

SPAIN'S ANSWER RECEIVED.

ITS TENOR SEEMS TO INDICATE A CLEAR BACKDOWN.

MAKES FAVORABLE IMPRESSION.

No Objection Will Be Made to Our Humanitarian Assistance of Suffering Cubans.

The answer of Spain to the firm note sent through Minister Woodford last week stating that the condition of Cuban affairs had become so intolerable that the United States could not much longer remain inactive toward it has been received at Washington.

The general tenor of the Spanish answer impressed the president and cabinet officers most favorably, so much so that after the meeting it was stated by members that the outlook was far more assuring and that Spain had shown such a conciliatory tone that it was believed she would make concessions sufficient to permit an amicable adjustment of the present strained relations.

This was qualified, however, by the statement that danger point has not yet passed and that war, while no longer a probability, was yet a possibility.

The president has distinctly disclosed to his cabinet associates his purpose to avert war if it was possible with a just solution of the Cuban problem, and he had felt from the disposition manifested by Spain that this just solution could be reached. This, however, is without considering congress, which may, now that the subject is formally before it, take some radical action.

At the state department cablegrams were received from Minister Woodford and the Spanish minister, Senor Polo de Bernabe, held a lengthy conference with Judge Day as to the prospective adjustment. The meeting between the Spanish minister and Judge Day came after the cabinet conference, so that such representation as Spain submitted through him did not get before the cabinet. At least two of these new phases submitted by the minister were of exceeding importance.

The Spanish government made it known that no objection would be made to the humanitarian objects of the United States in extending itself to the sufferers in Cuba on a far greater scale than hitherto had been contemplated.

On the contrary, Spain has made known that it recognizes the humane purpose animating this country and that it does not doubt that these purposes will be executed in such a way as to avoid all opportunities for friction. It is not expected that the relief will be carried in warships, as this would introduce a political aspect into a project which is purely humane.

This acquiescence by Spain clears the way for the president's message, asking a large appropriation for the relief of destitution in Cuba. It had been feared that this relief given directly by the United States government would be resented by Spain as indirect intervention. In that event there is little reason to doubt the relief would have been forwarded at any cost, even the cost of war, as the administration has felt that a war in behalf of a humane object would command the universal approbation of the world.

ENGLISH COMMENT.

London Papers Praise President McKinley's Course.

The London Daily News says editorially:

"Again has the unexpected happened. According to our American correspondent's report the spirit of peace has descended upon the American people, apparently in the belief that United States Minister Woodford has sent a dispatch containing assurances that Spain is willing, under conditions, to withdraw her troops from Cuba and thus give the island effective autonomy, if not independence. If this be true, it throws the Maine disaster into its due perspective by giving America due satisfaction on the large issue. Yet there are still uncertainties. The president's message undoubtedly suggests some kind of reparation."

NOTED DEMOCRAT DEAD.

Former Chancellor of Delaware Passes Away at His Home in Dover.

Hon. James L. Wolcott, former chancellor of Delaware, died at his home in Dover Friday, aged seventy-six years.

Mr. Wolcott was for years a leader in democratic politics. In 1888 he entered the field for United States senator in opposition to the late Eli Saulsbury and captured the democratic primaries in Kent county.

But the subsequent Saulsbury bolt defeated Mr. Wolcott's senatorial aspirations by electing a republican legislature, which sent Anthony Higgins to Washington as the first republican United States senator from Delaware.

FLOTILLA AT PORTO RICO.

Report That Spanish Fleet Arrived Far Ahead of Time.

A dispatch received at Washington from Madrid announces that the Spanish torpedo flotilla arrived Friday evening at Porto Rico.

This was quite unexpected in Washington and created considerable comment in navy circles. So far as could be learned no information on this point has been received by either the state or navy departments. The arrival of the flotilla surpasses all forecasts as to the time necessary to make the trip and indicates that a high rate of speed was maintained across the ocean.

According to authoritative advices the Spanish torpedo flotilla reported as arrived at Porto Rico comprises three Spanish torpedo boats destroyers and their escort, the transport Ciudad de Cadiz. It is understood they will proceed to Cuba.

According to the Madrid Liberal the vessels composing the Spanish torpedo flotilla are as follows: Torpedo catcher Furor, of 406 tons, Commander D. Carlier, has crew of 72; torpedo catcher Terror, of 406 tons, Commander F. De La Rocha, has a crew of 72; torpedo boat Rayo, of 120 tons, Commander Senor Rizo, has a crew of 72; torpedo boat Azor, of 120 tons, Commander R. De Egguino, has a crew of 26; torpedo boat Ariete, of 120 tons, Commander M. Samozza, has a crew of 26.

