

THE CRISIS NEAR AT HAND.

EVIDENCE OF CAUSE OF WRECK OF THE MAINE

Now in the President's Hands Cause of the Great Activity in Army and Navy Departments—Spaniards' Theories Produce Testimony Against Them—Rushing Preparations for Defense of the Coast Cities—The Situation Becomes More Warlike Daily

Washington, March 11.—Hoping for, and expecting the best, and prepared for the worst, about represents the situation in the war and navy departments these days. The officials still profess confidence that there is to be a peaceful outcome of the present threatening difficulties, but meanwhile prepare with serenity to meet their duty if events should shape themselves otherwise. The most important and significant developments of the day were the decision of the house naval committee to place in the naval appropriation bill a provision for

THREE NEW BATTLESHIPS and a conclusion on the part of the secretary of war to issue tomorrow morning an order creating a

NEW MILITARY DEPARTMENT, including within its confines that part of the country which would be in all likelihood nearest to the field of hostilities in case it should come to that.

The order will create a command in the south. The present department of Texas is abolished and the headquarters, which has been at San Antonio, Texas, for so many years, are abandoned. In place of the old department, is created a new one, the department of the south. General Graham, at present commander of the department of Texas, will command the new department. This department will include the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. All of these states save the last are at present attached to the department of the east, under command of General Merritt, of New York. It is said at the department that General Merritt is fully compensated for the strength of the command which passes from him by the addition to his forces of the two regiments of artillery now recruiting. Headquarters of the new department of the south will be Atlanta, Ga., chosen because of its fine strategic value by reason of its excellent railroad connections. At present the government has no accommodations in Atlanta for the headquarters of the department, so it will be obliged to hire the most available buildings.

General Williams, chief of engineers, who has been in Florida, is expected back tomorrow to report to Secretary Alger upon the progress of the fortification works in that section of the country and especially as to the defense of Tortugas.

STRAINING EVERY NERVE.

For the first time today the officials of the war department admitted that they were straining every nerve to improve that part of the defenses of the country confined to their care. It is without question the most unusual mark of confidence in an executive officer to empower him to give orders without limit as to the purchase of war material, yet this is what the president and Secretary Alger have done in the case of General Flieger, chief of ordnance. And the officer has not shown any disposition to shirk this large responsibility, but has instructed every concern capable of supplying war material to get ready to fire guns, shot, shell and ammunition, to go to work at full capacity.

TWO WARSHIPS PURCHASED.

The navy department has now reason to believe that it has secured the two warships Amazonas and her sister ship now building in England for Brazil. It was stated at the cabinet meeting today by Secretary Long that the naval attaché at London, Lieutenant Colonel Colwell, had most completely completed the negotiations for the sale. So far, however, the final notification from him that his offer has been accepted has not yet reached the navy department.

NO WORD FROM THE COURT.

The day passed again without word from the court of inquiry, according to the statement of Secretary Long, who says that he has received nothing whatever from the court itself or from Judge Advocate Marix, regardless of the frequent publication to the contrary.

TO ALLOW NO EXTRAVAGANCE.

The secretary has determined that there shall be no wasteful extravagance in this department in the expenditures of the funds so generously provided by congress and to this end he has addressed the following letter to the assistant secretary of the navy, the colonel commanding of the marine corps, and to each of the bureau chiefs of the navy department.

"Sir:—Under the emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 made Wednesday, you will incur no expense or liability except after written statements and estimates made by you and approval by the president and secretary, all in writing. A special record must be kept of every such requisition. If any such liability or expense has been incurred by you or oral direction, make such written statement and estimate and submit it at once for such approval.

By order of the President,
Very respectfully,
[Signed] JOHN D. LONG, Secretary."

In anticipation of a rupture between the United States and Spain many naval officers on the retired list have notified the secretary of the navy of their willingness and readiness to perform any duty in the line of their profession that he may deem suitable for them. There seems to be considerable misapprehension on the part of the general public as to the availability of officers on the retired list for active duty in times of war. Section 1462 of

the revised status bearing on this subject provides as follows:
"No officer on the retired list of the navy shall be employed on active duty except in time of war."

There are many officers on the retired list in the full enjoyment of health and mental vigor, despite the fact that they are over 62 years of age, whose ability and experience would undoubtedly be of great advantage to the nation in case it proved necessary to go to war in the defense of its honor and dignity. Notable among these is Rear Admiral John G. Walker, recently retired for age and now engaged on special duty as president of the Nicaragua canal commission.

