

DON IS AT BAY

The News of the Capture of Cervera's Fleet Is Expected Today

HIS SHIPS AT SANTIAGO

Sampson and Schley Supposedly Ready to Make an Attack

WILD RUMORS AT WASHINGTON

STORIES OF A BATTLE PERSISTENTLY CIRCULATED IN SPITE OF ALL DENIALS

No Official News Given Out Beyond the Fact That the Whereabouts of Both American Fleets, as Well as the Position of the Oregon, is Definitely Known by the Department—Suggestion That Cervera Has Escaped and is Making for Home Discredited.

Washington Bureau St. Paul Globe, Corcoran Building.

Special to The St. Paul Globe. WASHINGTON, May 24.—Tomorrow should bring news that the squadron of Cervera has been attacked and captured or destroyed. This statement is not official, but it reflects the universal opinion of Washington.

All day the national capital has been kept astir by rumors of great naval events. Early in the morning come tidings by way of London that the Spanish fleet had been captured in the Windward passage. Later it was said the fleet was destroyed.

All this time the navy department was besieged for news, but it had none to give out. Secretary Long stated, in answer to inquiries, that the department was fully advised as to the position of Sampson, Schley and of the Oregon, but could not make the information public. He added that, according to the best information in the possession of the department, the Spanish fleet was at Santiago.

NO BATTLE YET.

There was no change in this reply as the day progressed, and new rumors were circulated almost every moment. In various forms and from various places come tales more or less circumstantial of a battle at sea. These agreed only in one particular. All united in asserting that the Spanish had been worsted. To all of these rumors Secretary Long, while he showed interest in the bulletins, had only his old reply. The department was without information of a conflict. The last official information was contained in a bulletin posted late in the afternoon, as follows:

The department has no reason to believe that a battle has occurred in the Windward passage. The auxiliary cruiser St. Louis has seen the cable at Santiago de Cuba and San Juan, Porto Rico.

WILD TALES.

The rumors of the day were not confined to tales of battle. At one time it was reported positively that the Oregon was at Key West. This was denied, and the belief in Washington, in spite of the Lloyd's dispatch of yesterday, is that the Oregon is with one or another of the two fleets operating against Cervera.

Another wild tale was that the Mangrove had been captured by the Spanish. This story originated at Key West, and was circulated by a Chicago paper to which it was sent special. The department made short work of the rumor. The Mangrove, it was stated, had been reported later than the date of her alleged capture.

BATTLE IMMINENT.

Eliminating the wild rumors which were so persistent that they came almost to pass as facts, the public is but little wiser tonight than it was last night. It knows that the navy department knows where Sampson and Schley are. That is interesting, but not definite. The substance of the official news is that Cervera is probably at Santiago, and that the Oregon is not at Key West.

THE DON'S DOOM SEALED.

If the position of the fleets is as assumed the doom of the Don is sealed, and on every side the opinion is expressed that today will see the end of Spain's power at sea in the Western world. From this it must not be assumed that Santiago will be an easy nut to crack. The place is strongly fortified, and the entrance to the harbor so narrow that only one ship at a time can enter the inner bay where Cervera's ships probably are. But remembering all this, and, in addition, the much rumored destruction and the possibility of mines, no one doubts that the issue will be a victory for American pluck and American skill.

POSSIBLE FLANK MOVEMENT.

To turn abruptly from a phase of the question that has been universally discussed to one that has excited only casual comment, there is an alternative proposition that in official circles has been given serious consideration, although discredited. This is the possibility that Spain is planning a flank move; that Cuba and Porto Rico are to be abandoned and the whole power of Spain concentrated in the Philippines. This report had its origin at Madrid, where it was stated that two destroyers in the harbor of Cadiz were under orders to join Cervera for the relief of Manila. This involved the assumption that Cervera has made his escape from the Caribbean sea and is on his way home. The seriousness of such a move to Dewey resulted in its careful consideration, but the Spanish rumor is not credited.

