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TO LIBERATE CUBA.

STRONG RESOLUTIONS IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

In the Senate Resolutions Are Introduced Recognizing Cuban Independence, for Intervention in Her Behalf and Declaring War Against Spain—A Resolution for Declaration of War Also Introduced in the House—Senator Mason Declares for War—The House Refuses to Pay Claims of Heirs of Mrs. R. E. Lee

SENATE.

Washington, March 29.—Interest in the Cuban situation—the interest might also be termed excitement,so intense was it—reached a climax in the proceedings of the senate today.

As on previous days of discussion of the Cuban question, thousands of people flocked to the capitol, only a few of whom, comparatively, could get admission to the galleries.

Within five minutes after the senate convened Senator Allen, of Nebraska, introduced a resolution recognizing the independence of the Cuban republic. This was followed by a resolution proposed by Senator Rawlins, of Utah, declaring war against the kingdom of Spain. Senator Foraker, of Ohio, then introduced a resolution declaring for such intervention in the Cuban war as would bring about the independence of the Cubans. Following this came a resolution by Senator Frye, of Maine, demanding that Cuba be made free. The resolutions followed one another so rapidly as almost to stun the auditors, both senators and spectators.

This was the condition when the vice president recognized Senator Mason, of Illinois, for his announced speech on the president's message transmitting to congress the findings of the Maine court of inquiry.

Senator Mason read his speech from manuscript, but it was delivered with all the vigor and fire of which he is capable. The intensity of the feeling of those in the galleries was evidenced by the storm of applause which was elicited by his declaration that he was for war. Vice President Hobart had difficulty in suppressing the demonstration.

After Senator Mason's speech, the senate passsed seventy-four private pension bills and followed this order with eulogies on the late Senator Earle, of South Carolina, one of the most remarkable of which was pronounced by Senator Tillman, a long-time political opponent of General Earle.

Senator Morrill, of Vermont, from the finance committee, reported a joint resolution providing for the importation, free of duty, of military supplies secured abroad into the United States and asked for its immediate consideration. It was passed.

The resolution of Senator Rawlins is as follows:

Whereas, The war waged by the kingdom of Spain against the people of Cuba has destroyed the commerce between them and the people of the United States, and its revival will be impossible so long as such war may continue, and,

Whereas, By the authority of that kingdom, in the course of such war much American property has been destroyed and many American citizens, without just cause, have been imprisoned and some assassinated in their prison cells; and,

Whereas, While our ship Maine was at anchor in the harbor of Havana within the dominion and under the control of the kingdom of Spain at a place designated by her authority that ship and most of the men on board, in the service of their country, by the explosion of a submarine mine, were willfully, wickedly and treacherously mangled and destroyed; and,

"Whereas, The kingdom of Spain has proven herself incompetent to tranquillize the island of Cuba, either by the methods of peace of by means of civilized warfare; and, accordingly, has proceeded to make desolate the homes of its peaceful inhabitants, driving men, women and children into guarded camps, detaining them there without making provision to shelter, clothe or feed them, thus wilfully causing their extermination to the number of hundreds of thousands—by the slow and torturous process of starvation; and,

Whereas, Against these wrongs, against these revolting acts of inhumanity this government has time and again made peaceful protest to the kingdom of Spain, at the same time endeavoring by a helpful charity to relieve those whom she has thus brought to such dire distress and our repeated protests having been disregarded and our efforts of philanthropy having proved unavailing, and,

Whereas, Firmly convinced that further peaceful protest will prove equally in vain and that the recognition of the independence of the republic of Cuba and armed intervention in its behalf by this government will alone be effective for the redress of past and the prevention of future wrongs, and,

Whereas, While regretting the necessity—now imperious—for such action, but mindful of our duty to a neighboring people and to humanity, and with a clear consciousness as to the justness of our cause and that our action will meet with the approving judgment of all civilized peoples, Now, therefore, be it,

Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That the independence of the republics of Cuba be and the same is hereby recognized and that war against the kingdom of Spain be and the same is hereby declared, and the president is hereby authorized and directed to employ the land and naval forces of the United States of America to wage such war to success.