NAVY APPROPRIATION BILL.

Three new battleships, of the staunch type afloat, were authorized by the house committee on naval affairs today and a provision for their construction inserted in the naval appropriation bill. At the same time, the committee agreed on a maximum price of \$400 per ton for armor plate for our vessels, increased the force of naval marines by 473 men and put matters in fair shape for a decision tomorrow on the location of dry docks, probably four in number, capable of accommodating the largest size war vessels. The committee was in session practically all day and before the decision on the increase of ships was reached there was a long and interesting discussion.

Representative Tate, democrat, of Georgia, while favoring an increase, believed that two vessels would be ample and that further expenditure beyond the point of necessity should be avoided. When the vote was taken there was but one dissenting voice. Mr. Tattie insisted that two battleships would be sufficient to meet present needs.

The new warships provided for will be of the finest pattern. It will be two years doubtless before they can be put in commission. One of them, the committee decided, should bear the name of the ill-fated Maine. The appropriation for their construction was not fixed, being referred to the sub-committee on appropriations which will report to the full committee tomorrow. The cost is expected to be about \$5,000,000 each, though for the fiscal year, covered in the bill the amount of expenditure may not exceed \$2,000,000 each.

The committee also agreed on a provision authorizing the secretary of the navy to purchase armor plate by contract or otherwise at a cost not exceeding \$400 per ton. This was agreed to, however, only on the express proviso that this item should include the nickel used in the armor for which a large outside percentage heretofore has been paid by the government. This is the contract price that has been generally expected and, with the exception of the insertion of the proviso as to nickel, met with little opposition in the discussion.

One of the most important features of the work on the bill was an agreement on an appropriation of \$135,000 for outfitting, rationing and uniforming 473 additional marines. This increase in the naval force was made the subject of a special and urgent request sent to the house after the submission of the regular recommendations.

With the amounts to be paid for dry docks and for armor plate in the aggregate not yet determined, the bill as it stands carries in all something like \$38,000,000 which, however, will be largely augmented by the other items. Rapid progress has been made with the bill and it is likely it will be in shape to report to the house Monday or Tuesday.

ORDERS TO MAN NEW FORTS.

Orders were issued at the war department today for manning the newly established fortifications on the Atlantic coast from Boston down to Galveston on the gulf. They include the organization of the two new artillery regiments, Nos. 6 and 7, authorized by a recent act of congress. The Sixth regiment will have its headquarters at Fort Slocom, N. Y., and the Seventh regiment its headquarters at Fort McHenry, Maryland.

The new fortification on Long Island head, at the entrance to the harbor of Boston, will be guarded by a battery of the Second artillery, now at Fort Adams, R. I. For the operation of the big guns on Sandy Hook, New York harbor, two batteries, now at Fort Stevens, one at Fort Hamilton and another at Fort Wadsworth, will be stationed there. It is expected that the Sandy Hook garrison will be established at once. Monroe, Va., is probably the strongest and best equipped station on the Atlantic coast and the garrison there will be called upon to man other fortifications, but not to an extent that would weaken its own efficiency. One battery of the First artillery at Fortress Monroe will be transferred to Fort Morgan, Alabama, which, in conjunction with Fort Gaines, commands the entrance to Mobile bay. Another battery of the First artillery will be sent to Tybee island, Georgia, for the protection of the mouth of the Savannah river.

BATTERY I, SECOND REGIMENT, ORDERED TO FORT CASWELL.

The garrison headquarters band, and one battery of the First artillery stationed at St. Francis barracks, St. Augustine, Fla., will be transferred to duty at Sullivan's island, Charleston harbor. The garrison at St. Francis barracks will be abandoned. Battery I, of the Second artillery, will be assigned to duty at Fort Caswell, opposite Smith's island, near Wilmington, N. C.

For the better protection of the national capital, one battery of the Fourth artillery at Fort Monroe has been ordered to Sheridan Point, Va. This fort is nearly opposite Fort Washington and in connection with it commands the approach to Washington by water.

The batteries of the Fourth artillery, stationed at Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, will be distributed between Fort Delaware and Fort Mott, N. J., thus providing for the protection of Philadelphia, Trenton, Camden and other cities in that vicinity. Fort St. Philip, on the Mississippi river just below New Orleans will be garrisoned by a battery of the First artillery, now at Jackson barracks, New Orleans. The other battery at Jackson barracks has

been assigned to duty at Fort Point, harbor of Galveston, Texas.