There is a diplomatic phase to this reported change of base that may be significant. Under the settled principles of national law one nation can hold as security for war indemnity from another only such territory as is actually in its possession when peace is made. Spain's purpose, if a move is to be made on Manila, may be to recover possession of the Philippines and then, through Guantanamo, but one of the two English cables running from Santiago south to Jamaica.

MOSQUITO PATROL FLEET

ESTABLISHED UPON A FAIRLY SATISFACTORY BASIS

Work Is Being Rushed on the Battleships Building at Cramps and Newport News, and It Is Expected the Kearsarge and the Kentucky Will Be Ready for Service Early in November.

Washington Bureau, St. Paul Globe, Corcoran Building.

Special to The St. Paul Globe. WASHINGTON, May 24.—Admiral Erben, in charge of the Atlantic coast patrol, commonly known as the mosquito fleet, by the use of the \$3,000,000 appropriation placed at his disposal by congress has been enabled to get his service established on a fairly satisfactory basis.

Admiral Erben's estimate to the secretary of the navy of the force needed to patrol the Atlantic coast, from Bar Harbor to Galveston, called for 125 boats and for the enlistment of 3,000 men to man them. The admiral got

partment to utilize every available minute under the contract in completing the Kearsarge and the Kentucky. The ships were advanced to such a point that no more progress could be made until the boilers were in position, so it became necessary to abandon the idea of waiting for the 140-ton crane, and to resort to the 90-ton traveling conveyer, which at present is the largest in the yard.

As the boilers themselves each weigh 90 tons and the crane has only that capacity, the attempt was a great risk. The present arrangement was accomplished without accident.

BIDS FOR ARMOR.

Supply Secured for Three New Battleships.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Bids were opened today for supplying the armor for the three battleships, Illinois, Alabama and Wisconsin, now in course of construction at Newport News and Cramps. This is the second time that the government has endeavored to secure bids for supplying the armor for these ships. The first effort, made about a year ago, was unsuccessful because congress had made the minimum cost per ton for the armor at a figure below the cost of production. The present naval appropriation bill having increased the price allowed to \$400 per ton, today's effort was successful.

CUT THE WRONG CABLE.

Warship St. Louis Did Not Isolate Blanco.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Late this afternoon it was ascertained that the cable from Santiago that was cut by the American warship St. Louis was not the line controlled by the French company, running from Santiago to Hayti, through Guantanamo, but one of the two English cables running from Santiago south to Jamaica.

ANOTHER WARSHIP.

Proposed That the Lake Region Duplicate Rhode Island.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., May 24.—Following the movement of Rhode Island to build and equip the fastest torpedo boat destroyer afloat and to present it to the government, the Milwaukee Journal today, in an editorial, points out a great opportunity for the cities of the Great Lakes to do likewise. The Journal notes that the ship builders of the Great Lakes are the equal of any in the world, and continues:

"Then let the Great Lake region, the home of the iron mine, the cradle of many big ship yards, where the most wonderful engines devised by the genius of man are constructed, build, equip and present to the government a torpedo boat destroyer that shall, if possible, excel the one that Rhode Island intends to give to the government. Let the iron mines of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota contribute the ore for making the steel out of which the hull of the boat and its machinery shall be made; let the rolling mills of Chicago and Cleveland make the plates for the hull; let Milwaukee or Chicago, Cleveland or Buffalo, or all of them jointly, build the machinery for the craft and let the hull be built and the machinery be put in place at Superior or Chicago, or Bay City, or Buffalo, or Cleveland."

VERY SATISFACTORY REPORTS ARE RECEIVED AT WASHINGTON REGARDING THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK ON THE KEARSARGE AND KEARSARGE, WHICH WERE RECENTLY LAUNCHED AT NEWPORT NEWS. THE PROGRESS ON THE TWO BIG BATTLESHIPS, THE MOST AMBITIOUS CRAFT OF WAR YET UNDERTAKEN BY ANY NATION ON EARTH IS SO RAPID THAT THE CHANGE IS ACTUALLY NOTICEABLE FROM DAY TO DAY.

By November 1, if the war continues so long, it is believed that both will be ready for service.