Senator Mason first spoke of the condition of affairs in Cuba and the pictures painted by those who had visited the island.

Speaking of the destruction of the Maine, Senator Mason said:

"The battleship Maine, our gallant ship went down and 268 of our gallant citizen sailors with her. At the time, every citizen of the United States, familiar with the Spanish character, felt confident it was Spanish treachery. Suppose ninety of the sailors who were murdered had been United States senators; suppose the balance had been members of congress or made up of judges and leading professional and business men, would forty days have elapsed before war had began; or suppose each senator had a son or a father there? Do we tell our children the truth when we say that the life of every American citizen is of equal value before the law? They were not senators, they were sailors. Their widows and orphans cry aloud to us, the silent appeal of 268 seamen comes to us again, saying: 'We are flesh of your flesh, bone of your bone and blood of your blood, we lived and died for the flag that shields you.' What is to be our answer? Shall we answer with money? Mr. President, I speak only for myself, and I am for war. But gentlemen may say: 'Don't say you are for war—say that you are for armed intervention which means war. I believe in calling things by their right name. If we believe that murdering our men, singing our ship and lowering our flag is not cause of war, say so, and refer it, as they did the Virginius affair, and allow our brothers to be sold like stock for gold. If is is a cause for war, let's assume the responsibility put upon us by the constitution and say so, not only to Spain, but to the whole world. Let us not say one thing and mean another. For God's sake let us not Spanishize our diplomacies, but rather speak the truth and prove ourselves true disciples of James G. Blaine.

"We can hide no longer under the executive wing. He can neither declare war nor refuse it. Congress alone can declare war. I for one am ready to vote now. But there are those who say that the court does not fix the responsibility. It was not necessary, the peace-at-any-price' man cannot escape so. The law fixes the responsibility. The explosive was owned, located and exploded by Spain and Spain must answer.

"I shall oppose any plan to assist Spain to place any kind of autonomy on Cuba. Spain cannot be trusted to keep her promise and we cannot undertake to compel her.

"Let us awake! Shake off the Chinese narcotic that locks us in drowsy indolence, murmuring 'peace at any price;' awake, as our forefathers did at Concord and Bunker Hill; awake to glorious war against a nation that burns homes and murders women and children; awake to glorious war that seeks not to gain for us in treasure or territory, but a war to drive the oppressor from the continent, to set the Cuban flag in the sky for ever, and a war that will help us for generations to come, by giving notice that the honor of our flag ~~and the lives of our~~ citizens must be respected among the nations of the world."

At the conclusion of Senator Mason's speech, Senator Morgan, of Alabama, presented and secured the passage of a resolution calling upon the president for information as to the disposition made of congress' appropriation of $50,000 for the relief of American citizens in Cuba and as to the number of American citizens relieved from the fund.

At 2:15 o'clock p. m., Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, in accordance with previous notice, presented resolutions concerning the death of the late Joseph A. Earle, a senator from South Carolina. Eulogies upon Senator Earle were delivered by Senators McLaurin Chandler, Clay, Spooner, Chilton, Cannon, Kenney, McEnery and Tillman.

One of the most remarkable eulogies probably ever delivered in the senate was that pronounced by Senator Tillman. In paying a brilliant tribute to the late senator, Senator Tillman said he felt that if he failed to pay it the history of the fame and virtues of General Earle would lack the important testimony, which he alone could give. He then reviewed what he said was one of the most remarkable political campaign ever waged—that for the gubernationorial nomination in the Palmetto state in 1890, in which he and General Earle were rival candidates. In that campaign the reform movement, headed by Senator Tillman, was successful. General Earle carrying only four of the thirty-five counties of the state. During that campaign General Earle won the admiration of all by the intrepidity and distinguished ability with which he conducted himself and paved the way to his subsequent election to the senate. In conclusion, Senator Tillman said that while his might not be the highest tribute that could be paid to General Earle, none certainly could be more sincere and heartfelt.

