

SHAFTER'S ARMY MOVING.

ONE TRANSPORT WITH CAVALRY LEFT SANTIAGO ON THURSDAY.

Two Others Were to Have Sailed Yesterday—The Entire Corps to Be Withdrawn from Cuba with All Possible Speed—The War Department Now Says the Order for the Withdrawal of the Troops Was Issued Before the Publication of Roosevelt's Letter—Alger Not Yet Impressed with the Seriousness of the Situation.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—The Administration has become so deeply impressed with the necessity of withdrawing Gen. Shafter's army from Santiago at the earliest possible moment that all the transport vessels which the Quartermaster's Department can command have been ordered to southeastern Cuba. The expedition of eighteen volunteer regiments under Gen. Wade to Porto Rico has been postponed and abandoned in order that transportation may be provided to carry the Santiago troops to the proposed recuperative camp at Montauk Point, L. I. The War Department, eager to defend itself from the criticism which has come from all parts of the country in regard to the care of the sick and wounded, has issued an order to the effect that the Administration in holding the Fifth Corps in Cuba, issued the following statement late this afternoon:

"Until quite recently it was supposed that yellow fever was epidemic in Santiago, and it was not believed that it would be safe to send ships laden with men to the city. It is now known that the disease is not epidemic, and that it would spread rapidly on shipboard, and result in the death and burial of many at sea. On the 28th ult. the Secretary of War telegraphed to Gen. Shafter that as soon as the fever subsided the men of his command would be moved north to a camp that had been selected near Montauk Point. On the 30th of July, Gen. Shafter telegraphed: 'Made known Secretary of War's telegram that troops would be moved north as soon as fever subsided, and it had a very good effect upon the men.' When, however, the true condition was made known, an order was issued to Gen. Shafter to move his command north as rapidly as possible, and all ships in the Quartermaster's service possible to get to Santiago were sent there, and the great liners St. Paul and St. Louis were also ordered there. All this was done before the communication signed by Gen. Shafter had been received, and before Col. Roosevelt's letter was published. Over 150 surgeons are at Santiago and 170 immune nurses have been sent there, besides the usual hospital corps that always attends such an army. There have been less deaths in Santiago by yellow fever than by typhoid fever in any camp of the same size in the United States."

Despite the fact that this official statement seems to make light of the sickness prevailing in Gen. Shafter's army, it is known positively that a despatch from Gen. Shafter was received at the War Department to-day, speaking in the strongest terms of the serious danger of disease which threatens the army. Gen. Shafter said in his despatch that yellow fever of the worst kind would soon become epidemic, and that the disease would get far beyond the control of the army surgeons if the troops were not speedily removed. The general described the demoralizing effects upon the comparatively healthy troops of the presence of deadly disease in their camps and the scenes of death which are prevailing all around them. It appears from this despatch of Gen. Shafter that the morale of the troops is gone. The soldiers of his command are brave in the face of battle, but they are demoralized by the sight of death everywhere. He disputed the idea advanced that the demoralizing mania of, in its worst form, the disease known as homesickness was responsible for the demoralization of the volunteer soldiers, but asserted that the ravages of disease alone caused the unfavorable condition of the army.

Admiral Sampson is on this subject a reporter of THE SUN to-day: "The department ordered the withdrawal of a detachment of Santiago troops several days ago as an experiment, directing that some cavalry organizations be sent north on the Louisiana. It was not the intention of the Administration to withdraw the entire army from Gen. Shafter's army at present, for it was known that the troops would be needed in Santiago until the Spanish prisoners had been deported, and it was not believed that the sanitary situation was such as to make the immediate return of the Fifth Corps to the United States impracticable. Now that the conditions prevailing among the officers and men in Cuba have been reported as serious, every facility will be used to carry the army to Montauk Point. The expedition of the Provisional Division to Porto Rico under Gen. Wade has been abandoned for the present because we must have the transportation to carry Gen. Shafter's army to Montauk, and even now there are not enough ships."

