

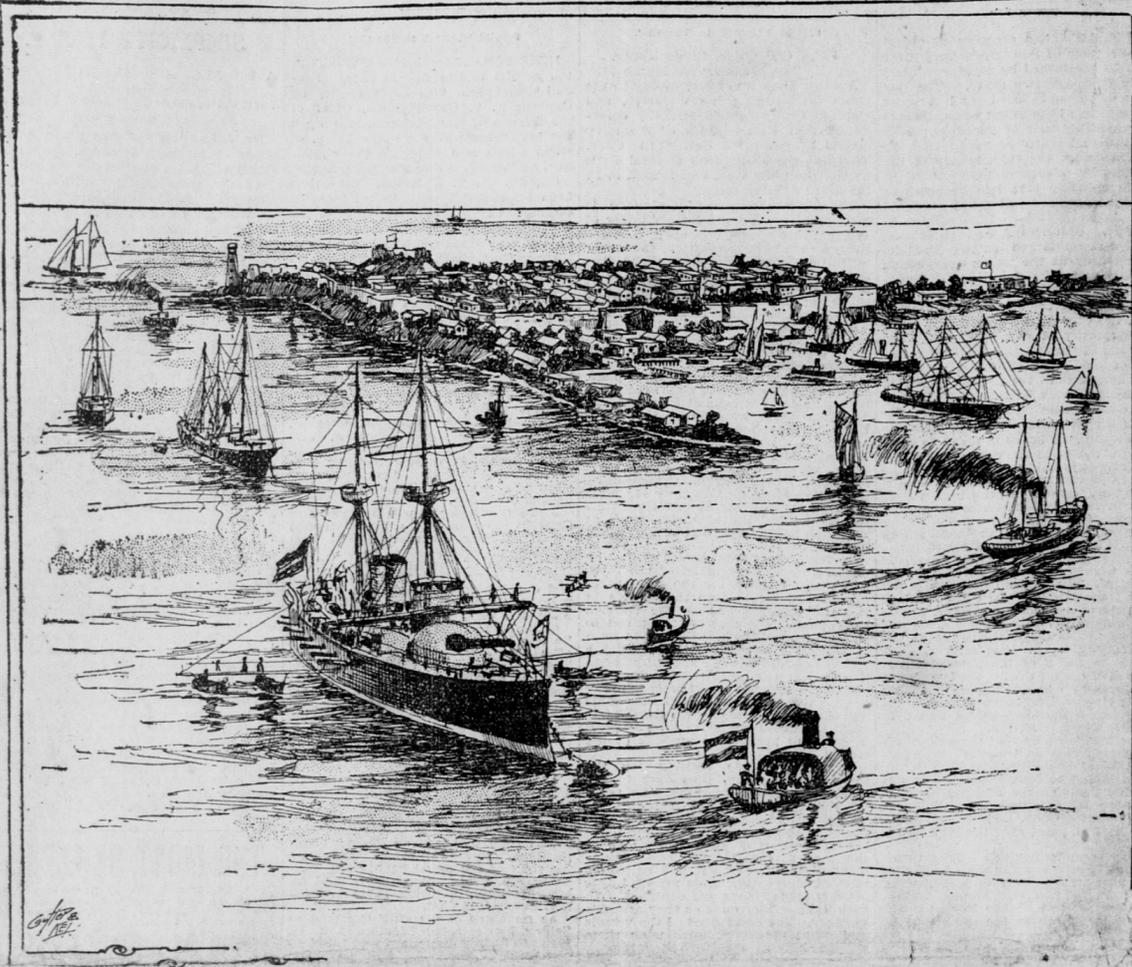


DRAWN NEARER THE POINT WHERE WAR WILL COME

PRESIDENT STILL LABORS TO KEEP THE PEACE WITH SPAIN

Even His Own Close Friends Admit That There Will Be War Within the Next Fifteen Days.

It Has Been Resolved to Stop the Spanish Torpedo Flotilla at Porto Rico, but in the Meantime There Are Grave Fears of an Attack Upon the Oregon.



VIEW OF THE HARBOR OF SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO.

For this port the Spanish torpedo fleet, now en route from the Canaries, is now heading. The view is from the land side and shows a Spanish warship of the Viscaya type in the foreground, with the Morro and lighthouse at the entrance of the harbor on the left. San Juan stands on an island which runs out from the main land toward the northeast, inclosing a body of water some twelve miles long by eight wide, with fine anchorage for large vessels along the town front. The old part of the town is surrounded by a wall, with several forts, built in 1630-71, on which are still mounted many of the old cannon used to repel the English and Dutch buccaneers and pirates.