As a further mark of respect the senate then at 4:25 o'clock p. m. adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The house today quietly proceeded with the order of the day—the consideration of private bills. No opportunity was afforded under the rules of debating the all-absorbing topic, but members stood about the cloak rooms and lobbies all day long, discussing the situation. The most intense feeling was manifested. The house after passing a bill to pension the widow of General John L. Stevenson, at the rate of $30 per month devoted the whole day to the consideration of the bill to pay certain claims for stores and supplies furnished to the union by loyal citizens of the south during the war. There was a bitter contest over a claim of $217,000 preferred by the heirs of the widow of General Robert E. Lee. She inherited the claim from Mrs. Fitzhugh, her aunt, who it was admitted, was loyal.

Mr. Swanson, democrat, of Virginia, who championed the payment of the claim, said that Mrs. Lee was the heir of Mrs. Fitzhugh and he thought in this enlightened age it was outragous to set up the contention that the blood of Robert E. Lee could not inherit property given them by a loyal citizen of the United States.

Messrs. Yost, republican, of Virginia, and Jones, democrat, of Virginia, supported the claim, but it was stricken out, 92 to 81.

When the bill was reported to the house, Mr. Swanson demanded a roll call on the Lee claim. The vote in committee was confirmed—132 to 91.

The house took a recess before the bill was passed. It provides for the payment of about 850 claims, aggregating about $1,200,000.

Representative Marsh, of Illinois, chairman of the house committee on the militia, today introduced the following joint resolution, declaring war between the government of Spain and its dependencies and the United States and her territories.

"That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist between the government of Spain and her dependencies and the United States and her territories and that the president of the United States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States including the militia and the naval militia thereof to carry the same into effect."

The evening session of the house was devoted to the consideration of private pension bills.

A little boy asked for a bottle of "get up in the morning as fast as you can," the druggist recognized a household name for "DeWitt's Little Early Risers," and gave him a bottle of those famous little pills for constipation, sick headache, liver and stomach troubles. R. R. Bellamy.

The Teachers' Assembly

(Special to the Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 29.—There are good grounds for belief that the next meeting of the North Carolina teachers' assembly will be held at Asheville. Last week there would have been a vote to that effect but for claims presented by Wilmington.

Dr. J. W. Gilbert, of Maxton, offered his services to the governor as surgeon. He sent his parole to show he was a confederate surgeon.

State engineer John A. Ramsey, of Salisbury, left today for Elizabeth City to make a survey of the great area of public lands in Dare and three other counties. Northern people want it for timber and as a game preserve.

A torpid liver robs you of ambition and ruins your health. DeWitt's Little Early Risers cleanse the liver, cure constipation and all stomach and liver troubles. R. R. Bellamy.

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M'KINLEY CHECKMATED

IN CUBAN MATTERS BY A REVOLT IN HIS OWN PARTY.

Republican Congressmen in Caucus Decide to Force Strong Measures Against Spain—No More Talk by the Administration of a Compromise—The President's Position Now Said to be Firm—Waiting for Spain's Answer—War Preparations Continued.

Washington, March 29.—Congress and the cabinet divided attention today, on the Spanish situation. In congress the feeling which began to take form after the president's conservative and pacific message on the Maine report was submitted yesterday, found open expression today in resolutions proposing a declaration of war, recognition of the independence of Cuba, armed intervention and other decisive and warlike steps against Spain, and in conferences of republicans having for their object the overruling of the speaker if necessary to get prompt action. Both on the floor, in the cloak rooms, in the lobbies and in the corridors, there was little else discussed than the Cuban situation and the Maine disaster. Every senator and member was furnished with a copy of the testimony sent to congress yesterday, and every person who could procure a copy read the printed pages. Every group of senators in the cloak rooms talked of Cuba. Constant and continual conferences were held, and all recognized the seriousness of the situation.

