rear Admiral Winslow, commandant of the Brooklyn navy yards.

The German sailors have free transportation on all the city's transit lines and they were quick to take advantage of the opportunity for seeing points of interest. Tonight 750 of the Germans with as many Yankee tars, will be entertained by the Deutscher Kriegerbund at Sulzer's Harlem river park.

BABE KILLED IN AUTO WRECK.

Sharon Center, Iowa, Family Victims of Accident at Mill City.

Iowa City, June 10.—Henry Strickler's 3-year-old child was killed in an automobile wreck and Mr. and Mrs. Strickler and their other children were hurt slightly, says a message from Sharon Center, Johnson county. Strickler was returning home from Mill City, Iowa, at which place the tragedy occurred. Strickler is a merchant at Sharon Center.

TAFT MEN SEEK DELAY IN HEARING

OBTAIN POSTPONEMENT OF CALIFORNIA CONTEST UNTIL WEDNESDAY.

ARIZONA DELEGATE CONTEST IS ALSO POSTPONED

Committee Takes Up Indiana Controversy—Taft People to Attack Validity of Law Under Which California Delegates Were Selected in Primary.

- Work of the republican national committee on contests: Last week—Alabama, 16; Arkansas, 16; Florida, 12; Georgia, 28. Total, 72—all credited to Taft. Arizona case, six delegates-at-large, postponed until Wednesday. California case, Fourth district, two delegates, postponed until Wednesday. Indiana delegation-at-large, four delegates, given to Taft. The vote was unanimous, New Mexico voting.

Chicago, June 10.—Postponement of the hearing of the contest in the Fourth California district this morning brought to high intensity the heated conflict between the Taft and Roosevelt factions in the republican national committee.

The vote was 38 to 13, and the postponement was effected on motion of Senator Frank P. Hogan, of San Francisco, told the committee that he would like to have Governor Johnson, of California, before the committee to have him "explain what he said about the primary law when it was under consideration."

Henny Makes Charges.

James Francis Henny, of the Roosevelt delegation, said he was willing to stipulate with the Taft attorneys that any pertinent statement from Governor Johnson might be submitted later. Mr. Henny asked if an effort was being made to disfranchise the republican voters of California. He said he had heard there was such a movement on foot.

Members objected to Mr. Henny's remarks and demanded that he restrict himself to arguments of the case.

"He is not out of order," shouted Senator Borah.

"He is out of order," retorted Chairman Roosevelt.

The thirteen negative votes were those of Knight, of California; Board of Idaho; Burnam, of Kentucky; Wright, of Louisiana; Kellogg, of Minnesota; Littauer, of Flemigan, of Nevada; Ward, of New York; Schafer, of South Carolina; Thorson, of South Dakota; Lyon, of Texas; Loose, of Utah; Rogers, of Wisconsin, and McCoy, of the Philippine Islands.

Indiana Decision Unanimous.

In the Indiana case the national committee again gave the decision for the seating of the Taft delegates-at-large, adding four to the seventy-two given in the Taft side last week in the cases from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida and Georgia.

This was the first Taft gain from the north. The vote on the roll call was unanimous in favor of seating the Taft delegates.

Senator Borah voted for the Taft delegates, as did all the other Roosevelt members of the committee. Colonel New did not vote.

Chicago, March 10.—When the California case was called, Ex-Senator Dick, the Taft contest leader, urged a postponement, saying that important documents had not arrived, and intimating that the case involved the legality of the election of others from the California delegates.

The California case after considerable heated argument was postponed until Wednesday on motion of Senator Crane by a vote of 38 to 13.

After postponing the California case the committee took up that of the four Indiana delegates-at-large.

California case postponed until Wednesday by a vote of 38 to 13.

Two Minority Platforms.

Two minority reports in addition to the majority report may be presented to the republican national convention from the committee on resolutions. Present indications are that the Taft forces will control the resolutions committee by reason of the fact that a majority of the states and territories were carried by the president. It does not necessarily follow that a majority of the delegates will vote for Taft. Consequently the platform which will have the approval of Theodore Roosevelt and also the platform which is being drafted under the direction of Senator La Follette will be submitted to the convention in the form of minority reports.

