

JAS. G. BOYLIN, Publisher.

The latest news from Washington is to the effect that Ewart's nomination, to be Judge of the Western District of North Carolina, is likely to fall of confirmation.

The railroad commission will decide today whether the reduction in passenger fares, recently promulgated, will be allowed to stand. It is believed that the reduction will be considerably modified.

Tom Watson was yesterday nominated for Governor by the Georgia Populist State Convention. Watson has declined to accept, though it is believed by some that he will yet consent to make the race.

President McKinley has been invited to lend his presence to the 20th of May festivities at Charlotte. He promises to give the invitation his consideration with the hope that he may be able to attend.

A conference of prominent Populists of the State was held at Raleigh last night. Pritchard Pops and Butler Pope, commencing in the meeting on terms of equality and brotherly love. Dr. Cyrus Thompson presided. At an early hour this morning the conference was still in session.

ARE WE FOR ENGLAND?

The World's Peace May Depend Upon Our Decision—England's Policy is Open Markets in the Orient—It is Now Almost Certain That Nothing But Our Indorsement of That Policy Will Avert War Between England and Her Continental Rivals.

London Cablegram, 12th, to New York Sun.

It has come to pass that Great Britain especially, and to some extent European diplomacy as a whole no longer regards the Spanish-American crisis, the far Eastern crisis, and the West African crisis as separate and distinct issues. The questions are now looked upon as interwoven factors in a political situation which threatens the peace of the world.

The decision of the point whether this is a true view rests solely with President McKinley. His power and responsibility in shaping human destinies is greater at the present moment than has fallen to the lot of any man in this generation.

There is danger that the attention of the American people may be too much concentrated on the European situation, with which they are more directly concerned. Europe regards these troubles as of little intrinsic interest as compared with the real and important issues of the whole human race of the Titanic struggle which threatens to involve all the nations of Europe and Asia.

The worst of the difficulties will be a brief war, wherein the United States has nothing to gain except a sense of disrepute and a duty faithfully performed. It is a simple truce in policy, to say that the greater issues hang upon the American policy with regard to the fate of China than anything the United States may do concerning Cuba or Spain.

It is almost true that nothing short of a distinct and decisive American indorsement of the British policy in the far East can avert a collision between England and her continental rivals. I say almost, because it is not yet quite clear whether Russia and France are convinced that Great Britain is in earnest in her open declaration that she will go to war rather than permit the partition of China or the closing of the British market there.

This doubt, if it exists, will soon be removed, for the Salisbury government has taken means to carry conviction to the most skeptical diplomatists on this point. Then, and the time cannot be far off, the Franco-Russian attitude will change or, in other words, these countries, by their recent policy, have almost been inventing will come.

Most observers are inclined to believe that Russia will manage to postpone the fatal day, for her present unpreparedness, despite her ultimate intentions is notorious.

On the other hand, if Great Britain is convinced that the conflict is inevitable sooner or later, it will be greatly to her interest to force the issue.

The British war preparation for months past have been on a vastly larger scale and more thorough than the present measures undertaken in England.

There is need of no argument on this situation to demonstrate the vast importance of the American attitude. It is this obvious importance, probably, which has given rise to the discussion of an Anglo-American alliance in the past few days, a discussion which is more prominent on your side of the Atlantic, according to the cable dispatches, than on this side.

It should be said unreservedly that there is not the slightest expectation in England that alliance will be made at the present moment or in the present situation. It is hardly necessary to add the English denials to those from Washington that Great Britain has been so patronizing and undiplomatic in offering the United States assistance in dealing with a fourth-rate power like Spain. It is probably true that English public opinion is more well disposed than American toward an Anglo-Saxon combination, but even this country is by no means unanimous in favor of such a combination.

The English view of the subject is not altogether selfish, for it is believed that the United States, with its rapidly expanding foreign trade, will profit fully as much as England by co-operation in keeping open the markets of the world.