Orders have not yet been issued to push the work on the battleships by resorting to night labor, but there is reason to believe that the navy department is contemplating this step, not only in connection with the completion of the Kearsarge and the Kentucky, but the Illinois, which is also building at Newport News, the Alabama, building at Cramps, and the Wisconsin, building at San Francisco, as well. It is known that the Cramps are pushing the Alabama in order to get it completed before the Kearsarge and the Kentucky if possible.

The contract for the latter ships were signed a year before the Illinois, the Alabama and the Wisconsin contracts, and should the Alabama be turned out before the two sister ships the Cramps will undoubtedly get credit, although it must be taken into consideration that three big ships are being built at Newport News to one at Cramps.

AS TAKING CHANCES.

As an illustration of the way work is being rushed on the Kentucky and Kearsarge it is said that the boilers have been put in place on the Kearsarge at considerable risk. For some weeks the officials have been waiting the completion of a 140-ton traveling crane before daring to transfer the six boilers to the ship, but orders were received from the navy de-

PEACE MUST BE PRESERVED

AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN HAVE EVER SO CONTENTED

Whiteley Reid on the Anglo-Saxon Countries, Peace and Universal Civilization—The Proposed New Alliance No New Inspiration—At War for Our Institutions, and Must Face the Issue.

NEW YORK, May 24.—The queen's birthday was observed by the British School's and Universities' club, and by a banquet at the Holland house today. The president of the society, David A. Munro, presided.

Aside from the number of speeches and toasts felicitating the queen upon her seventy-ninth birthday, there was a general discussion of the proposed Anglo-American alliance. The principal speech of the evening was delivered by Whiteley Reid. In response to the toast "Great Britain and the United States—Peace and

UBA AND THE FLEETS.

It Is Not Definitely Known Where the Fleets of Sampson and Schley Are, but It Is Probable That They Are Lying This Morning Within Striking Distance of Santiago de Cuba, and That Before Another Sun Sets the Fleet of Cervera Will Have Been Destroyed or Captured.

Universal Civilization," Hon. Whiteley Reid, speaking in regard to the proposed Anglo-American alliance, said: "This is no new inspiration, born of any sudden emergency, in the circumstances that now surround either of us, and it springs from no unworthy source. The foremost statesmen, the ablest publicists, men of letters and men of business on both sides of the water have long given it utterance. It underlies the Geneva arbitration. It lent character and force to the movement for a general treaty of arbitration which was unhappily stranded on the shoals of practical difficulty that so often wreck ideal reforms. It settled America in spirit to the queen's jubilee. The great man that you have just lost, spoke a dozen years ago of an absolutely good understanding between England and the United States as a prospective at once majestic, inspiring and conciliatory.

Let no man slander us by saying that we are playing a meanly selfish part. When this long reign you celebrate at last shall end, the proudest eulogy upon the good queen will be that she sought ever for peace. In the face of the existing war and of the last five months' record, I make bold to advance a similar claim for our country. The head of no government in modern times has striven for peace with honor more manfully, more courageously and persistently than William McKinley.

But the war is upon us. We are not discussing what might have been. It is a situation that a theory that confronts us. Whether we are right or wrong, at any rate we are at war for our institutions and must face the future, whether we like it or not. We cannot expect, we cannot possess our power and evade its responsibilities, whether in Cuba or the Philippines.

SPANISH SPY CAUGHT.

Supposed to Have Charts of New York Defenses.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 24 (8:30 p. m.).—An important arrest of a supposed Spanish spy was made this evening by United States Marshal Hoar. The prisoner is Romigno Sapetero Jimense, who was among those captured on the steamer Panama, and has since been held aboard ship as a prisoner of war.

INFORMATION IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE OBTAINED CONCERNING NEW YORK HARBOR AND ITS DEFENSES, WITH CHARTS OF THE HARBOR, WHICH HE IS ATTEMPTING TO GET TO THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES.

He is about forty years of age, a Spaniard and a civil engineer. Late this afternoon Marshal Hoar, with several deputies and United States Commissioner Otto, received information from the North, in consequence of which they slipped quietly out to the Panama, arrested Jimense and brought him ashore.

