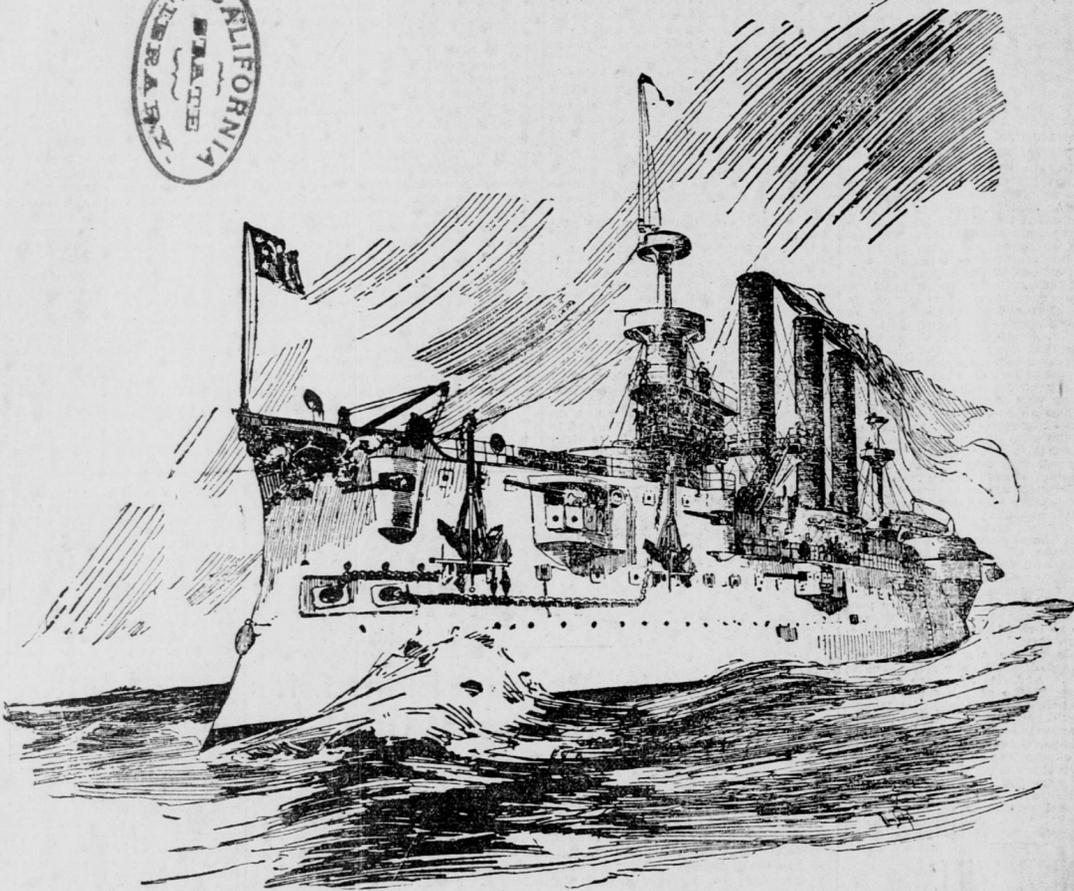




WAR MAY BE DECLARED WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS



UNITED STATES CRUISER BROOKLYN, THE FLAGSHIP OF THE FLYING SQUADRON.

SPAIN WILL SEND A HOSTILE ANSWER TO THIS COUNTRY

Still President McKinley Is Working Hard to Avoid an Outbreak of Hostilities.

In the Face of the Maine Report and the Coming of the Spanish Torpedo Flotilla Congress Shows Signs of Acting on Its Own Responsibility.

NEW YORK, March 25. The Herald's European Edition publishes the following from its correspondent: Madrid, Saturday—At a late hour I find that the Spanish reply to the United States will not be anything like what the sanguine optimists expected, and the outlook consequently is decidedly serious.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The Her-

SPAIN AND AMERICA HAVE REACHED THE PARTING OF THE WAYS.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the cause of the Maine disaster has reported that the loss of the battleship was due to an outside explosion. The State Department, by direction of the President, has cabled United States Minister Woodford, at Madrid, to notify the Spanish Government of this conclusion. The President and his Cabinet advisers held two extended sessions to-day, one at 10:30 a. m. and another at 2:30 p. m., at which the report was considered in detail. Members of the Cabinet stated that after the meeting the discussion was of a grave character, and that never since the wrecking of the Maine has the situation seemed so critical.

concentrados, but he is not willing to go to war over the Maine because

First—We cannot prove that Spain blew up a United States ship.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

- Weather forecast for San Francisco: Probably fair on Saturday; brisk to high northwest wind. Maximum temperature for the past twenty-four hours. San Francisco, 45 degrees; Portland, 44 degrees; Los Angeles, 60 degrees; San Diego, 58 degrees.

FIRST PAGE.