On the other hand, with regard to immediate policy in China, there is probably some danger of retaliatory action by the continental powers in the Spanish-American controversy against the United States in case the latter supports Great Britain in the far East. Any such action, no doubt, would lead Great Britain openly to take the American side, but it is impossible to estimate the complications which might arise. The problem before President McKinley, therefore, is one of great difficulty, as well as far-reaching consequence in the estimation of Europe.

Hyatt Pick-Ups.

As I have not seen anything from this section in some time in the M. & I. I will write a few lines.

We are having some fine weather and the farmers are making good use of it, plowing, putting on manure, etc., and preparing for a big crop. Hops they will succeed.

Professor W. S. Clark closed his school at the academy in Great Britain in the month of March. I think Mr. Clark has given splendid satisfaction as a teacher.

Mrs. H. H. Hinson, died very suddenly Thursday, March the 10th, with heart trouble. Mr. Hinson's family had resided here in the town of Morven. She leaves a husband and several children to mourn her absence. We extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy; we have a tender feeling for little children.

Mrs. Berta Thompson, of Concord, is visiting friends and relatives in this section.

SITUATION UNCHANGED.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR ACTIVELY CONTINUE.

Country Full of Rumors—Most of Them Without Foundation—Nothing to Do but Await Developments.

The war news for the past week has been very threatening, but the situation, while still critical, is somewhat easier. The whole situation to date is portrayed in the dispatches published below.

TROOPS TO THE SOUTH.

Railroads Centering at Atlanta Preparing to Transport Them—Lines Leading into and from Chicago Arranging to Bring Western Batteries to the East and South.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The government is perfecting its plans to make the movements of troops to the coast defenses, orders for which were issued by the War Department Friday.

A conference was held here today by representatives of the following railroads to arrange for the transportation of light artillerymen and their accoutrements: The Atlantic Coast Line, the Southern Railroad, the Seaboard Air Line and the Chesapeake and Ohio.

The government wanted, it was declared, the arrangements perfected by tomorrow or Tuesday at the latest. No bids have been asked for regarding the transportation of heavy guns, and it was understood that the men were to be carried to the different points simply to man the batteries.

CHICAGO, March 13.—Quartermaster-General Lee, of the army department of the lakes, is making arrangements to transport batteries of artillery now at forts in the West to the Atlantic Seaboard and Gulf of Mexico.

Yesterday the western railroads having headquarters in Chicago, St. Louis and other Western cities were invited to telegraph by Tuesday noon proposals for transporting a battery of artillery from Fort Riley, Kan., to Fort Monroe, Va.; another from Fort Riley, Kan., to New Orleans, La., and a third from Fort Riley to Savannah, Ga.

Each battery consists of five officers, sixty-five men, fifty-five horses, four guns with caissons, battery forges and camp equipage and will require one Pullman car, two tourist sleepers, three palace stock cars, three flat cars and six freight cars. The equipment must go through from the initial point without change, and must be ready to leave Fort Riley by Wednesday noon.

TWO WARSHIPS PURCHASED.

The Navy Department Buys the Amazonas and Admiral Abreu from Brazil.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—A week's negotiations closed today with the purchase by the Navy Department, in London, of two fine cruisers, one built and the other built for the Brazilian government—the Amazonas and the Admiral Abreu.

Spanish agents had been striving to secure these ships for their government, to whom it is said they would be of much greater value in case of trouble than to the United States.

Orders have been sent to Commodore Howell, commanding the European station, to send a force of men from the San Francisco to take possession of and hoist the American flag on the Amazonas, which is ready to go into commission at New Castle. This will prevent any difficulty in case hostilities should break out, as the ship would be under the flag, but lying in a friendly harbor. The next question is how to get the ships home, and that has not yet been settled, according to the Secretary of the Navy.

Just as soon as the crews can be put aboard the Amazonas she will depart for the United States. The other vessel will follow at the earliest possible moment. The terms of sale are secret.

Chili not Likely to Sell.

LONDON, March 14.—The Press Association states that Spain has purchased the battle ship O'Higgins, built by the Armstrongs for Chili, but the Chilean charge d'affaires does not confirm the report. He says a Chilean crew for the vessel is expected here next week to take the O'Higgins to Chili.