HE WAS TAKEN TO THE KEY WEST HOTEL, AND PUT THROUGH A VIGOROUS EXAMINATION IN PRIVATE. SO PERFECTLY WAS THE AFFAIR MANAGED, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY ONE OR TWO PERSONS KNEW OF IT.

Jimense stoutly denied the accusation that he was a spy, but his story was of such a contradictory nature that it confirmed the suspicion of the federal officer. He said he had left Cuba in 1877, a date which he subsequently corrected to 1890. He had lived, he admitted, in New York since that time, but he had decided to return to Cuba to engage in mercantile business and was on his

NO PRIVATEERS WANTED

SPAIN'S THREAT IN THAT DIRECTION AN IDLE ONE

Great Powers Will Not Permit the Spaniards to Interfere With Their Commerce—British Government Has Already So Signified—How Spain Sought a Pretext for Piratical Warfare.

Washington Bureau, St. Paul Globe, Corcoran Building.

Special to The St. Paul Globe. WASHINGTON, May 24.—The question of privateering has arisen again. In connection with the evident activity of Spain in this direction it can be said with the utmost assurance that whatever Spain may decide to do the United States will not countenance privateering, in any way, and will look to the leading nations to throw their influence into the scale against Spain's resort to this now generally discarded method of warfare.

The British government has already signified to ours its intention not to submit to interference by Spain with legitimate British commerce with this country any more than with others. The commonly accepted idea here is that Spain's talk about privateering, following close upon the heels of her charge that United States ships have raised the Spanish flag for purposes of deception, is in earnest, and that its deliberateness is proved by the obvious search she made for a good pretext.

It is not known here whether any of our ships have been guilty of the charge made against them; whether they have or have not it is believed that Spain's only reason for making the accusation was to prepare the way for treating privateering as a mere act of reclamation on her part.

TRANSPORT SHIPS SCARCE.

Will Be Impressed Into Service if Necessary.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—"We have not secured any new ships, but are still negotiating for the Colon and China," said Assistant Secretary McKeljohn at the close of business hours today. The difficulty with these ships has been the question of price, the owners of them and the department being unable to agree on the rates to be paid.

Mr. McKeljohn has not yet put into execution his threat to impress some of the steamers on the Pacific coast into the service. He hopes this will not be necessary and that the companies will come forward promptly and offer their vessels to the government at reasonable rates. It is believed to be likely that a recommendation will be made to congress granting an American register to the Tacoma, Victoria and Argyle of the Northern Pacific steamship line, so that they may be fitted out for use as transports as promptly as possible.

The steamer Ohio, a vessel of 1,200 tons, belonging to the Empire Transportation company, has been offered to the government, and the question of her acceptance is under consideration. She is at Seattle. A large number of ships have been offered to the department, even at reasonable rates, but they were in such condition that officials persistently refused on the ground that they would not be safe to send troops in them. Should the government decide to ask that an American register be given to all six vessels of the Northern Pacific Steamship company, and they be secured for transport purposes, these, with the five ships already secured and the China, Colon and Ohio, would furnish accommodations, it is believed here, for between 15,000 and 17,000 men—just about the number which the war department will send to Admiral Dewey.

SHAM BATTLE.

Volunteers Will Engage in Mimit Warfare Today.

CHICKAMAUGA, Ga., May 24.—This morning saw 36,000 men of the volunteer army under tents at this point, and the officers of the army expect that by Saturday night there will be 44,000. The two first brigades of the First division of the First corps will attack the Third brigade, entrenched on Snodgrass Hill, in a sham battle, tomorrow morning, the attacking brigades to be in command of Gen. Wilson, and the defenders under command of their brigade commander. Gen. Breckinridge stated tonight that

FIGHT IS AT HAND

An Attack on the Spanish Fleet Is Expected Today

SQUADRON UNDER SCHLEY

It Includes Two Battleships and the Cruiser Brooklyn

DONS HEMMED IN AT SANTIAGO

CERVERA IS BELIEVED TO BE WHERE HE CANNOT MAKE HIS ESCAPE.

At Key West the Feeling That a Naval Battle Is Imminent Amounts to Conviction and It Is Believed the Spanish Squadron Will Be Attacked Today by the Combined Fleets of the Two American Commanders—Great Naval Activity in West Indian Waters.