Neither the Secretary of War nor the Adjutant-General believes that the situation in Santiago is so serious as it is represented to be, or, at least, they do not think so before the receipt of Gen. Shafter's telegram to-day. Singularly enough, the Adjutant-General, Theodore Roosevelt, and the Brigadier-General in command, numbers to Gen. Shafter, urging the necessity of sending the troops north, fails to impress Secretary Alger and Gen. Corbin with the seriousness of the sanitary conditions prevailing in the Fifth Corps. The Administration feels bound, however, to take the opinion of the Santiago officers and the Adjutant-General of the people throughout the country. A leading army officer said this afternoon: "The army ought to stay in Santiago for some time longer, but we have to reckon with the disagreeable circumstance. That is, the troops which were sent to go to the front, and in whose favor troops were sent, were used two months ago with the department, are earliest to ask to be brought home. The disease of homesickness, which surgeons designate by a scientific name, has attacked the army in Santiago, and the evidence is that the malady is not confined to the ranks. The troops are demoralized by the hardships and the reports of serious sickness are exaggerated."

A despatch was received from Gen. Shafter to-day announcing that the first of the transport vessels leaving Santiago to Montauk Point today, and that two more vessels would leave tomorrow. The first transport vessel was the Louisiana. All the ships had cavalry troops exclusively on board. The Louisiana arrived at Quarantine, New York, on Wednesday or Thursday next, and the troops on board will be personally inspected by Surgeon-General Stryker, and the Adjutant-General and Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital service before they are sent on to Montauk Point. The auxiliary cruisers Yale and Harvard, as well as the St. Paul and St. Louis, will be used in the transportation of troops from Santiago. There are eight transport vessels now at Santiago, and these will be loaded with troops. These vessels have accommodations for about 5,770 men.

Orders have been sent to the Quartermaster's Department in New York to fit out the camp at Montauk Point with all possible speed. Orders have been issued to send tents to the camp from all the military stations in the East. The equipment of the tents for the care of the sick will be the greatest work for the department, suitable buildings and hospital facilities will be provided.

OUR TROOPS ORDERED HOME.

CAVALRY FIRST, VOLUNTEERS NEXT, THEN THE REGULARS.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Aug. 4.—In answer to the statement signed by the Generals and medical officers of the United States troops, to the effect that the army should be sent to another climate to avert a disastrous epidemic of fever, an order came from Washington to-day to send back the troops to the United States, to be encamped at Montauk Point, Long Island. They will be replaced by a garrison of 8,000 men, chiefly immune. The Cavalry will be sent first, then the volunteers, and last the regulars.

The sick among the troops here comprise 15 per cent. of the entire number. Most of the sufferers have malarial fever. There are very few deaths. The health of the city is improving. The mortality, which was as high as 75 a day, has decreased to 50.

The steamer San Juan arrived to-day from Manzanillo with thirty-eight passengers, being the officers and families of Gen. Egoarri's column. The San Juan entered Manzanillo under flag of truce on Sunday, causing consternation in the town. She was believed to be an American warship, and the people fled up the river.

SHAFTER EKONGRATES HIMSELF.

HE SAYS HE DIDN'T GIVE OUT GEN. KENT'S REPORT OF ROOSEVELT'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—The Secretary of War received the following telegram from Gen. Shafter to-day, in reply to the Secretary's telegram of yesterday reprimanding him for giving to the press Gen. Kent's report and the letter of Col. Roosevelt and the brigade and division commanders, asking that the army be withdrawn from Santiago:

"SANTIAGO, Aug. 4, 1898.
Via Havard, 11:42 P. M.
"The Hon. E. A. Alger, Secretary of War, Washington: 'The report (probably meaning Gen. Kent's) was given out, as I have learned since, before it reached me. I called the general officers together to tell them what I proposed to do and to express to them my views, and ask them to give me their views. I found all felt alike. Some one then proposed that I write a letter setting forth their views and I told them to do so. Meanwhile I wrote my telegram, and later it was handed in and forwarded with the letter of the surgeons and the letter of these officers. It was not until some time after that I learned that it had been given to the press. It was a foolish, improper thing to do, and I regret very much that it occurred. Roosevelt's letter I know nothing of nor of what he said; and I have been very careful about giving to the press any information, and I will continue to be so."
W. K. SHAFTER, Major-General."