An agreement between the Roosevelt and La Follette representatives on the resolutions committee may eliminate one of the minority reports, but there seems little chance for a compromise in the committee between the Roosevelt and Taft adherents.

Lively Fight in View.

The prospects are that the fight over the platform both in the committee and before the convention will be more exciting than in any convention for many years. Taft managers are hopeful that many of the delegates instructed for Roosevelt will find the Taft platform acceptable to them. In order to bring this about such men as Lawrence Y. Sherman, who will be the Illinois member of the resolutions committee, may be invited to sit with former Vice President Fairbanks, the Taft selection for

chairman of the committee, in going over the tentative draft of the platform before it reaches the committee. Mr. Sherman's views are such that it is believed possible he may work in harmony with the Taft forces in framing the platform, even though instructed for Roosevelt.

Colonel to Ignore Recall.

It is reported that the recall of judges and of judicial decisions, which occupied a prominent place in speeches made by Colonel Roosevelt during the campaign, will not be touched upon in the platform prepared by him. Colonel Roosevelt did not argue that the recall should be applied to the federal bench, and consequently it is held that the subject should not be included in a national platform.

The Taft platform in all probability will contain a denunciation of the recall of judges and of decisions and will otherwise condemn principles enunciated by Colonel Roosevelt which, according to the latter's opponents, tend to undermine the constitution. Popular rule will be emphasized in the Roosevelt platform.

The Taft and Roosevelt platforms will set forth the respective views of the two candidates on the trust problem and on the tariff. Both platforms probably will include a reduction of the tariff, but the Roosevelt platform will deal more harshly with the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill.

The LaFollette platform will recommend an elective tariff commission with more power than the present board has.

Henny on Hand.

One of the new arrivals who made dire predictions was Francis J. Henny, of California, Roosevelt leader and of the Abe Reut trial fame. He came to town with former Governor George C. Pardee. Mr. Henny will appear before the national committee as attorney for the California Roosevelt delegates who have been contested.

"I expect to see the committee steam roller thru the contests and give Taft even Washington and Texas," he said. "Even then Taft would only have 548 delegates—barely enough to nominate—and I feel satisfied he wouldn't be able to hold them. I'm positive Roosevelt will win."

Explains California Case.

Regarding the threats of the Taft managers to contest the entire delegation from California on the ground that the election of delegates by primary was illegal, Mr. Henny said:

"I can't see where the Taft people would have a chance of disfranchising the whole state. We elected twenty delegates-at-large in the state under the state law. We didn't elect two from each congressional district, as has been the regular practice. "The crux of the situation is this. The Taft, Roosevelt and LaFollette people all accepted the law. They signed affidavits applying for a place on the ballot. The contest was carried on a big majority for Roosevelt and we have the entire delegation."

Hadley as Floor Leader.

Governor Herbert S. Hadley, of Missouri, was under consideration Saturday for the position of floor leader of the Roosevelt forces in the national convention. The advisability of selecting him for the place was discussed at a meeting of the new Roosevelt delegates' steering committee, which is headed by William Flinn, of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Flinn will be the tactician in charge of the maneuvers in the convention. His voice, however, is not sufficiently strong to enable him to assume the duties of floor leader, and for that reason Governor Hadley seems likely to be selected.

Those who want Governor Hadley for floor leader believe that he can be of greater service in that position than as temporary chairman.

Steering Committee Meets.

The Roosevelt steering committee was in session at the Congress Hotel the greater part of the day. Francis J. Henny and former Governor George J. Hoge, of California, were among the new arrivals who participated in the conference.

The steering committee is devoting its attention to organization work. Its members realize that the big fight will take place on the floor of the convention, and accordingly are making every effort to get the delegates who are instructed to vote for Roosevelt lined up for him on every proposition.

In connection with reports that the Roosevelt managers are advising Colonel Roosevelt not to come to Chicago, it is said that Walter F. Brown, chairman of the republican state central committee of Ohio, who left for the east last Saturday night, will see the former president in New York and urge him to remain at home.

To Fight Out Contests.