KEY WEST, May 24 (midnight).—The feeling that a great naval battle is imminent amounts to conviction. It is asserted here that Cervera is at Santiago and will be attacked by Sampson and Schley today.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 24.—A special to the Constitution reports the safe arrival of the United States battleship Oregon at Jupiter, Fla.

Copyright by the Associated Press. MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, May 24 (on board the dispatch boat Dandy).—The waters south of Cuba have suddenly become the scene of great naval activity. Commodore Schley, who left Key West last Thursday with the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, the armored cruiser Brooklyn and the armed yacht Scorpion, is believed to be cruising off Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba.

When the Dandy left Key West Friday morning, Admiral Sampson was still there. It was the opinion of naval officers that he would sail for Cienfuegos soon by the eastern route, the two fleets thus completing the circle of Cuba.

IOWA ON GUARD. The battleship Iowa followed Commodore Schley on Friday, but was overtaken off Cape San Antonio on Saturday by the torpedo boat Dupont with secret instructions. The battleship immediately increased her speed to the limit, and when last seen was guarding the entrance to the passage between the Isle of Pines and Cuba. The Dupont rushed on toward Cienfuegos.

Five British warships are now in the vicinity of Jamaica. The Spanish 1,200-ton passenger steamer Purissima Concepcion, is here. She is afraid to venture out.

SAME OLD STORY. LONDON, May 25.—A dispatch to the Financial News from Port de Paix, Hayti, says: "Admiral Cervera is believed to have divided his fleet. It is reported that the Vizcaya and the Alfonso XIII. have been destroyed."

A dispatch has been received from Madrid, dated 1 a. m., Wednesday, saying: Gen. Correa, minister of war, has received a cablegram from Gen. Blanco, saying that American warships are in front of Santiago. Capt. Aizman, minister of marine, has received a lengthy dispatch from Admiral Cervera.

Admiral Camara has gone back to Cadiz with sealed orders.

RIGHT OF SEARCH.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 24.—The Spanish consul here, acting under the neutrality proclamation, has asked of the colonial authorities the right to search the steamer Adula when she arrives from Cienfuegos tomorrow night with Americans or any other persons who may have taken advantage of her to leave that city. He is in search of dispatches from the American blockading fleet to the navy department and of communications from spies. He avers that on her previous trip from

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TODAY'S BULLETIN.

- Page. 1-Cervera Is at Bay. Coast Well Protected. Rushing Work on New Battleships. Mysterious Silence at Madrid. Reid Talks Alliance. Hostile Fleets Aligned. Privateering Idea Unpopular. 2-Minnesota Men on Show. Thirteenth May Sail Soon. Dewey Hail to Bluff. War in Serious Earnest. 3-War Nominations Confirmed. Commerce Commission Meets Today. Senate Debates Revenue Bill. 4-Editorial. High School Commencement Plans. St. Paul Social News. 5-Sporting. Saints Shut Out by Tigers. Weekly Crop Reports. 6-Markets. Bar Silver, 57 1/2. Cash Wheat, 1.55. Stocks Higher. 7-Minneapolis Matters. News of the Northwest. News of the Railroads. 8-New Nurses in the Field. Bickel Wants a Chance. Stocking Divorce Case. State Red Cross League.

War News in Brief.

No naval battle has yet been fought in West Indian waters, according to official statement. At Washington it is believed that Cervera is at bay at Santiago and will be attacked today. Work being rushed on the battleships building at Newport News. Santiago cable reported to have been cut by the cruiser St. Paul. Events at Washington indicate that the departments are settling down to make war in serious fashion. Mysterious silence in political circles a marked feature of the Madrid situation. Minnesota men will be on show at Chickamauga today. Spanish play a sharp trick at Fort de France to secure coal. The Oregon is probably with Sampson or Schley. An attempt to bluff Dewey a complete failure. Atlantic coast thoroughly patrolled by the mosquito fleet. If Spain tries privateering England will make trouble. Story that Cervera is on his way to Spain to join an expedition against Dewey is discredited.