CAPT. CLARK HAS BROKEN DOWN.

THE COMMANDER OF THE BATTLESHIP OREGON "CONDEMNED" AND ORDERED HOME.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—Capt. Charles E. Clark, the commander of the battleship Oregon, has been "condemned," to use the technical term, by a board of medical survey at Washington, and ordered to return to the United States on the first naval vessel leaving for an American port. Capt. Clark has broken down under the terrible strain to which he has been subjected in the last four months. Leave of absence in which to recuperate will be granted him, and if his health has not been restored on the expiration of the leave, it will be necessary for him to go on the retired list. It has been definitely settled, however, that Capt. Clark shall receive substantial advancement in his grade, and if he is obliged to retire, the Navy Department will undoubtedly recommend that he be promoted to flag rank on account of his brilliant services as an able and successful commander of the Oregon. His successor on the big battleship has not been selected.

When the Navy Department decided in March last to order the Oregon to Key West from San Francisco Capt. Alexander H. McCormick was her commanding officer. Capt. McCormick was ordered to the Oregon on the 15th of March, and about that time and "condemned," as Capt. Clark has been. He was suffering from nervous prostration, and six months' leave in which to recuperate was given him. The Navy Department was much embarrassed over the necessary action of the Medical Board, as the Oregon is the only battleship in the world to conduct the voyage for vessels of her class from San Francisco down the western coast of North and South America, through the Straits of Magellan, up the Atlantic side of South America and through the West Indian Islands to Key West, a series of runs aggregating about 15,000 miles. The right man was found in Capt. Clark, then in command of the monitor Monterey at San Diego, Cal. He hurried to San Francisco, superintending the preparations for the voyage, and on March 31 sailed away on his 15,000-mile journey. The wonderful record made by the Oregon on that long voyage is generally conceded to be due to the efficiency of Capt. Clark and Chief Engineer Milliken. The Oregon reached the east coast of South America at a time when Cerbera's fleet was believed to be lying off the Brazilian shore, waiting to intercept and destroy her. But Capt. Clark was not frightened by the report, and he ordered an enemy superior in number, armor and armament to his own ship, and it has passed into a legend in naval circles that he responded to a warning sent him by the Navy Department with the announcement that he didn't want to be bothered with instructions and how he would have the good luck to meet the Spanish fleet.

The magnificent steaming record of the Oregon attracted attention throughout the world, and brought additional business to her builders from European nations. In the naval battle off Santiago, when Cerbera's six vessels were destroyed, the Oregon drove Cerbera's fleet into the thickest of the fight. In his report of the engagement Admiral Sampson gives the greatest praise to the Oregon and the Gloucester, and Commander Schley also paid a high tribute to Capt. Clark's ship. Naval officers agree that Capt. Clark and the Oregon made the most brilliant record of any unarmored vessel. The Oregon exceeded her trial speed in Chesling the Cristobal Colon and threw the shells which compelled the best Spanish cruiser to turn in to the shore and go aground.

ACCIDENT TO THE MACKENZIE.

BLOWS OUT A BOLLER TUBE ON HER TRIAL TRIP, INJURING FOUR MEN.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 5.—The torpedo boat Mackenzie blew out a boiler tube on her trial trip to-day, injuring four men of her crew, two of them seriously. The boat was in charge of government officers and was given her trial test of speed over a mile course in the Delaware River between Marcus Hook and Wilmington. She made a speed of nearly 23 knots and had just crossed the finish line when the accident occurred. She was towed by the Humana shipyard, where she was built, for repairs.

OUR TROOPS ADVANCING.