All the movements indicated above are to be made without delay and are the results of the recent tour of inspection of General Merritt.

RELIEF WORK OF THE RED CROSS.

Havana, March 11.—The weather continues to be delightful and the city is tranquil as the skies are blue.

Capt. Sampson seems to have recovered from his slight indisposition and the United States naval court of inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine, over which he presides, is pursuing its usual course.

The relief work of the Red Cross society in the city and country is daily becoming more systematized, effective and regular.

Miss Clara Barton and the collector of customs have had most pleasant interviews, during which Miss Barton assured the official that the Red Cross earnestly discredits any attempt, no matter from what source, to evade or infringe the customs laws of Spain or Cuba, and the collector expressed his desires and intention to do all in his power to expedite the admission of legitimate relief supplies.

THE YACHT ANITA PINED.

The American yacht Anita which brought a congressional party here has been pinned for 10 days, not having her papers in proper order. The gentlemen who arrived here on the Anita, Senators Gallinger, Thurston and Money, and Representatives Cummings and William Alden Smith, accompanied by their wives, were presented at the palace at 10 o'clock this morning by Consul-General Lee and were cordially received by Captain General Blanco. This afternoon the congressional party paid a visit to a camp of reconcentrados at Regla. Tonight they will go by sea to Matanzas.

This afternoon the members of the cabinet called upon Commander Converse and the officers of the Montgomery. The appropriate salutes and ceremonies were observed, as was the case earlier in the day, when General Parrado, representing the governor-general, visited the Montgomery.

A Spanish report says that government troops operating in the Sierra Maestra, have had a skirmish with an insurgent force and have inflicted "numerous losses" upon the insurgents, also capturing five prisoners and destroying the plantations of the enemy. The insurgents, it is further said, lost three men killed and had ten wounded.

MINISTER BERNABE'S VIEWS.

Washington, March 11.—Senator Luis Polo y Bernabe, the new minister, was seen at the Spanish legation today by an Associated Press reporter and for the first time since his arrival consented to speak concerning Spanish affairs, observing such reticence on certain phases as diplomatic propriety required. Since the minister's arrival he has received a cablegram from Captain General Blanco, stating that the Cuban cabinet has designated Senors Savallios, of New York, and Barilla, secretary of the Havana chamber of commerce, as diplomatic plenipotentiaries in negotiating a commercial treaty between the United States and Cuba. The minister referred incidentally to this fact, as he regarded it as another evidence of the complete autonomy which Spain had granted to Cuba.

Speaking of the present policy of Spain in giving autonomy for Cuba the minister said:
"The government has granted autonomy on the broadest and most liberal lines. Naturally with an insurrection dragging toward its close, there are difficulties in the way of complete realization of plans so comprehensive as to embrace the entire internal machinery of Cuba. The autonomous cabinet is organized, and in its hands is the direction of the domestic affairs of the island, pending the meeting of the Cuban parliament.

"The naming of Cuban delegates to come to Washington and arrange a commercial treaty, shows how fully the plan of autonomy grants to the Cubans control of their own affairs. These delegates will have in their own hand the making of this tariff arrangement and without them I could do nothing."

When Senator Polo's attention was drawn to recent critical phases of the Spanish situation, he spoke with much reserve. The Leo incident happened while he was on the ocean and he knew nothing, he said, of the circumstances, although he felt confident a misunderstanding had grown out of some casual allusions to General Lee which he recalled.

The minister was then asked if he viewed the present condition of affairs between the United States and Spain as indicating war. After a moment's hesitation, he answered gravely:
"I am sure the United States does not want war, just as I am sure that the Spanish government does not want war and will do everything honorable in its power to avert such a calamity."

PROPOSED SPANISH TREATY.

So far as the proposed treaty will affect Spain, it is probable that the leading tariff concession granted to American imports will be on machinery, electrical appliances of all kinds, and various woods which are used largely in Spain. American petroleum and cotton are the principal American exports in Spain, but it is not probable that duties will be reduced on those articles. They enjoy a monopoly in the Spanish market, and to this extent they receive all the benefit which Spain feels warranted in giving them. They are, however, among the leading revenue producing articles, and the present rates are said to be such that they could not be lowered without injuriously affecting the revenue. In this connection it is stated that American cotton is finding a large market in Spain, and that in the Catalonia district, particularly at Barcelona, mammoth cotton factories are building. In speaking of this to a friend, Senator Polo stated that Americans would be surprised to know that the output of Spanish manufactured cottons was now nearing, if not exceeding, that of the United States.