NEW YORK, March 26.—The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: It has been a day of distress, anxiety and unceasing, bewildering conjecture. The only thing that opinion seems to be united on is that we have, in the last twenty-four hours, drawn perceptibly nearer the breaking point with Spain.

War is on everybody's lips—war in a few days, according to the alarmists, war or peace, according to the President's close friends, in the course of fifteen days. For in these trying times the faith of William McKinley that war will be averted and the independence of Cuba will be secured without a gun being fired has never wavered.

There is a deep feeling at the seats of both governments. The feeling here is intensifying every hour. Not a ray of peace light has come from the sky. The day opened with gloomy forebodings of hostilities hanging over everybody. It hung over the crowds in the hotel corridors. It hung over the State, War and Navy buildings. It hung around the White House like a Potomac fog.

The Herald's special cable from Madrid had portrayed a change in the situation there. Dispatches from Minister Woodford to the State Department had brought even more sinister news from Spain than any that had been received yet. The utmost caution was taken to guard the contents of the cables sent by the Minister to Spain, but it began to be whispered abroad that the news was of a character to cause the most intense anxiety. The cable, it is understood, dealt with Spain's refusal to further continue her consent to the sending of relief from the United States to the reconcentrados.

Well might such a decision on the part of the Spanish Government cause apprehension and unrest at the peace headquarters in the White House. Spain's refusal could mean only one thing—our insistence that relief should continue to go, and at the point of the bayonet, if need be.

FEAR FOR THE OREGON

NEW YORK, March 26.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Fearing an attempt on the part of Spain to destroy the battle-ship Oregon and gunboat Marietta, which have been ordered to the North Atlantic coast to re-enforce Captain S. W. Sampson's command, instructions will be sent to the commanding officers directing them to adopt every precaution against attack. The determination to issue these instructions is the result of an official dispatch from the diplomatic representative of this Government in Uruguay, announcing that the torpedo-boat Temerario of the Spanish navy had hurriedly left Montevideo, where she had been anchored for some time, and had gone to sea. Her destination was unknown, but it was believed that she might be under orders to lie in wait for the Oregon and Marietta and to cripple them, if possible, so that they could not reach Key West.

THE PRESIDENT TALKS FREELY OF HIS PLANS WITH REGARD TO CUBA

Will Send the Maine Report to Congress on Monday, Following It With a Message on Tuesday or Wednesday Dealing With Cuba.

Call Office, Riggs House. Washington, March 26. President McKinley talked freely with his Congressional visitors to-day, both in regard to his plans for the future and his appreciation of the situation with reference to Cuba. His programme as thus outlined is as follows: To send the report of the Maine court of inquiry to Congress on Monday without recommendation and without explanation on his part further than to say that he has acquainted Spain with the findings of the court. To follow this Tuesday or Wednesday with a message dealing with the condition of the non-combatants in Cuba and asking for an appropriation of \$500,000 for their immediate relief. To present anew this condition to Spain, asking that country to make provision for the care of her own helpless people and to come to some terms with the Cubans which will be satisfactory to them and put an end to the war. This failing, to forcibly intervene on humanitarian grounds. The President indicated to his callers an abiding faith that peace may be preserved and a determination on his part to accomplish that end if it may be done with honor to our own country and without disregarding the demands of humanity. He frankly and repeatedly avowed to-day his desire to prevent a conflict, while at the same time indicating a firm purpose to secure relief for the starving reconcentrados. Indeed, the latter purpose appeared to be the topic uppermost in the President's mind. He dwelt upon the fact that the recognition of belligerent rights or of independence would not be of any material service to these unfortunates. He admitted that such action might be of assistance to the men at arms, the insurgent army, but they, he said, have shown a capacity to take care of themselves and do not stand in pressing need of our kind offices.

EUROPE UPHOLDS SPAIN. PARIS, March 26.—Debate, discussing Cuba and the New York Herald's editorial, claiming that America would have the moral support of Europe, says the Herald is mistaken. "The United States," it says, "will not have the moral support nor the sympathies of Europe, or at least that part which takes account of the necessity of respecting certain international principles. It is not permissible for any nation, on the pretext that disorder prevails in part of a neighbor's territory, to intervene there by force in order to establish an order of things which best corresponds to its own aspirations. Legitimate sovereignty has its rights, and they must be respected."