THEY HAVE REACHED A RIVER FORTY-THREE MILES BEYOND PONCE.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

CAPIATAN-GENERAL MACIAS SAYS HE HAS ALSO LANDED ON THE NORTHEAST COAST—GEN. WILSON MOVES HIS HEADQUARTERS TO THE FRONT—A RECONNOISSANCE TO COAMA, WHERE WE FIND SPANISH TROOPS IN A BLOCKHOUSE—THE TROOPS IN GOOD HEALTH.

PONCE, Porto Rico, Aug. 4, via St. Thomas, Aug. 5.—The American army of invasion advanced five miles this afternoon from Juan Diaz, to a bridge across the Descalabrado River. The bridge is an important strategic position.

It is flanked by high hills. The Sixteenth Pennsylvania went into camp there at 6 o'clock. The rest of the men of Gen. Ernst's brigade, consisting of the Second and Third Wisconsin regiments, are to advance to-morrow.

Last night a few mounted men under command of Major Reed of the Sixteenth Pennsylvania advanced to Coamo. They were fired upon by some Spanish troops in a blockhouse to the southwest of the town. They returned to the fire and then retired. To one was hurt.

Gen. Wilson's headquarters is to be moved from Ponce to the front to-morrow. The weather is delightful. The army is in good health and spirits.

There has been no firing at Arroyo since the cruiser Cincinnati sent a few shells into the woods on Wednesday afternoon.

This appears to have had a good moral effect, and there was no occasion for the infantry to fire last night, there being no signs of Spaniards in the neighborhood.

The transport Roumania, which was aground at Guianca, got off and has arrived at Arroyo. With the exception of the artillery, all of Gen. Brooke's force has now been landed at Arroyo.

The sanitary authorities at Ponce have taken hold of their work with much vigor. They have caused the cemetery to be sealed, and hereafter burials inside the city limits will be forbidden.

A plot of ground a distance from the city will be condemned for burial purposes and will be consecrated by the Bishop.

MORE AID FOR CUBANS LANDED.

THE WANDERER LANDS SUPPLIES IN PINAR DEL RIO AND SANTIAGO PROVINCES.

KEY WEST, Aug. 5.—The steamer Wanderer, which left this port some days ago with a Cuban expedition, arrived at Pinar del Rio, where she landed several horses and other supplies. Col. Penn, and Adela Alvarez, a nurse, who some days ago was sent here with the wounded in the fight between Col. Carrillo and the Spanish forces, while aiding the expedition landed in Pinar del Rio on July 22. Col. Penn was unable to land more than the horses and supplies because Gen. Hernandez de Yalasco with forces 300 strong attacked the Cubans who were protecting the landing, obliging them to retreat. The expedition on the Wanderer requested protection from the ships of the blockade, but it was impossible to obtain this help.

When it was decided to land in Santiago province and the party sailed to Puerto Padre, on the north coast of that province. At Manar River they found a Cuban who gave them indications how to enter Puerto Padre, which port is under Cuban control, with Miguel A. Estrada as port commander, appointed by Gen. Garcia. They landed the expedition in three days time. Many Cuban families were waiting for food and they heartily cheered the United States and Cuba Libre. Three hundred Cubans were garrisoning the town. Gen. Garcia sent a tugboat recently captured by the Cubans to meet the Wanderer. On board the tug were Colosso and Marti, aides of Gen. Garcia.

There were in the port several other captured vessels, and all had Cuban flags hoisted. The Spaniards who manned them are kept prisoners until a Cuban court is appointed to take some determination.

Gen. Garcia has published a proclamation to the effect that all Spanish and Cuban merchants are relieved from taxation at present. Nuevitas and Gibara are in Cuban hands.

The Wanderer will sail to-morrow for the quarantine station at Millet Key, near Tampa. The Wanderer landed 7,500 rations of food, 800 Springfield rifles, 800,000 rounds of ammunition, thirty cases of dynamite, 400 machetes, and twenty-five Cubans.

RELIEF FOR GEN. GOMEZ.