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away with the Spanish preferential rate on flour, and will leave the United States and Cuba to effect an arrangement by which this country will hereafter supply the Cubans with this first necessary of life.

SENOR POLO AT STATE DEPARTMENT.

Senator Polo was formerly received in his official capacity by Secretary Sherman and Assistant Secretary Day at the state department at 11 o'clock this morning. He will be given an audience by the president at the White house tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

OPTIONS ON FOREIGN WARSHIPS.

Most of the time of today's cabinet meeting was taken up in the discussion of measures which have been put into operation for the acquisition of naval vessels by the government. One of the members said after the meeting:

"It is now altogether probable that we will secure two vessels that are under construction for the Brazilian government. It is not possible at this time to say how many ships in all the government will be able to secure. It has options on a number that have been offered, but nothing is likely to be definitely accomplished in the way of acquiring them until an examination is made into their condition for which purpose a naval officer has been dispatched abroad. We do not want a lot of vessels that other nations contracted to be built and now find are not up to expectations. I should not be surprised but what the president could get five or six vessels in all. The \$50,000,000 appropriated for war preparations will be expended in this country, except such as may be used in the purchase of ships and in the acquisition of huntions of war that are not obtainable here.

"Yes, I think the sympathy of the British government in this controversy is with the United States. At any rate she does not side with Spain. I do not mean by this statement to have you infer that the Englishmen will openly advocate our course and extend us substantial help, but will give us their moral support."

PLANS TO SETTLE CUBAN QUESTION.

Washington, March 11.—Projects for the settlement of the Cuban question are numerous, but most of them are official rules as unworthy of serious consideration. One plan, however, has been presented to the president which has received the approval in a general way of leading men whose counsels have weight with the administration and there is reason to believe it is the subject of serious reflection in the cabinet. The proposed plan gives to Cuba all the rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed by Canada, Spain reserving to herself only such rights as England exercises over her colonies.

SPANIARD'S ACCOUNT FOR THE EXPLOSION.

Havana, March 11.—Today Captain Peral, president of the Spanish court of inquiry into the cause of the Maine disaster, granted an interview to the correspondent of the Associated Press. Captain Peral said: "Our divers are hard at work examining the hull of the Maine. Great difficulty is experienced, owing to the deep mud in which the hull is buried and the condition of the wreck forward of amidships. The whole forward part of the ship is a mass of iron and steel debris. We have hoisted up much of it, but in the mud it is not always possible to tell what parts of the ship's armor, deck, beams or stanchions are found, the explosion so changed their positions.

"We think we have located the ram or prow, but not in the position supposed. The forward turret, mounting two large guns, was blown clear of the hull into the water on the starboard. We shall continue our work and try to examine the hull forward down to the keel. It is possible that we may propose to the American authorities to raise the hull by means of the floating dock, brought from England and now in the harbor. We cannot believe there was an external explosion of a torpedo, for the following reasons: A torpedo, following the line of least resistance, must have blown a great hole in the mud at the bottom of the harbor. No such hole was found. A torpedo must have thrown a large mass of water into the air if exploded at a depth of only twenty-five feet or so or at least have produced a wave reaching the one English ship and the shore of the harbor. We have examined every one on ship board or shore who saw the explosion but no one can be found who remarked any upheaval of the water or a big wave. A torpedo always kills fish in the vicinity. No fish were killed by the Maine disaster, as fishermen who have known the harbor many years testify. To produce the effects noted in the wreck, a torpedo would have to be of enormous size, fully 150 or 200 kilos. I am therefore of opinion that the explosion occurred within the ship, I know and respect Captain Sigbee, and I believe the American regulations affecting naval conduct, which I have read and found admirable, were carefully observed. But some things which cannot be foreseen are bound to happen in any navy. I have been reading of the explosion on the English ship Dohler, which the English believe was caused by chemical combustion in the paint used for quick drying. I have also read an English account of shells that were found burst open because of hardening points that split and produced heat, thus fashing the powder in the interior. As I have said, I do not believe there was any carelessness on the part of the officers of the Maine. I do believe there was an accident which could not possibly have been foreseen. Such is my judgement at present with the facts that are in the possession of the court."