Minister Woodford is Preparing to Leave Madrid.

A special dispatch received in London from Madrid says United States Minister Woodford is making the necessary preparations to leave Madrid immediately in the event of a diplomatic rupture.

The Madrid correspondent of the London Daily Mail says: Spain, acting on the principle "Si vis pacem para bellum" (if you wish peace prepare for war), continues her preparations for hostilities with America. The coast defenses of the peninsula are in an efficient state, rather more so than two years ago, when the seizure of the Competitor by Lieut. General Weyler brought the two countries to the verge of hostilities. These defenses were inspected by an eminent Spanish general and the necessary works have gone quietly on ever since.

EDITOR BRANN KILLED.

Fought Duel to the Death With Captain Davis in the Streets of Waco.

At Waco, Texas, Friday, W. C. Brann, editor of The Iconoclast, and Captain M. T. Davis, met and fought a revolver duel to the death.

The combatants met just at 6 o'clock in front of the Cotton Belt ticket office, and after exchanging a few words, both began emptying their revolvers into each other's bodies.

When the battle was over Brann was found to be perforated in the left lung, the left leg and the right foot, and died after being taken to his home. Davis was shot through the right lung and through both arms. He is likely to die.

The difficulty between the two men grew out of the Brann-Baylor feud of last year. Captain Davis's daughters are pupils of Baylor university, and the reference made in The Iconoclast to Baylor, which were generally construed to mean reflections on the moral character of the pupils and faculty, brought forth from Captain Davis a denunciation of Brann, delivered in language most forcible and direct.

MRS. NOBLES' LIFE SAVED.

Georgia Prison Commission Acts Favorably in Her Case.

The Georgia prison commission has recommended the Governor to commute the sentence of Mrs. Elizabeth Nobles to life imprisonment.

The commission has not yet made a recommendation in the case of Gus Fambles, the associate of Mrs. Nobles in the murder of her husband.

There is no room for doubt, however, that the sentence of the negro will also be commuted to life imprisonment. He has at all times been adjudged the less guilty of the two, and in as much as clemency has been extended Mrs. Nobles there is every reason to believe that Fambles will not be hanged. It is understood that the people of Twiggs county are unanimous on this point. They are unwilling to have the negro hanged unless the woman shares a like fate.

NAVY DEPARTMENT ORDERS.

Officers are Placed in Command of Various Monitors.

The navy department issued orders Saturday placing officers in command of a number of the single turreted monitors which have recently been called into service.

These naval officers will be first in command of the several monitors, and will be aided by officers and men from the naval militia of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and elsewhere. The monitors are still at the League Island navy yard, being outfitted as rapidly as possible, and reports received at the navy department indicate that they will soon be ready.

SPAIN MAKES A CONCESSION

SHE DECIDES TO RESCIND THE RECONCENTRADO ORDER.

WILD SCENE IN THE HOUSE

Bailey, of Texas, Attempts to Force Republicans to Overrule Speaker Reed and Pass a Cuban Resolution.

The Spanish legation at Washington received a cablegram late Wednesday night from the governor general of Cuba saying that the captain general reported the pacification of the eastern provinces so far advanced that it had been decided to rescind the reconcentrado order in these provinces and allow all subjects of this decree to return to their homes in the country.

To aid in the re-establishing of the reconcentrados upon their farms, the cablegram states, the government will grant them the protection of the Spanish military forces augmented by local relief committees to look after their immediate needs.

Economic kitchens, it says, are to be established to support the reconcentrados while waiting for their first crops to mature, and they are to be furnished farming implements and seeds by the government. To supply them with ready money, such of them as are able, will be given employment upon public works, and it is asserted that these measures will result in the speedy rehabilitation in the rural portions in the eastern provinces.

A wild and uproarious scene occurred in the house of representatives Wednesday when Mr. Bailey, the democratic leader, attempted to force the hand of the republicans upon a proposition to overrule the speaker and pass a resolution recognizing the independence of the Cuban republic.

He was cheered on by the crowd in the galleries, but the members of the majority refused to support him. They were rallied by two of the leading advocates of armed intervention, and the speaker himself from the chair made an indirect appeal to his party associates to stand firm, at the same time intimating that if their impatience was curbed a little longer they would have the opportunity they coveted. The scene throughout was most dramatic and the members and the spectators in the galleries were wrought up to a high pitch of excitement.