Senator Joseph M. Dixon, Roosevelt manager, denied reports that the Roosevelt managers would withdraw the remaining contests pending before the national committee because of the futility of presenting the cases and go instead before the convention. "Of course we do not propose to do any such thing," said Senator Dixon. "Every contest will be presented by us. If a majority of the national committee is prepared to unseat deliberately Roosevelt delegates, as the Taft managers insist it will do, we are going to let the robbery be committed in the open daylight and in full view of 90,000,000 American citizens."

"It is perfectly apparent that the Taft managers have under perfect control enough members of the national committee to do exactly as they please regarding the remainder of the contests, nearly all of which are from republican states of the north and west."

"Yesterday the inner circle held a meeting and boldly determined upon the revolutionary plan of unseating the Roosevelt delegates from California, Washington, Missouri and South Dakota. In California Roosevelt had 72,000 majority in the republican primaries. In South Dakota Roosevelt had 18,000 majority in the republican primaries, his vote there being nearly three times as large as was the vote for Taft, who had run a bad third. In Washington the Roosevelt forces had 300 majority in the state convention and in Missouri the Roosevelt delegates outnumbered the Taft delegates by nearly 400. Notwithstanding these facts the Taft managers decided that it was necessary to unseat the delegates from these four republican states in order to give them temporary control."

CUMMINS QUARTERS OPENED IN CHICAGO

SENATOR KENYON RAISES STANDARD OF IOWA SENATOR AS CANDIDATE.

HAWKEYE FELLOWSHIP CLUB NOW IN ACTIVE CHARGE

Kenyon Gives Out Statement in Which He Says Rank and File of Party is Tired of Present Roosevelt-Taft Row—Would Be Well to Nominate Cummins Under Circumstances.

Chicago, June 10.—The standard of Senator Albert B. Cummins, of Iowa, for republican president nominee was raised today by his colleague, Senator W. S. Kenyon, who arrived from Iowa full of enthusiasm for the Hawkeye candidate. Senator Cummins now has ten delegates pledged to him.

Headquarters in the hotel where the Taft and Roosevelt camps are located were engaged by Senator Kenyon, and the Hawkeye Club of Chicago assumed charge of the campaign. Before the end of the week the Iowans expect that more than 1,000 enthusiastic boosters from beyond the Mississippi will be in Chicago to demonstrate their fealty to the senior senator from Iowa.

Tired of Present Row.

Before leaving for Washington Senator Kenyon said: "Friends of Senator Cummins believe the rank and file of the republican party are tired of the present controversy and tired of personal politics. We present in him a man who can unite the party and lead it to an old time victory. His candidacy is not for the purpose of injuring any one or punishing any one. "Senator Cummins has always been on the people's side in every contest. A record that will inspire confidence, a magnetic personality and a character without a spot or blemish—where can the party turn for a leader better than he? It would be well if out of all this turmoil such a candidate could be nominated at the convention."

It was expected that before night the headquarters of the Robert M. LaFollette would be opened in a downtown hotel and the Wisconsin men actively at work for their candidate.

LORIMER VOTE JULY 8.

Day is Set For Vote in Contest for Coming Month.

Washington, June 10.—The senate will vote on the question of unseating Senator Lorimer of Illinois, on Saturday, July 8. This date was agreed upon at a conference last Saturday, at which the views of both the pro-Lorimer and anti-Lorimer senators were voiced. The agreement, however, was with the understanding that in the event of the adjournment of congress earlier than July 8, the voting time would be advanced so that the case would be finally disposed of at this session of congress.

The "legislative day of July 6," as fixed by the resolution, would give considerable latitude over the calendar of adjournments. The result of activity could be prolonged several days. That, however, is not expected. The senate's action was unanimous. From now on speechmaking on the Lorimer case circuitally will be suspended until near the voting date.

The arrangement for a final disposition of the greatest election contest in the history of the republic was effected suddenly as the result of activity of Senator Lea, of Tennessee. He favored July 1. There were hurried conferences among the senate leaders, and a brief meeting of the majority and minority of the investigating committee at which Monday, July 8, first was agreed upon.

This substantially was changed to the "legislative day" of July 6, at the instance of Senator Curtis, of Kansas, who has to leave Washington at that time.

GERMAN WINS AIR RACE.

Holmstuth Hirsth Covers 330 Miles in 395 Minutes.