To be Mobilized at Fort McPherson.

CINCINNATI, March 15.—Maj. Chas. Porter, United States Army, of the Fifth Regiment, at Fort McPherson, near Atlanta, arrived here today. It is rumored that he is arranging for the transportation of artillerymen from Fort Thomas to the South Atlantic coast.

The passenger agents of the Southern of the Seaboard Air Line and the Chesapeake and Ohio have been asked to make rates on the transportation of troops and accoutrements. Fort Caswell, on the Cape Fear river; Tybee, near Savannah, and Fort Morgan, near Mobile, are to be reinforced by troops to be mobilized at Fort McPherson.

Companies of about 60 artillerymen, it is said, will be organized in the west rendezvous at Fort Thomas, and hurried off to Fort McPherson, whence they will be distributed along the coast.

The Court Leaves Havana.

HAVANA, March 15.—The Mangrove, with the court of inquiry on board, sailed tonight for Key West. Captain Sampson, president of the board, assisted Associated Press correspondent that the decision to leave Havana was not reached until this afternoon, after a consultation with the members. It was decided

obtained here, this was not sufficiently likely to justify a longer stay. The court, if the divers or wreckers make discoveries that add to the stock of knowledge now gathered. The plans of the submerged wreck, in the preparation of which Ensign Powell has had a large share, are elaborate, and Captain Sampson says the testimony and records of the divers are very full.

Warlike Move by Spain.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Great concern is attached here to the departure from Cuba of five formidable torpedo boat destroyers for Havana and to official information from Madrid that the Spanish government contemplates fitting out a similar expedition of the same kind for duty with the vessels now in and about Cuban waters. The addition of these vessels to the Spanish squadron in Cuban waters is viewed as almost amounting to an act of defiance, as they could not be used for any other purpose than in operating against battleships or cruisers.

The President, it is stated on trustworthy information, is considering the advisability of sending a flying squadron to meet the flotilla and keep watch on it. The boats are now far beyond the Spanish coast.

WHAT THE REPORT WILL SHOW.

The Maine Was Broken in Two and the Forward Part Ransomed by an Outside Explosion.

HAVANA, VIA KEY WEST, March 16.—With the departure of the court of inquiry, after a second visit to the scene of the wreck of the Maine, the tension of the court, a body like a grand jury in its functions, is nearly ready to report. Unless there are new discoveries here, which is unlikely there is nothing to be done but for the members to seclude themselves in the Iowa and formulate the convictions already firmly held. There is no reason to believe that the court will find that the disaster was caused by an explosion outside the Maine. The chief officers have been absolutely discreet while the talk of the divers has been contradictory. From evidence that has come during the three week's examination, it seems as sure as anything in this latitude can be, that before the court set out the ship was broken in two and the forward part ransomed by an explosion from the outside.

Cabinet Expectations.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—"The general expectation of the members of the cabinet," said one of those gentlemen after today's meeting, "is that some report will be received during the present week from the court of inquiry examining into the cause of the Maine explosion."

"Yes," he said, "it will not be surprising to me if the report should be delayed for a longer time. We had nothing on which to base the hope that I have said will be the case. There is nothing at hand as yet to indicate what will be the nature of the findings of the court."

Franz Josef is Alarmed.

LONDON, March 14.—The Paris correspondent of the Times says that he has learned from good sources that the Emperor of Austria is making great efforts to induce the European powers to represent to the United States the danger to Europe of the United States pursuing a policy of interference in Cuba, whose affairs are regarded as European rather than American.

His Majesty's efforts are warmly seconded by Emperor William. It is declared that the Washington Government is aware of the situation.

Seven Tons of Ammunition Carried to Fort Caswell.

Wilmington Star, 13th.

The news that a battery of artillery has been sent to Fort Caswell brings the possibility of war yet more strongly before the people of Wilmington, and this is not the only preparation that is being made.

How the steamer Wilmington has been carrying down big torpedoes to be planted for the purpose of working deadly execution on hostile ships has already been told in the Star. Friday night the government boat James D. Eason carried down a large quantity of explosives, between six and eight tons in weight, which was brought there over the Atlantic Coast Line.