- Spain's Reply Will Be Hostile. Torpedo Flotilla a Menace. Europe Will Not Help Spain. War Pains for the Navy. Seamen Wanted at Once. Spain Fortifying Porto Rico. Expect to Arbitrate Troubles. Mangrove Goes to Havana. To Blockade Cuban Ports. New Torpedo Boat Bought. Major Pope in Boston. Leonard Dies by the Rope. Fusionists in Oregon Divide. Murder at Dawson City. Tons of Gold From Klondike Held Prisoner in a Hotel. Railroad Men in Session. Floods in the Ohio.

FIFTH PAGE.

- Hot Session of the House. Leonard Dies by the Rope. No Trace of Train Robbers. Suicide of a Banker. Attacked by Two Robbers. Fight for the Kasson Money. Serious Situation in the Far East.

SIXTH PAGE.

- Editorial. The Water Front Scandal. Vain Tricks in Hawaii. The Primary Law Decision. Warnings to Klondikers. The Battle of the Books. A Good Selection. Personals and Queries. SEVENTH PAGE. News of the Water Front. Arrest of a Girl for Burglary. W. J. Bigg, the New Registrar. Laxity in Admitting Chinese. The Commercial World. The Semi-Centennial Exposition. NINTH PAGE. Arrival of Marion Crawford. Funeral of Lieutenant Burke. Queer Jobs in the School Board. TENTH PAGE. Sports of the New York. Sold an Estate for a Song. Frauds in Street Work. TWELFTH PAGE. The Commercial World. News From Across the Bay. Fashions in Easter Hats. FOURTEENTH PAGE. Racing at Ingleside. Schism in a Mission Army. FIFTEENTH PAGE. Births, Marriages and Deaths. SIXTEENTH PAGE. Summary of the Ferry Scandal.

war, in the eyes of the civilized world, would not be justified, for two reasons.

Second—We cannot trace her responsibility so far even as to justify a blunt demand for indemnity. Therefore, it would be readily perceived that all the talk at the Cabinet meetings and the President's night conferences has been of peace, so far as the Maine report is concerned. What is in the Maine report, aside from the information that it was an outside explosion by a submarine mine, which everybody knew through the Herald long ago, has not been permitted to leak in detail from the Cabinet.

One of the conferences at the White House was between the President, Judge George F. Edmunds of Vermont, and Second Assistant Secretary of State Ade. This conference was about the note to be sent to Spain about the Maine disaster. This note is not to be a demand for indemnity. It is rather a representation. The difference between a demand and a representation in this instance is that a demand would put us in the position of adjudging the Spanish nation guilty of crime, where a representation, such as is being penned, will state our view of the case and leave Spain to treat it in a way that might avert war. This representation will be written by Judge Edmunds and Mr. Ade, and one of the points to be laid before Spain will be this clause from Article VI of the treaty with Spain:

"Each party shall endeavor by all means in their power to protect and defend all vessels and other effects belonging to citizens or subjects of the other which shall be within the extent of their jurisdiction by sea or by land."

When this note goes to Spain the President will be ready to send the report of the Court of Inquiry to Congress, and this will be done on Monday. Then will come the crisis. The programme will be to have the report quietly referred in the Senate to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and in the House to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. This will gain time and drift the poor old Maine into the channels of diplomacy. If this be accomplished, well and good. The immediate danger of hostilities over the Maine will be passed and the President will be free to address Congress on his plan to "feed or fight," in connection with the general situation. How tremendously anxious the administration is about the conduct of Congress is shown by the tremendous work being done among the members of the Senate. The Senate is still regarded as a tinder box. Yet a poll has been made of that body for the President, and the report is that

TORPEDO FLEET A MENACE TO THIS COUNTRY

Better Begin the War by Destroying It Than Give Spain the Advantage of Its Presence.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: In spite of the declarations of members of the Cabinet and the officials of the State Department that the departure of the Spanish torpedo flotilla from the Canary Islands cannot be considered a menace to the United States under the rules of international law, it is still so construed by many officers and officials of the Navy Department.

There is every reason, naval officers believe, why the torpedo flotilla should not be permitted to reach Cuban waters, and the plan was discussed at a conference to-day of having the flotilla intercepted by United States naval vessels in the neighborhood of St. Thomas and either compelled to turn back or surrender.

Such action, it is realized, would be an act of war, but there are officials in the Navy Department who think that the United States would better take the responsibility of committing the first hostile act than allow the Spaniards to obtain such a decided advantage as they would have if the torpedo flotilla should succeed in reaching Havana.

According to authoritative information received from Madrid to-day, naval officers there regard the sailing of the fleet as a menace and a threat to the United States, and are exultingly and openly talking of it as being a distinct advantage gained over this country.

High officials of the Navy Department consider the coming of this strong torpedo flotilla to strengthen the Spanish naval force in Cuban waters as adding so much to the gravity of the situation that they held a special conference to-day to discuss what action should be taken.