Mr. Bailey offered the following resolution as a privileged question:

Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That the heroic struggle of the Cuban people against the force of arms and the horrors of famine has shown them worthy to be free, and

Second, The United States hereby recognizes the republic of Cuba as a free and independent state.

Mr. Boutelle immediately made the point of order that the resolution was not privileged, and upon that Mr. Bailey demanded to be heard. He demanded that the subject with which the resolution dealt was too serious and the occasion too important to be hastily disposed of. He insisted he had a right to present the resolution under the rules and rulings, and the responsibility must rest with the majority if it was ruled out of order and the ruling sustained. He called attention to the fact that in the fifty-third congress, when Mr. Crisp was speaker, Mr. Boutelle, who now made the point of order that this resolution was not privileged, presented a resolution of a similar character relating to Hawaii, which the speaker held was privileged, but must go to a committee. Against that latter ruling an appeal was taken and the whole republican side had voted against the bill on the appeal. When he said that at the head of the list of distinguished republicans who voted on that occasion was the honorable speaker of this house, the democrats went into rapturous applause.

After the announcement of the vote Mr. Bailey asked what became of the resolution, and the speaker replied that it would not go to the committee on foreign affairs, but if introduced in the regular way, through the box, it would be referred.

Mr. Bailey appealed from the decision, but the speaker said it was a parliamentary inquiry that Mr. Bailey had made and that no appeal could be taken.

REQUEST TO GOVERNORS.

Asked to at Once Organize, Drill and Equip Naval Militia.

Supplementing the action taken by the navy department Thursday in requesting governors of states to drill and equip the naval militia so as to be ready for any emergency, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Friday sent letters to the governors of those seacoast states not having such organizations, to take steps looking to the formation of naval militia so far as possible under the state laws.

It is hoped by the naval officials that each of these states will be enabled to promptly acquiesce in the department's request, and be prepared to assist in the naval auxiliary work.

STRENGTH OF THE MILITIA

Given Out By Military Division of the War Department.

There was nothing especially significant in the movements of naval vessels reported to the navy department Thursday.

The military information division of the war department has made public a table bearing on the strength of the militia of the United States in 1897. The authorized strength of the militia of the entire country, which, however, includes several states where this strength is not limited, is 186,848, while the aggregate actual strength is 113,760.

The total number of men liable to military duty in the country is 10,378,118.

PENSION ROLL GROWS.

Secretary Bliss Says the List is Larger Than Ever Before.

A Washington dispatch says: Inviting the senate to consider a deficiency estimate of \$8,070,872 for pensions for this year, Secretary Bliss makes an interesting statement on the general subject of pensions up to date. Secretary Bliss says:

"On the first of July, 1897, there was available \$140,000,000 for the payment of army and navy pensions; \$4,000,000 of this amount was set apart for navy pensions, leaving \$136,000,000 for payment of army pensions. The total number of pensioners on the roll June 30, 1897, was 976,014, while on the 28th of February, 1898, there was 989,613 on the roll, a net increase of 13,599.

LUMBER RATES STAND.

Western Roads Will Not Reduce Them as Was Threatened.

The railroads of the west announce that there will be no further rate war up their way.

This statement concerns the southern lumbermen and the southern railroads directly, because if lumber rates fall in the west, rates in the south must drop to meet them.

The Burlington threatened to reduce its rates on lumber from Chicago to western points, but the Rock Island made a counter threat that it would reduce the rates on packing house products in retaliation. This position taken by the Rock Island is supposed to have influenced the Burlington to call off its announcement about lumber.

GEORGIA BAPTISTS MEET.

Assemble in Annual Convention in the City of Augusta.

The Baptists of Georgia met in annual convention at Augusta Thursday, with over 400 delegate enrolled.

The exercises began with devotional exercises led by Rev. J. L. White, of Macon. On motion of Dr. G. A. Nunnally, of LaGrange, Governor Northen was unanimously re-elected moderator by acclamation.

Governor Northen, in accepting the moderatorship, said he had no speech to make, but assured the convention of his deep sense of appreciation, both of the honor conferred and the responsibility involved in the position.

BLANCO GIVES OUT REPORT.

He Does Not Deny the Sufferings of the Reconcentrados.

The Spanish legation at Washington has received full reports from Captain General Blanco from the governors of all the provinces of Cuba and from the alcaldes and chiefs of police of the principal cities as to the condition of the reconcentrados.