AN EXPEDITION TO START ON MONDAY WITH CLOTHING AND PROVISIONS.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—The last government relief expedition for Gen. Maximo Gomez will leave Tampa on Monday on the Government auxiliary Wanderer in charge of Lieut. George R. Ahearn of the Twenty-fifth Infantry. Gen. Nuñez and Dr. Mendez Capote, Vice-President of the Cuban Republic, who have been in Washington for several days, will accompany the expedition. No arms or ammunition will be taken, but quantities of clothing and provisions of all kinds. Twenty-five regular soldiers go on the Wanderer, which will be conveyed by an American man-of-war.

Dr. Capote will assume command of the regulars in that part of Cuba on his arrival, relieving Lieut. Johnson, who is now in the camp of Gen. Gomez, in charge of about fifty United States troops. He is thoroughly familiar with that section of Cuba, having commanded a provisional relief expedition to Gomez and made himself acquainted with the people and the country. He left Gomez only a few weeks ago to return and fit out the present expedition. At the time of his departure nothing had been heard of the surrender of Santiago or any of the battles there, owing to the difficulty of getting anything through the blockade.

Dr. Capote has been in Washington several days holding daily conferences with Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn and other officials relative to the existing Government of the island. Another important matter which was discussed was the disposition of the Cuban Army after the war. The army amounts to about 10,000 men, a large body of men, and unless they are officially recognized and some official standing given them in the army of occupation it will become a serious problem how to care for them.

The landing place of the expedition is kept a secret, as there are many Spanish regiments in the western part of the island who would like nothing better than to swoop down on a shipload of much needed provisions.

LANDED IN NORTH PORTO RICO.

MACIAS SAYS WE HAVE CAPTURED THE LIGHTHOUSE ON CAPE SAN JUAN—THIS IS 30 MILES EAST OF THE CAPITAL, SAN JUAN—HE ADMITS THAT THE NATIVES SIDE WITH US.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

MADRID, Aug. 5.—Captain-General Macias to-day sent a despatch from San Juan, Porto Rico, to Gen. Correa, Minister of War, saying that a body of American cavalry, accompanied by a number of natives, has entered the towns of Adjuntas and Utuado. [THE SUN'S correspondents have already announced this fact.]

The despatch adds that the natives have risen at Aneco. [This means that they have sided with the Americans.] Yesterday an unimportant skirmish took place on the River Descalabrado, which crosses the main road to San Juan, five miles east of Juan Diaz.

The Americans have disembarked and captured the lighthouse at Cabenas, Cape San Juan.

The Cabezas de San Juan are a group of four islands. The point of Morro Mainland on which the lighthouse is situated, about a mile from the most distant island, is the extreme northeastern point of Porto Rico. It is evident, therefore, that a part of our force, military or naval, has landed in that part of the island, from which San Juan, the capital, is distant thirty miles to the west.

BOYS TO BUILD A BATTLESHIP.

THE PRESIDENT RECEIVES THE PROMOTORS OF THE ENTERPRISE AND GIVES THEM A LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—W. Hankin Good of Cincinnati, President of the National American Boy Fund and originator of the plan to raise \$1,000,000 among the school children of America with which to replace the battleship Maine, and Harry J. Price, also of Cincinnati, called at the White House yesterday to see the President regarding their enterprise. The lads are only 17 years old. They waited at the White House all the morning, but were finally turned away. They persevered, however, and returned this morning, refusing to be put off any longer. Their cards were then taken to the President, and he granted them an interview. After the boys told him their errand the President said:

"Boys, I have heard all about your enterprise. You are engaged in a very praiseworthy undertaking, and I wish you success. How much money have you already raised?" "Nearly thirty-five thousand dollars," replied the lads.

"What can I do for you?" asked the President.

"We came here to secure your indorsement in the form of a letter."

"You shall have it," said the President. "Call here this afternoon at 3 o'clock and I will have the letter ready."

After the lads had thus instructed the doorkeeper as follows: "When these two boys call this afternoon, let them in. I want to see them."