Madrid, March 11.—Further reinforcements of troops have sailed from Santander for Cuba. The anxiety as to the relations between Spain and the United States which has pervaded financial and commercial circles for several days, culminated on Thursday in a heavy fall in funds. All the newspapers call upon the government to stop the panic by a prompt and clear statement as to the real conditions existing in Cuba, and also defining the

international relations. The newspapers re-echo the profound sensation and displeasure caused by the United States sending the Montgomery to Havana and by the appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the national defense.

United States Minister Woodford, while returning from his drive today, alighted at the cemetery at the moment of the interment of the remains of the celebrated torreador, Frascuelo, who died last Tuesday. General Woodford distributed numerous aims among the poor who surrounded his carriage. There was a great crowd, but no demonstration of hostility toward the American minister and the incident is much commented upon.

THE FERN SAILS.

London, March 11.—A special dispatch from Madrid says this afternoon a Spanish squadron at Cadiz will call for Cuba today.

Key West, Fla., March 11.—The Fern sailed for Matanzas tonight with a cargo of provisions for the starving Cubans; from Matanzas she will go to Sagua La Grande. Her departure was without incident.

The torpedo boat Dupont has arrived from Mobile. There is no unusual activity among naval officers here.

Norfolk, Va., March 11.—The torpedo boat Foote left Old Point at 11:30 o'clock for Key West. She passed out the capes at 12:30.

Newport, R. I., March 11.—The torpedo boats Stalbot and Gwin arrived here this afternoon and were at once turned over to Lieutenant Commander McLean, commanding the station, the boats having been accepted by the government. They will receive their equipments and supplies at the station and are to go into commission in a few days.

Baltimore, March 11.—Work is being vigorously pushed on the two torpedo boats and the sub-marine Holland boat "Plunger" at the Columbian iron works. All are likely to be in readiness within thirty days.

Washington, March 12.—While today was not marked by particularly important events, the history of the week just closed will form a splendid record of what can be accomplished by the nation in a short space of time under the spur of necessity to provide for the national defense. Beginning with the appropriation of \$50,000,000, to be expended by the president without limitation, there followed rapidly the placing of orders for enormous quantities of war supplies, the institution of negotiations for the purchase of ships abroad, the enlistment of men for the navy, the creation of two additional regiments of artillery, the commissioning of monitors, cruisers and rams, the manning of new posts along the seacoasts and finally the arrangement of the great military departments to meet modern conditions in military practice.

The sending of the Oregon, now at Mare island, away from San Francisco is an exhibition of the far-sightedness with which the secretary of the navy is observing the situation of today. The vessel's orders are to cruise down the Pacific coast, touching in from time to time at various ports where cable connections exist, to receive any orders that the department may have to give. In this way it is expected that she will work as far south as Valparaiso, Chile, where she will await orders. Valparaiso is very much nearer to Cuba and to Admiral Ricard's fleet than Mare island while, if in slightly elevated position to send this ship to the Asiatic station, this can be done almost as conveniently from Valparaiso as from San Francisco. At Valparaiso, therefore, the Oregon will be where she can be most usefully manipulated in case of an emergency.

PRESIDENT CONFERRING WITH SECRETARIES.

The president held a long conference at the White house about noon today with Secretaries Alger, Long and Gage. It is presumed that the subject of discussion was the finances of the situation, a subject which could not be fully treated at the cabinet meeting yesterday, owing to the short session. After the conference the statement was again made, with the emphasis that has characterized every utterance on the subject by the president's constitutional advisors, that up to date the administration has absolutely no knowledge of the cause of the disaster to the Maine and that it has no report of any kind from the court of inquiry or any one connected with it.

The board of naval bureau chiefs find it impossible to pass judgement in Washington upon the fitness for naval service of vessels that may be offered for the auxiliary branch of the navy at the various seaports. So they have been aided in their work by the creation of a special board which will undertake to visit each of the ports where ships may be offered and make a careful personal inspection of the various craft. The board will consist of Captain Rodgers, Lieutenant Commander Kelly, Post Assistant Engineer Dixon, Assistant Naval Constructor Tawsey and Lieutenant Sargent.