It is an elaborate treatment of this subject by the officers directly in charge and gives the situation fully from their standpoint. It is noteworthy that they do not seek to minimize the dreadful condition of these people, but endeavor to show that they are doing their utmost to alleviate the misery and misfortune which exists.

DEPEW CHANGES BASE.

Retires from the Presidency of the New York Central.

Chauncey M. Depew has authorized the statement that he would, on April 20th, retire from the presidency of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company and become chairman of the board of directors of the New York Central and Hudson River, Lake Shore, New York, Chicago and St. Louis and the Michigan Central railroads. S. R. Galloway will succeed Mr. Depew as president of the New York Central.

CAR LINES CONSOLIDATED.

Knoxville Has Now Only One System For Future Operations.

It is stated definitely that C. C. Howell, who has been manager of the Knoxville Street Railway Company, will remain as manager of the Knoxville Traction Company, formed by the consolidation of three street railways and two electric light systems of the city.

The deal was consummated at Baltimore Tuesday and consideration was \$881,450. The purchaser was a syndicate organized by Hamilton & Sons, of Baltimore, Baltimore Trust company, and Kauntze Bros., of New York, interested.

TWO DOZEN TORPEDO BOATS

ADDED TO NAVY THROUGH NEW APPROPRIATION BILL.

DOUBLE THE AMOUNT ASKED FOR.

Members of Both Sides Demonstrate That They Are in Hearty Accord in War Preparations.

In an exceedingly turbulent session of six hours the house, at Friday's session, passed the naval appropriation bill and then adjourned until Monday.

The war spirit was manifested in all the speeches and overrode the naval committee itself by increasing the number of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers to twenty-four, the bill as reported providing but twelve, and the appropriation to \$4,000,000 instead of \$2,300,000.

Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee, offered an amendment to reduce the number of battleships to one. It was buried under an overwhelming majority. The provision relating to armor plate, which, in ordinary times, would have precipitated a debate of several days, was disposed of in ten minutes, a proposition to decrease the price agreed to in the bill from \$400 to \$300 per ton being drowned in a perfect chorus of noes.

In speaking on his amendment reducing the number of battleships, Mr. Cannon said:

"Most gentlemen believe that within a week we will be at war with one of the countries of the earth. That will mean additional taxation and authorizations to borrow \$500,000,000. It means that these burdens shall be put upon the people. Let us double taxation if necessary, but let us not authorize a single dollar that is not necessary to meet the emergency just in front of us. Long before these battleships can be launched the war will be over, and I fear these battleships will be obsolete." (Applause on the floor.)

Mr. Boutelle, in a spirited reply, declared that the history of naval warfare showed that the naval battles of the world have been won by the ships of the battle line.

Mr. DeArmond, democrat, of Missouri, called upon the administration to take the aggressive. The Maine, he said, has been blown up in a harbor supposed to be friendly. There was great danger now, he declared, in trusting to diplomacy rather than to our own strong arm.

The great question now was to stop the hostile fleet now approaching our shores. If we were depending upon diplomacy, it would prove a broken reed.

The best protection at such a time, he urged, was aggression, not to wait, idly resting upon hopes that had no foundation. He declared that we should strike while we had the advantage. War between nations was not like a contest between equally matched gladiators. The victory belonged in war to the country that best and first prepared for it.

"Let us protect ourselves," continued Mr. DeArmond, "by striking before we are stricken." (Applause.)

"Let us not wait. We have waited too long. I hope the proper measures of energy are on foot, and that what I apprehend as danger will be avoided."

Diplomacy Falls.

There is little doubt that the president and the members of his cabinet now regard a conflict with Spain as almost inevitable.

In his next message to congress it is understood that the president will review at some length the record as it stands between this government and Spain, but will not insist upon further time in which to continue negotiations looking to a peaceful solution of the Cuban problem.

The cabinet meeting Friday morning was unquestionably the most important held in many years. It received Spain's answer to the ultimatum of this government, and finding it unsatisfactory practically decided upon a policy which at present seems certain to involve hostilities.

The whole record will be laid before congress and the question is now under earnest consideration what shall be the particular form our policy shall take in bringing to an end the horrors in Cuba and securing the independence of the island.

A DEAL WITH DENMARK.

Report That Our Government Has Bought Islands and War Ships.

A special from Washington says that there is some reason to believe that the government has made a most important deal with a foreign nation which will have a most important bearing upon our relations with Spain.

It is said that negotiations have been concluded for the cession to this country of the three Danish islands in the West Indies—St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix.

It is also understood that Denmark sells to this country two cruisers and three torpedo boat destroyers.