The President then chatted about the American boy enterprise and astonished his juvenile visitors by his thorough knowledge of the movement. He said he was glad to see the school children of the country taking such an interest in the matter, and showed that he was fully informed on the progress of the work by telling the boys what they had already accomplished. This afternoon Good and Price returned to the White House, and a letter was given them of which the following is a copy:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, Aug. 5, 1898.
"Master W. Rankin Good, Cincinnati, O.
"MY DEAR SIR: The circular which you have presented to me has been read and I am glad to find with which to build and present to the Government a battleship has greatly interested me. Love of country and devotion to the flag were never more conspicuous in America than they are to-day, and I am sure our boys and girls will deem it a privilege to be numbered among the contributors to this patriotic undertaking. Very sincerely yours,
"WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

Good and Price leave to-morrow for Baltimore, where Good will address the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce. Then they proceed to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

OFF FOR HONOLULU.

FIVE COMPANIES OF THE FIRST NEW YORK AND A BATTALION OF ENGINEERS SAIL TO-DAY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 5.—The departure of troops for Honolulu was a little variation from the regular routine of marching and sailing for Manila and there was a slight additional thrill of excitement as the battalion of engineers and five companies of the First New York Volunteers started from the Presidio to the dock. The two commands, 571 men and 14 officers of the First New York Volunteers, Major James T. Chase commanding, and the Third Battalion of the Second Regiment of Volunteer Engineers, 13 officers and 323 men, Capt. F. J. Heikok commanding, broke camp at 7 o'clock this morning and marched through the Presidio gate at about 9 o'clock. Small gatherings cheered them on their way down and waving en route flags. They were in heavy marching order and had no band.

The engineers had always been proud of their orderly and well-disciplined camp, where no serious disease had penetrated. It was therefore a circumstance of particular sadness to the men of whom they were composed to leave behind within one hour of the time they broke camp. He was Private Frederickson of Company L, Second Volunteer Engineers, and he died of heart disease at the Presidio Hospital.

Major T. Chase and Companies C, E, K, L, and M of the First New York Volunteers, the Third Battalion of the Second Regiment of Engineers, have been assigned to the station at Honolulu. It took nearly eight hours from the time the New Yorkers reached the dock before they were stowed away on the coaster Charles Nelson.

Shortly after 7 P. M. both the Nelson and the Lakme dropped into the stream and will sail at daybreak. The outlook is not cheerful for a pleasant voyage. About thirty engineers were transferred from the Lakme to the Nelson to relieve the overcrowded condition of the steam schooner.

Shortly before the Nelson dropped into the stream the firemen of the vessel said they would take the vessel into the bay, but would not go any further on account of lack of sleeping quarters.

The engineer, to palliate them, had the master transfer the firemen to the quarters originally intended for the mechanics and troops, and the latter were compelled to accept quarters unsuitable even for firemen accustomed to hot and stuffy quarters.

Some of the engineers and New York troops are quartered next to the uncovered steam pipes that carry power to the winch. The heat is at times almost unbearable.

SPAIN ACCEPTS.

SHE YIELDS TO THE TERMS OFFERED BY AMERICA.

THE CABINET'S DECISION.

IT WAS REACHED LAST NIGHT AND SUBMITTED TO THE QUEEN.

There is No Doubt That It Will Be Approved by Cristina—The Government Accepts the Peace Proposals of the United States Without Prejudice, However, to Certain Considerations Relating to the Philippines—Minister Gamazo Says He Believes That Better Peace Terms May Be Secured—Sagasta Met with Much Opposition in His Conference with Fery Leaders, but It Is Now Probable That He Will Remain in Office.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

MADRID, Aug. 6.—4:40 A. M.—At the Cabinet meeting last night the Ministers agreed upon a reply to the United States, accepting the principle of the American terms without prejudice to the discussion of certain essential points regarding the Philippines. They will communicate their decision to the Queen Regent to-day. Her agreement is considered assured.

It is now believed that Sagasta will continue in power. The Council approved a project to raise the total issue of bank notes to 2,500,000,000 pesetas.