On the house side it was apparent that the republican majority could no longer be controlled by what is known as the conservative element, lead by the speaker. Groups of members in a state of excitement were to be seen on every hand. In each cloak room there were members listening eagerly while portions of the Maine testimony were read. Members of the committee on foreign affairs grouped together and discussed plans and possible future proceedings.

THE CRISIS NOT AVERTED.

It was generally acknowledge that a serious condition had arisen; that a crisis was near. It was the opinion of some of the conservative members that in a day or two the feeling would subside. Much depends upon the next few days. That congress will not long remain inactive and decisive action taken by the administration is certain. It is also true that the talk of an armistice caused a great deal of ill feeling. The house today proceeded to do business without outbreak or without dramatic incident, but no such quiet can be promised tomorrow when the naval bill is being considered. The day closed with a prospect that the committees to whom were referred the Maine correspondence will act soon.

THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION.

The cabinet meeting today developed nothing new. The president remains steadfast in his convictions as to what is his duty, and adverse criticism, which it is asserted is mainly due to misinformation as to the situation, or ignorance of the president's purpose, will not be permitted to swerve him from the course he has planned. As already stated in the Associated Press, the president some days ago made a peremptory demand upon Spain to put an end immediately to hostilities in Cuba, to release the reconcentrados and to permit them to return to their homes and resume their several occupations unmolested. This statement is made by unquestionable authority, and since that demand was communicated to Spain the president has not taken a step backward or allowed himself to be persuaded into modifying it in the least particular. Spain's final reply to this demand, it is known, is now receiving the earnest consideration of the Spanish authorities at Madrid and may be reasonably expected within the next few days. Should these demands be rejected, there is the highest authority for stating that the president would not hesitate a moment as to his future course, but would immediately lay the whole record before congress and be guided by its instructions.

As a preliminary step toward peace it has been proposed to Spain, though this last proposition has not taken the shape of a demand as yet, at least, that the Spanish government withdraw its troops from the island and that the Cubans be given their independence on a basis of indemnity that would be regarded as just in amount by the United States and other nations of the world and fair to both contending parties.

The question of an armistice has not been agreed to by either this country or Spain, though there is no doubt that Spain suggested an armistice. What terms of peace will be acceptable to the president cannot be stated, but it is asserted that no proposition will be considered that does not involve the practical, if not the actual independence of the Cubans.

There is little doubt that the French government is ready to tender its good offices as mediator between the United States and Spain if any intimation is conveyed by this country that such offices would be acceptable. Without such intimation it is doubtful whether France will take the initiative.

WAR PREPERATIONS STILL IN PROGRESS.

The army and navy departments continue to show many evidences of activity, but there was not that extreme energy of preparations apparent last week. Captain Sigsbee had several talks with secretary Long during the day, and at the close of office hours the secretary accompanied Captain Sigsbee to the White house and presented him to the president. Mr. Long says that no determination has been reached, thus far as to Captain Sigsbee's next assignment. A board is considering what should be done with the wreck of the Maine. At first it seemed possible to save some part of the ship, and certainly the big guns and turrents. But this has been about abandoned, and the board now sitting is expected to report to Secretary Long in a day or two on what final steps shall be taken. It is probable that what remains of the wreck will be abandoned.

The navy department made no further purchases of foreign ships today, although the naval attachees abroad continue to make inspection of ships at the several yards.

A significant conference was held during the day between representatives of the war and navy departments to determine whether New Orleans, Mobile, or Tampa was best adapted as a base of operations, both military and naval, in the event of war. The representative of the navy is Captain Barker, naval aide to Secretary Long, and for the army Colonel Wagner, chief of the bureau of information of the army. The examination is particularly directed toward ascertaining the railroad facilities from all sections of the country leading to the points on the gulf named above. No determination has yet been reached on the subject.

Surgeon General Van Reypen, of the navy, has about completed the preliminary arrangements necessary to the fitting out and manning of a floating hospitable ship for use in case of war. He has several vessels in mind which he believes well adapted for this purpose, but none has been purchased as yet.