The President believes Spain will interpose no obstacle to our sending succor to her indigent people, and he will ask Congress to act promptly, that the aid to be given may not arrive too late to relieve the pressing necessities. This done, the President is hopeful that Congress will remain quiet while the executive branch of the Government continues its efforts to secure a peaceful settlement of the difficulty. He thinks it not too late to do this, and he made the assertion to-day that Spain was willing to meet the United States halfway in adjusting the entanglement without coming to blows. He referred only casually to the sailing of Spain's torpedo fleet, leaving the impression on the minds of his visitors that he considered that so far in this matter Spain is acting within the bounds of her own rights and just complaint cannot yet be made by this country in regard to this course. He did not enter into details regard-

ing the propositions he may make or may have made to Spain, for undoubtedly some are pending, but he left the impression that he would be satisfied with no settlement that would not give the Cubans a very liberal form of government. He admitted frankly that autonomy had proved a failure, and expressed the opinion that it would be as difficult to satisfy the Americans with any settlement that might be made as it would be to satisfy the Cubans themselves. He reasserted the possibility of securing an agreement on the part of Spain to allow Cuba to conduct her own affairs with absolute freedom, except that the island should be required to pay the mother country a specified sum in the way of tribute every year out of her revenues, seeming to think that this would form a basis upon which both Spain and the Cubans could agree without sacrifice of too much pride on either side.

Mr. McKinley reverted often in his conversations to his desire to maintain peace, and dwelt upon the fact that war meant not only loss of life and property, but that it also would injure our commerce, disturb business conditions generally, increase our public debt, add to our pension roll and result in many ways to our disadvantage and distress. He made it clear, also, that whatever course he might pursue in the future he would not at present demand any indemnity at the hands of Spain for the loss of the Maine, preferring to leave that matter to the adjustment of a more quiet period. The President also spoke of possible complications with other nations, but did not manifest any uneasiness on this score. Senators who have visited the President have without exception, so far as can be learned, assured him that the Senate appreciates his efforts to preserve peace under proper conditions, and have told him there is no danger of precipitate action in that body. They

got the impression that if the worst comes and it shall be absolutely determined that no other course will avail, the President will be found ready for armed intervention.

On the score of politics he assures them that he would rather see the Republican party fail of future success than to wage an unjust war but that if war must come, it must be war for humanity, and that this fact must be made so evident that he will have the entire nation behind him in a conflict at arms.

Minister Woodford has been cabled to notify the Spanish Government as to the results found by the American court, particularly that the explosion was ex-

Continued on Second Page. NEWS OF THE DAY. Weather forecast for San Francisco: Fair on Sunday; light northerly changing to fresh westerly winds. Maximum temperature for the past twenty-four hours: San Francisco.....32 degrees Portland.....44 degrees Los Angeles.....58 degrees San Diego.....54 degrees FIRST PAGE. One Day Closer to War. The President Talks Freely. SECOND PAGE. Work on Sunday at Mare Island. War Talk in the House. To Garrison Port Point. Painting Warships Dead Color. The Two Atlantic Squadrons. THIRD PAGE. Poll of Congress on War. Million Wanted for Cuban Relief. Mr. Rea's Denial. France Would Have Peace. Gall's Claim to an Estate. FOURTH PAGE. A Noted Duke Dead in the Ice. San Rafael Rose Carnival. Both Want Nevills' Gold. Tennis at the Citrus Colony. Oxford Wins From Cambridge. FIFTH PAGE. Clancy's Letter From Dublin. SIXTH PAGE. Editorial. Redress or War. The Semi-Centennial. The Klondike Mail Service. Mr. Rea's Denial. The Cattle Quarantine. Official Privileges Abused. "With Entire Frankness," by Henry James. SEVENTH PAGE. Judge Slack Resigns. After an Island of Gold. More Science in Education. A Salvationist Who Wouldn't Swear. EIGHTH PAGE. The Old Coloma Is Safe. Gang Rule Costly to San Jose. Heavy Frosts Follow Rain. Miners Drowned at Dutch Harbor. San Bernardino Fears Sheppeman. NINTH PAGE. Harry Gillig as a Minister. Private Contract System.