Señor Gamazo, Minister of Public Works, believes that peace will be made on easier conditions than those announced.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—THE SUN correspondent in Madrid telegraphs that the Ministerial Council last night decided practically to accept the conditions of peace laid down by the United States.

The despatch occupied a little over an hour in transmission. It arrived here concurrently with a telegram filed in Madrid six hours previously, the contents of which were nullified by THE SUN'S despatch.

IT LOOKED WALKER EARLIER.

LONDON, Aug. 5.—A message of grave significance was received at THE SUN'S London office to-night from THE SUN'S Madrid correspondent. It should be explained that twice only since the outbreak of the war has a press telegram been permitted to pass the censorship without delays that sometimes amount to twenty-four to thirty-six hours. The first exception was a brief message sent to THE SUN by permission of the Cabinet on July 20, announcing that the Ministry had unanimously voted to seek peace. The second is the following despatch, which was received by THE SUN'S representative here two hours after it was filed in Madrid:

"The result of the conferences has not benefited the Government, and has endangered the negotiations. Sagasta's early resignation is mooted."

The conferences referred to in the despatch are the consultations which have been progressing for the past thirty-six hours between Prime Minister Sagasta and the leaders of the other parties and groups, including Señor Robledo, who, as told in last night's despatches to THE SUN, vehemently denounces the American terms.

Inasmuch as the above message was sent by the consent, and, probably, at the desire, of the Spanish Government, it may, perhaps, be surmised that the underlying motive of the Spanish Cabinet is to induce the American Government to modify some of its demands by indicating that the domestic situation in Spain renders it impossible for Señor Sagasta to yield to the present terms. Even if this is not the reason why the Spanish authorities were anxious to facilitate the transmission of the intelligence to the United States, it may be assumed that the facts justify THE SUN correspondent in telegraphing in the above terms.

There is no question that the Sagasta Government is anxious to conclude an immediate peace, but it is not yet clear whether it has the power to do so.

A despatch to the Central News from Madrid says it is reported that the Cabinet has decided not to send an answer at present to the demands of the United States. The Ministers are extremely reserved.

MADRID, Aug. 5.—In an interview to-day with Prime Minister Sagasta, Señor Silveira, the leader of the dissident Conservatives, advocated peace, but he thinks that reserve is necessary until the negotiations shall have been completed and the Cortes shall have met.

Señor Barrio, a Carlist leader, and Gen. Weyler have declined to confer with Señor Sagasta. There was a meeting of the Cabinet this afternoon.

Although Gens. Acarazaga and Chinchilla in their conferences with Señor Sagasta personally favored war, they admitted that its prosecution depended upon the means that could be furnished. They guaranteed that the army, despite its disappointment, would obey the Government.

Señor Nocedal, the ultramontane leader, said that the war must be carried on *à outrance*, even if the Yankees should capture the Spanish ports. Perhaps then an international conflagration would avenge Spain and give her an opportunity of gaining more than the proposed shameful peace allows.

In an interview to-day Señor Robledo prophesied that if peace was concluded the people would soon have cause to repent. He added that Señor Sagasta had told him that the United States had offered to release the French Ambassador at Washington, setting in behalf of Spain, had induced President McKinley to substitute another word for "possession," but it had the same effect.

Señor Robledo's statement caused somewhat of a sensation, but he has been rebuffed by the United States had only asked for the temporary occupation of Manila pending a settlement.

Señor Salmeron, one of the Republican leaders, refused to confer with Señor Sagasta. He says that he will speak his views in the Cortes. Señor Martinez Campos and the Duke of Telford are prominent members of the Cabinet as equal to the task of achieving peace on good conditions. They advocate the formation of a stronger Ministry.

Señor Robledo deems the Cabinet incapable of prosecuting the war and recommends a national Cabinet, in which he and Gen. Weyler should have prominent places. He believes it is expedient to make peace.

Señor Salmeron and Salmeron insist that the Cortes should be immediately convoked. It is reported, but the report lacks confirmation, that Señor Sagasta has yielded to Señor Silveira's pressure and agreed to convene Parliament.