Vienna, June 10.—The aeroplane race from Berlin to this city under the auspices of the Imperial Aviation Society and the Austrian Aero Club started yesterday morning was won by Holmstuth Hirsth, a German, carrying as a passenger Lieutenant Schoeller, of the German army. Hirsth with his companion covered the distance (330 miles in a direct line) in 395 minutes (6 hours 35 minutes), actual flying time.

Hirsth who is well known in America as an auto driver, has since he started aviation, been a winner in every big flying competition he has entered.

QUESTION OF ENDURANCE.

Boston Street Railway Strike On in Earnest.

Boston, Mass., June 10.—The strike of several thousand employees of the Boston Elevated Railway for a minimum wage and recognition of their union settled down today to a question of endurance. A partial resumption of car service on the elevated, tunnel and surface lines was made after a night free from serious disturbance.

DROWNED WHILE FISHING.

Mother and Son Lose Lives in Des Moines River When Boat Upsets.

Des Moines, June 10.—Mrs. Kate Stator, living in South Des Moines, was drowned early this morning in Des Moines river when the boat in which

T.-R. BULLETIN

Noticeable News of Today

The Sun rises July 10 at 4:28; sets at 7:30.

Iowa—Unsettled weather, with probably showers tonight or Tuesday; warmer.

Illinois—Fair tonight; probably unsettled Tuesday.

South Dakota—Unsettled, with showers tonight or Tuesday; cooler in west tonight and east portion Tuesday.

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Telegraphic News: Eight People Murdered at Villisca. Found Slain in Beds. Six of Victims Members of One Family. Taft Men Delay California Contests. Taft Indiana Delegates Seated. U. S. Battleships on Guard in Havana. Cummins Headquarters Opened in Chicago.

PAGES TWO AND THREE.

Iowa News: Taxing Ex-Iowans. Iowa Men in Big Deal. Forty-Two Years on One Job. State Senator Shot by Highwayman.

PAGE FOUR.

Editorial: Stranger Than Fiction. Take Over the Convention. Getting Rid of the Bugaboo. Topics and Iowa Opinion.

PAGE FIVE.

Iowa News: Auto Threatens Mule. Labor Federation Convention.

PAGE SEVEN.

Story: The Girl of the Limberlost.

PAGES SIX, EIGHT AND NINE.

City News: Rev. S. E. Ellis Delivers Baccalaureate Sermon. Packer and Michaels Score at Chicago.

Mrs. W. B. Mantle Dies of Poisoning. Accident Partly Responsible. Commissioners Fish Branch Case. Hearing Evidence on Viaduct. School Teachers to Marry. Plan to Enlarge Power Plant. General News of City.

PAGE TEN.

Markets and General: World's Shipments Depress Wheat. Berish Tone in Corn. Speculators Bid for Hogs. Cattle Strong to Higher. Roosevelt Issues Sizzling Statement. Cactus as Food for Man and Beast.

she and her son were fishing, was overturned. She leaves three children in Davenport and a divorced husband in Oklahoma.

OLYMPIC MEN PICKED

Selection Committee Chooses American Representatives in Olympic Games at Stockholm—Carlisle Indian Student to Be One of Distance Runners—List of Contestants Selected.

New York, June 10.—Ten distance runners who will represent the United States in the Olympic games at Stockholm were the first athletes picked by the Olympic games selection committee which met here today. Among the ten chosen who will represent the United States as Marathon contestants are Louis Tewantina, of the Carlisle Indian school, and Michael J. Ryan, of the Irish-American Athletic Club.

The others are Clarence H. Demar, North Dorchester, Mass.; Joseph Erlieben, Missouri Athletic Club, St. Louis; Joseph Forshaw, Jr., St. Louis Athletic Club; John J. Gallagher, Jr., Philadelphia and Yale; Thomas H. Liddle, North Dorchester; Andrew Sohlacholski, Bangor, Maine, and John J. Reynolds, Irish-American Athletic Club, New York. To this list two supplementary names were added as runners who may go if they pay their own expenses. They are Sidney Hatch, of Chicago, and Gaston Stroblino, Patterson, N. J.