All this goes to show that we are getting ready for war.

The bugle call to saddle up for the outbreak seems to be ringing in many an old soldier's and General's ear, and to see the old soldier, the face all shining with glory, the eyes sparkling with innocent mischief, and shining with pride in the uniform of his country, the call shall come to you and you shall cross the portals of eternity.

When You Are Tired Without extra exertion, languid, dull and listless, your blood is failing to supply to your muscles and other organs the vitalizing and strength-giving properties they require. Food's Sarsaparilla cures this tired feeling by enriching and purifying the blood. It will give you energy and vigor.

Food's Pills are easy to take, easy to operate. Cure indigestion, biliousness, etc. Order us out and settle the matter in time to make a trip.

There are three little things which do most to make a man a man. They are: a good wife, a good horse and a good dog. If you are a man, you should have them all.

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FITZ LEE.

"Gamma" Writes a Glowing Description of His Old Commander.

It is wonderful how many different reports are set about now a days. The daily papers come of a morning crammed full of all sorts of rumors—war declared, America opposed to Cuba, Spain and Maine blown in from the outside; Spain offers ten millions; Mr. McKinley asks fifteen; Senator Proctor assassinated; Cuzco perishing; Gomez on his way to Havana. All that ought to satisfy any man's appetite for the marvelous; but before night here comes the telegraph with more improbable things—Gen. Lee ordered to leave Havana; took shipping to-day. Between the lying papers and the lying wires the commoner keeps filled with sensational reports day in and day out.

I was standing in plain view of Capt. Joe Jowers, driving his fine black horse to a top bluff, suddenly the horse began to run, demolished the vehicle, rolled and Capt. Joe over and over; tried to climb a tree, rose loose from the demolition, and came my way with lines and traces flying. I caught the horse and went on to where I could ask Capt. Joe if he was hurt. "Not much," he said. "Just scratched." Directly I went down the street, and first one and then another began to tell Capt. Joe is to live, the same word was uttered; a runner has just come for the doctor and Mrs. Jowers has telegraphed to Wadesboro for another physician.

Goodman had bought the hide and Mr. Briley, the blacksmith, had gone to take off his shoes. So I had to go back to see if the half I heard of was true. I found the horse hitched to a tree. Did you ever! If things couldn't go straight 200 yards you can expect them to stray.

GEN. FITZ LEE.

I have known Gen. Lee and seen him in trying circumstances. He used to be cheery, full, round face with laughing eyes—long whiskers. He filled up, filled a cavalry saddle exact. His legs were some what short; always laughing, never serious. He led a hundred or more charges, but jabbed and charged laughingly. Gen. Fitz did some terrible things against great odds, but always covered himself with glory. He was a General, but a hale fellow was met—above nobody, and afraid of nothing at all. He never said go, but led right into the jaws of death. Now, I would say all the Spaniards in Cuba could not move him unaided. He was a cavalryman, next to J. E. B. Stewart, the most prominent of the southern army. He never stopped to issue orders, but he was a general, and drove right at them. The great Stewart loved him, trusted him. On one occasion Stewart was present when Fitz Lee's division was ordered to march to Brandy Station. "Go ahead, Fitz Lee," he said. "If you do well I will not take command." That day Fitz, fighting under the eye of the great Stewart, did not lose a man. "You have covered yourself with glory," he cavalierly felt proud of his division. He never said go, but led right into the jaws of death. Now, I would say all the Spaniards in Cuba could not move him unaided. He was a cavalryman, next to J. E. B. Stewart, the most prominent of the southern army. He never stopped to issue orders, but he was a general, and drove right at them. The great Stewart loved him, trusted him. On one occasion Stewart was present when Fitz Lee's division was ordered to march to Brandy Station. "Go ahead, Fitz Lee," he said. "If you do well I will not take command." That day Fitz, fighting under the eye of the great Stewart, did not lose a man. "You have covered yourself with glory," he cavalierly felt proud of his division. He never said go, but led right into the jaws of death. 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