WATSON'S FLEET IS READY.

WILL SAIL IF SPAIN'S ANSWER IS LONG DELAYED.

ADMIRAL SAMPSON TO BE IN COMMAND, WITH COMMANDERS WATSON IN COMMAND OF A DIVISION—THE ARMORED CRUISERS NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN AND THE BATTLESHIP OREGON AND MASSACHUSETTS WILL SAIL.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—Spain's delay in accepting the demands of the United States, and in response to the peace overtures presented by the French Ambassador, has apparently caused a renewal of the intention to send the Eastern squadron to conduct operations against the enemy.

It is understood that Admiral Sampson was directed by telegraph to-day to hold himself in readiness to proceed with a strong naval force to wherever the Government deemed it desirable to make a demonstration or strike a blow that would teach Spain that her cause is hopeless. That action following a conference at the White House held between the President, Secretary Long and the three members of the War Board—Admiral Sigsbee, Capt. Mahan and Capt. Crowninshield—was taken presumably on the advice of the Board.

For several days past there has been more or less talk at the Navy Department about the significance of the work at Guantanamo of overhauling and cleaning the big ships under Admiral Sampson's command, and considerable gossip was caused by the order sent to Capt. Hargison of the battleship Massachusetts to return to Guantanamo from Porto Rico, where the powerful armored lead participated in the demonstration to cover the landing of Gen. Miles's troops. The Massachusetts is one of the vessels assigned to the Eastern squadron. Despite reports, however, that the Eastern squadron was not dissolved, in fact, the period of inaction after the surrender of Santiago has been devoted to putting the vessels comprising it in better shape for active service.

The reason underlying the formation of the squadron was the threat of the Spanish Government to send Camara's fleet to the Philippines, and Commander Watson was on the point of departing for European waters to follow Camara when the orders were sent from Madrid for the Spanish fleet to retrace its course.

Since then there has been much uncertainty as to the future of Watson's command. According to information obtained to-night Admiral Sampson is to succeed Commander Watson in command of the eastern squadron, the latter being placed in charge of a second division of the formation, with the armored cruiser Brooklyn as his flagship. Commander Watson's present flagship is the Newark, and it is reported that he will turn that vessel over to Commander Schley, who will remain in command of the naval force in southern Cuba and the eastern part of the West Indies. This report, however, lacks verification from an authoritative source.

The reported reorganization of the squadron will make it much stronger. The New York, Admiral Sampson's flagship, and the Brooklyn were not included in the original force to be sent after Camara.

They are both armored vessels, and with the Oregon and the Massachusetts, battleships, will form the nucleus of a powerful fleet.

The other vessels assigned to the squadron are the auxiliary cruisers Yankee, Dixie, and Yosemite, manned by naval reserves. They are unprotected, but are considered excellent ships for fighting purposes.

The Yosemite is now at Newport News, Va., where she has just been placed in prime condition for further service.

The other vessels of the squadron are being cleaned and otherwise put in serviceable shape at Guantanamo Bay.

THIRTY MEN DROWNED.

A STEAMER AND A DREDGE AND SCOWS LOST IN A STORM OFF CAPE SAN BLAS.

PENSACOLA, Fla., Aug. 5.—The steamers William J. Keyser of this port and Nimrod of Mobile, towing the dredge Herndon and scows from Mobile to Dry Tortugas, while fifteen miles off Cape San Blas on Tuesday night encountered a terrific storm. The Nimrod's hawser parted and the dredge and a crew of twenty-six men were lost.

The Keyser foundered and Capt. Allen and three of the crew were lost. The survivors of the Keyser reached shore in an open boat and were picked up and brought here by a fishing smack.

The Nimrod is now helpless in St. Joseph harbor.

COMPLAIN OF OUR CREW.

MADRID SAYS 6,000 SICK AND WOUNDED SPANISH SOLDIERS ARE "INHUMANLY TREATED."