NEWS OF THE DAY. TENTH PAGE. Baseball Season Opening. Coursing at Two Parks. ELEVENTH PAGE. The Masonic Festival. Tried to Blackmail Rudinoff. A New Bantam Weight. FOURTEENTH PAGE. Racing at Ingleisle. Births, Marriages and Deaths. THIRTEENTH PAGE. The Day Among the Churches. News From Across the Bay. SIXTEENTH PAGE. Ferry Scauld's Delinquencies. Thought He Was Robbed. Deaf, Dumb and Blind Accounts. SEVENTEENTH PAGE. Going to the New Turquoise Mines. EIGHTEENTH PAGE. Tomb of Isis Discovered in Egypt. NINETEENTH PAGE. "Off to Sea," Signal on the Oregon. TWENTIETH PAGE. Latest Pathological Discovery. Where Is Grace Stevenson? TWENTY-FIRST PAGE. Story of the "Alabama," by One of the Crew. Modjeska Tells How to Act. TWENTY-SECOND PAGE. Story of a Lost Millionaire. Missionary Made a Mandarin. Balloon Made of Metal. TWENTY-THIRD PAGE. The Rise of a Political Boss. TWENTY-FOURTH PAGE. Arthur Matthews' Exhibition. Books. TWENTY-FIFTH PAGE. The New Lightship and Its Crew. TWENTY-SIXTH PAGE. Society. TWENTY-SEVENTH PAGE. Fashions. TWENTY-EIGHTH PAGE. Schools. Fraternal News. WHISKY. TWENTY-NINTH PAGE. Theaters. THIRTIETH PAGE. The Commercial World. THIRTY-FIRST PAGE. Boys' and Girls' Page. THIRTY-SECOND PAGE. News Along the Water Front. Monument for Lieutenant Burke. Mines.

THE SPANISH TORPEDO FLEET MUST STOP AT PORTO RICO.

BOSTON, Mass., March 26.—A Washington special says: Orders were issued to-day to prevent the Spanish torpedo flotilla from near this country. The Board of Strategy was in session for a long time and the utmost caution was used to keep its doings secret, yet it was learned from unquestionable authority that the United States Government had made up its mind to take a determined stand against the menace of the threatening approach of the fleet of the Dons. It is not the intention of the department to send out an American fleet to meet the Spanish torpedo boats in mid-ocean and compel them to return or sink them, as the jinxes would have it do, but to adopt the more pacific course of permitting the Spaniards to reach Porto Rico, but drawing the dead line there. To this effect orders were issued to Schley to-day. These orders will be transmitted to Sampson by messenger instead of by any of the conversational methods of Government transmission. The department will not even trust these vitals order to the wires under the practically perfect safeguard of the official cipher code, so important is it that the details should not be known. The members of the Board of Strategy, of course, refuse to divulge any of the details of the conference, but it was learned in the highest authority that it had been decided to place a very formidable obstruction in the way of the Spanish flotilla's passage a single mile this side of Porto Rico. When this is done, and the frowning guns of American battleships guard the route to the West, the United States Government will officially notify Spain that it will not permit the flotilla to proceed a single mile nearer Havana or the United States; that it has no objections to the presence of the flotilla at Porto Rico or elsewhere, provided it does not cross the line; and, finally, that should this ultimatum be disregarded it will be looked upon by the United States as a declaration of war and will be acted upon accordingly.

The minds of the members of the administration with renewed apprehension. The Herald's poll shows that Congress is strongly in favor of acting on the Cuban question. Out of seventy-eight Senators interviewed, thirty-nine are willing to wait on the President's policy and follow it; twenty-six are in favor of forcible intervention, and seven are in favor of recognizing the independence of Cuba. Out of 290 members of the House polled, 100 will wait for the President to speak, eighty-eight favor forcible intervention, seventy-eight want to see the independence of Cuba, six favor the recognition of belligerency, and fifteen are for peaceful intervention. It is interesting to note that only one Senator and two Representatives favor the annexation of Cuba, so that the charge that the United States is grabbing for territory is not likely to be made. Notwithstanding the compliment to the administration that this poll shows, the President is contemplating a step with reference to the manner of sending the report of the Maine Court of Inquiry to Congress which may make congressional sentiment shift. It is said the President does not wish to send full testimony to Congress at the time the report goes in. The excuse that will be given is that the testimony being a bulky typewritten volume, should first be sent to the printer. The fact seems to be that this excuse is being found to prevent the testimony going to Congress at this time for fear its tenor will influence Senators and Representatives into declaring war. Much of this testimony will tend to fix the blame on Spain, by implication, whereas it is not, strictly speaking, testimony that would be admitted under the strict rules of evidence. The court was commanded to take all the testimony that would tend to fix responsibility, no matter how indirectly. This was done. Then the court was commanded to use all efforts to cover all the points as con-