The 100 meter sprinters were next announced as follows: F. V. Belote, Chicago Athletic Association; J. Ira Courtney, Seattle Athletic Club; Ralph C. Craig, Detroit; M. C. A.; Howard P. Drew, Springfield, Mass.; high school; P. Gerhardt, Olympic Athletic Club, San Francisco; Charles A. Rice, Powder Point, Mass.; high school; Rupert B. Thomas, Princeton; Clement P. Wilson, Coe College, Iowa.

Supplementary, Harold W. Holland, Xavier Athletic Association, New York; Donald L. Lippincott, University of Pennsylvania; R. C. Lang, Rhodes scholar, Oxford; Alva T. Meyer, Irish-American Athletic Club.

VOTED GENERAL STRIKE.

Crew of French Liner Declares for Higher Wages.

Havre, France, June 10.—The crew of the French liner France, consisting of 550 firemen, trimmers and seamen, together with 500 other seamen of various categories, this morning voted the declaration of a general strike in Havre and appointed a strike committee.

The committee has urged the crew of the France who left the vessel as she was about to sail for New York not to return until complete satisfaction of their demands has been accorded. They demand an increase of \$6 a month for the firemen and \$4 a month for the other categories.

Accident Proves Fatal.

Iowa City, June 10.—Bobby Francis Sans, a Mexican whose right leg was amputated by a train, died in a hospital here. The body was sent to West Liberty, where the accident occurred.

Dutch Landlord.

In Holland no landlord has the power of raising the rent or evicting a tenant.

U. S. WARSHIPS ON GUARD IN CUBA

SEVERAL VESSELS OF AMERICAN FLEET DISPATCHED TO CAPITAL OF ISLAND.

CUBANS SEE INTERVENTION IN THIS NATION'S MOVE

News Creates Profound Impression and May Bring About Resignation of President Gomez—Cuban Officials Declare Washington Has Been Miscalculated—Other Ships Enroute.

Key West, Fla., June 10.—The battleship Rhode Island and the cruiser Washburn left the harbor at 5 o'clock this morning, for Havana. They were under sealed orders. Rear Admiral Hugo Osterhaus, commander of the third division of the Atlantic fleet, was on board the Washington, his flagship. The collier Mara followed the Rhode Island and Washburn just before noon. She may be used as a dispatch boat, it is reported.

Threats of resignations by President Gomez as a result of the sending of American warships to the island is rumored among Cubans here.

Vessels Reach Havana.

Havana, June 10.—The United States armored cruiser Washington entered Havana harbor at 12:25 o'clock this afternoon, and exchanged salutes with the fortress of Cabana. Fifteen minutes later the battleship Rhode Island passed into the harbor. The arrival of the American warships attracted little attention in the capital.

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE.

General Movement of Naval Vessels Toward Cuban Waters.

Washington, June 10.—The mine planter San Francisco leaves Annapolis today with a complement of midshipmen aboard and will join the ships at Key West. The first division of the Atlantic fleet—the Massachusetts, Utah, North Dakota, Florida and Delaware—also leave Annapolis today with midshipmen aboard. While their destination is now Cuba, there is no assurance that the navy department may not order these ships to join those near Cuba at any moment.

Speaker Barrera, of the Cuban house of representatives and one of the first lieutenants of President Gomez, will have a conference today with Secretary Knox at which the situation will be thoroughly canvassed. The speaker is non-communicative about his mission. It has been reported that his visit is in connection with a loan for the Cuban government's use in putting down the insurrection.

In government circles here developments on the American side of the Cuban speaker's conference with Secretary Knox and perhaps with President Taft are being watched with greatest interest. It seems that the events of this week probably will decide if the military force of 5,000 men now waiting to move to Cuba shall be ordered on.

Soon on Scene.

American warships will be available for service in Havana before noon today. Washington and the battleship Rhode Island, which steamed out from Key West early this morning under orders sent from Washington late last night, are expected to make the run across the straits of Florida to the Cuban capital in about six hours.

Each of these ships in addition to her regular complement of sixty-five marines, carries an extra complement of 125, including officers. They would be landed in the Cuban capital of course in a case of dire emergency in which even the blue jackets of both ships also would be available.

The gravity with which this government regards the situation is indicated by the fact that Rear Admiral Osterhaus, commander of the Atlantic fleet is aboard his flagship, the Washington. The remainder of the third division of the fleet remains at Key West and can join the flag ship in a few hours.