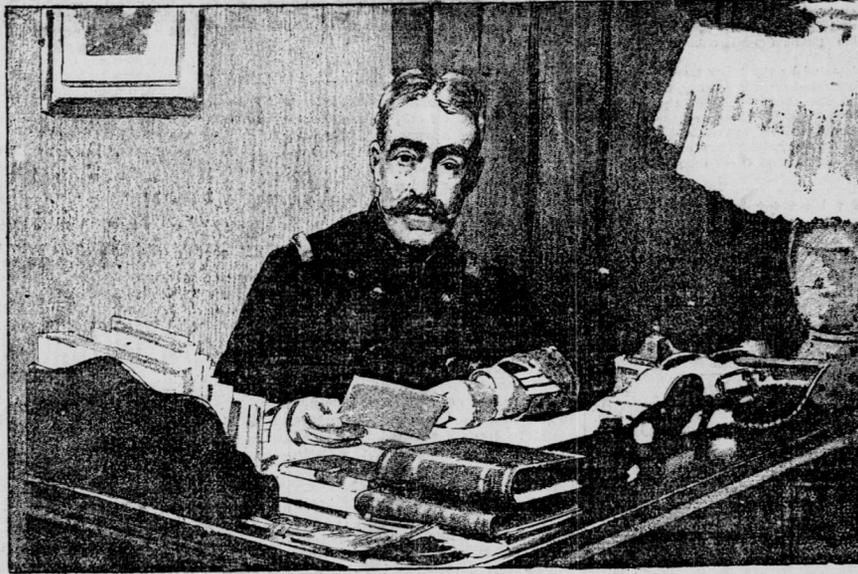
It is realized that if the torpedo-boats once get into the harbor of

PLAY FOR PEACE.

Copyright, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett. MADRID, Mar. 25.—In spite of the absolutely pessimistic views taken of the situation, I am in a position to state that there is yet a large margin of possibility that war may be averted and a settlement arrived at. Even yesterday the Spanish Government knew of the verdict of the Maine Commission, and to-morrow will know it officially. Its official reception will lead to a council at which a proposition will be made regarding the situation and a scheme put forth for a peaceful solution of the question. That proposition may be startling and unexpected, but it will voice the sentiment of the extreme liberals, including Sagasta and Moret. Their views will either dominate and secure peace, or we may expect, without any kind of a doubt, a ministerial crisis. I have had a serious talk with one of Spain's foremost and most liberal men to-day, which convinces me that unless the United States absolutely insists on war, Spain has in hand a means of avoiding it.

Havana or some other Cuban harbor the task of the United States fleet in the event of war would be made much harder. It will add greatly to the danger of attempting to take Havana if the swift torpedo-boats are there to supplement the work of forts and the larger Spanish vessels and make sudden dashes upon first one and then the other of the American-attacking fleet. It will also make the task of blockading Havana exceedingly difficult if these vessels are on hand ready to run out under cover of darkness and attack the vessels of the blockading squadron.

With Havana as a base of operations, the torpedo flotilla might even threaten the vessels of the United States at Key West.



ADMIRAL BERMEJO,

Spain's Minister of Marine, Who Is Now Considering the Cabled Report of the Spanish Board of Inquiry Into the Cause of the Maine Explosion.

SPANISH WILL GET NO HELP FROM EUROPE

Not One of the Powers Cares to Earn the Ill Will of the United States.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: European mediation will not be offered to the United States and Spain with a view to securing an adjustment of the differences existing between them. Even if it were contemplated, and the officials have no knowledge of such intention, they declare that, while the relations between the Washington and Madrid Governments are very much strained, the trouble has not yet reached a point where the mediation of a third power is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of peace.

It is confidently believed that Spain will be unable to count upon the assistance of a third power in the event of hostilities. The President has been using the authority given him to purchase ships abroad

to put foreign Governments in a position where, should they now sell to Spain, they will be guilty of an unfriendly act toward the United States. All the available snips in the market have been negotiated for by agents of this Government, and as a result the officials express the opinion that the Madrid Government has now no chance of acquiring formidable vessels.

Italy has been the only power besides Austria which has been regarded with some suspicion, and the fact that the Rome Government has announced its willingness to sell ships to this nation indicates clearly that it has no intention of joining in an offensive alliance against the United States.

A diplomat of experience, close to

ad's Washington correspondent telegraphs: The situation here to-night is more critical than it has been at any time since the Spanish question reached an acute stage. Even the most conservative believe that unless Spain recedes from her position hostilities may break out within the next ten days. The cry of the war party is now or never.

The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: Taut as a bowstring is the tension, and lights are burning late in the White House. The Cabinet has been twice in session considering the report of the Maine Court of Inquiry, and at midnight the President is in conference with tried friends and confidential advisers. The crisis over the destruction of the battleship approaches, and popular interest is at white heat. How great is that interest is shown by the crowds in Washington. The hotels are jammed. The city has not had so many visitors since the inauguration of President McKinley. They are all attracted by the prospect of exciting times in Congress when the President transmits to it the report of the Court of Inquiry.

But just now all eyes are on the President. The determination of the administration not to be hurried into war inopportunely, and for that matter not to be hurried into war at all over the destruction of the Maine, shows no signs of being weakened. The Maine crisis is not th. only crisis the President has in mind. Back of the Maine he sees Cuba. He is willing to go to war over Cuba, if Spain will not permit the United States to feed the suffering re-