The Nashville arrived at Key West today while the Marblehead arrived at Tampa. The naval officials will not state the purpose of the Marblehead's visit to Tampa.

BIG ORDER FOR PROJECTILES.

The war department on Monday will open bids for one of the largest orders for shot and shell for heavy calibre guns ever given including armor-piercing projectiles, armor-piercing torpedoes shells. The number and character of these are as follows: Nine hundred and thirty five 12 inch deck piercing shells, weighing 1,000 pounds each; 1,241 12 inch deck piercing shells, weighing 500 pounds each; 481 60 inch armor piercing shells; 482 10 inch armor piercing shot, capped; 149 8 inch armor piercing shells; 150 8 inch armor piercing shot, capped. These projectiles are for the heavy fortification guns now mounted along the seacoast. The purchase is not to be made under the \$50,000,000 defense appropriation bill, but in anticipation of the fortification bill which grants \$40,000,000 for a reserve supply of projectiles and powder. As the making of the heavy projectiles will take considerable time the contract will be let ahead of the passage of the bill, assurances having been given from men in congress that no question will be raised as to the regularity of this pro-

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ceeding. The entire amount is designed to give all the heavy guns now installed, and those to be put in place during the coming year, a full quota of projectiles and powder. The 12 inch shot are among the largest made. The cost of a single round of this class of projectiles is \$511. Aside from the large orders to be placed Monday, the emergency bill will permit additional orders to meet the requirements of such fortification guns as may be mounted for emergency. The present order is for the actual needs of the guns now mounted, without reference to any existing emergency, although it has been made all the more imperative by the Spanish crisis.

CABLEGRAM FROM BLANCO.

The Spanish minister, Senor Polo, received a dispatch today from Captain General Blanco, stating that the condition of the Cuban reconcentrados was greatly improved. General Blanco stated also that he had prepared full data on this subject to be forwarded to Washington.

Senor Polo has not yet opened business negotiations with the state department except in the formalities of presenting his credentials. He is first attending to the social duties incumbent on a new minister, and after calling on the president today he spent the rest of the day calling on ambassadors and ministers.

The text of the war department orders establishing the new department of the gulf and making other changes is as follows:

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 7.

"Headquarters of the army."

"Adjutant General's Office."

"Washington, March 11, 1898."

"The following orders have been received from the war department and are published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

"War Department, Washington, March 11, 1898."

By direction of the president, the following changes are made in the territorial limits, designation, and headquarters of geographical departments:

1. The department of the east will embrace the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, with headquarters at Governor's island, New York.
2. A department is hereby established to be known as the department of the lakes, to consist of the state of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, with headquarters at Chicago, Illinois.
3. The department of Dakota will embrace the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and so much of Wyoming and Idaho as is embraced in the Yellowstone National park, with headquarters at St. Paul, Minn.
4. The department of the Columbia will embrace the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho (except so much of the latter as embraced in the Yellowstone National park) and the territory of Alaska, with headquarters at Van Couver barracks, Washington.
5. The department of California will embrace the states of California and Nevada, with headquarters at San Francisco.
6. The department of the Colorado will embrace the states of Wyoming (except so much thereof as is embraced in the Yellowstone National park), Colorado, and Utah, and the territories of Arizona and New Mexico, with headquarters at Denver, Colo.
7. The department of the Platte will embrace the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas, the Indian territory and the territory of Oklahoma, with headquarters at Omaha, Neb.
8. A department is hereby established to be known as the department of the gulf, to consist of the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga.

The department of the Missouri and Texas are hereby abolished.

The records of the department of the Missouri will be transferred to the department of the lakes and those of the department of Texas to the department of the gulf.

Major-General John R. Brooke is assigned to the command of the department of the lakes, and Brigadier-General William M. Graham to the command of the department of the gulf. The officers of the several staff departments now on duty in the department of the Missouri and of Texas are assigned to like duties in the departments of the lakes and of the gulf, respectively.

The travel required under these orders is necessary for the public service.

[Signed] R. A. ALGER.

Secretary of War.

By command of Major-General Miles.

H. C. Corbin, Adjutant-General.

General Graham, telegraphed the war department today that he would go to Atlanta on Monday next to establish his headquarters there.

Senator Bacon, of Georgia, was at the war department today and expressed his gratification that Georgia had been made the center of the new department, with headquarters at Atlanta. This step he said, was due entirely

(Continued on Fifth Page.)