The formal report of the medical board of officers of the North Atlantic squadron that sat in Admiral Sicard's case shows that he was suffering from what is technically known as "chronic malaria." It was upon the report of this board that the admiral was relieved of his command and granted six months leave of absence.

The ordnance bureau is actively at work preparing for the armament of the yachts and tugs which have just been acquired by purchase by the navy and by loan from the treasury department. On the tugs and yachts the ordnance bureau will install such 6 pounders as may be available for the purpose while on the cutters will be put some 4 inch and several 6 pounders, all of the rapid fire class.

It was stated at the navy department today that the steam yacht Giralda, just purchased by Spain, cost that government probably $350,000. She is not regarded as a very fomidable acquisition to the Spanish navy, as she is inferior to the Mayflower, the yacht bought by Secretary Long about two weeks ago. The Giralda was constructed on the Clyde.

COLORED TROOPS ORDERED TO THE FRONT.

At the war department the most important development of the day was the announcement that the Twenty-fifth regiment of infantry, now stationed in Montana, would be trasferred to Dry Tortugas in the gulf of Mexico. This regiment is composed entirely of colored troops whohave been located in the northwest for a number of years. Their stay in the gulf climate will prepare them for any service in Cuba should this be necessary. The troops will first go to Key West. It may be that the department will keep some of them there and send only a portion of the regiment to Tortugas, but this has not been determined definitely.

The ordnance officials of the army report that the firms which have been given contracts for supplying ammunition, guns, projectiles, and gun carriages are keeping well to their promises in the matter of supplying these munitions of war in time and they are being hurried to the fortifications needing them.

THE ANONYMOUS LETTER.

An interesting feature of the published report of the Maine testimony, issued from the government printing office today, was the famous anonymous letter mentioned in the evidence of Henry Drain, the clerk of the American consulate at Havana. The letter was received by General Lee a few days after the Maine disaster. It is dated February 18, 1898, and signed "An Admirer." It is Spanish, written apparently by a fairly well educated person. The certified translation is as follows:

"It should be remembered that at dawn of the day of the terrible catastrophe an individual was killed in a small boat, together with another who was found wounded and a prisoner. They were going about the cruisers Maine and Alphonso XIII, and as the said individuals are of the worst antecedents as parlor thieves, I have interested myself in investigating what connection in this occurrence he said have had with the explosion of the Maine, and have discovered that those two men, together with another, who is called Pepe Taco, had bought in a hardware store in Mercaderes street, called La Marina, a hose such as is used by divers, and that the three left Rigla in a small boat, which they placed under the wharves of Santa Catalina, and they were loitering about more than an hour and a half, while Pepe Taco, who is a corker and a diver, probably the best in these parts, did the work to bring about the explosion of the Maine. With the data I went to Regla and discovered that the family of the dead man who lived in the utmost misery in a house in Rodriguez Batista street, had moved to a well furnished one on Gelabert street. There I learned that they had agreed with some merchants of Muralla street, for the work of blowing up the ship for the sum of $6,000—$2,000 in advance and the other $4,000 after seeing the result.

"But as they did not come out of the adventure very well, having been attacked when they were retiring, the result of which was the death of one, other one wounded, the third one has not presented himself to collect the rest of the money, and it could be probably secretly done that, by paying him the rest that the others will not now pay him, he would declare the truth of all this. The one whom I called the third is the diver Pepe Taco,who is unwounded, who is no doubt afraid to present himself to collect the rest. In Muralla street, they tell me was the place where the business was arranged with Messrs. Garcia Corujedo, Villa Suzo, Marifona and others whom I do not remember. The man who is arrested is being administered morphine constantly to see if he will die and not give evidence, so as not, as they express it, to spoil the affair after it has come off so much to their taste."

"I certify that the above is a true copy.

(Signed) A. MARIX.
Lieutenant Commander United states Navy, and judge advocate."

Drain, the consular clerk, stated in his evidence that an effort was made to ascertain the authenticity of this letter, although the consulate was handicapped, having no secret fund. The witness discovered, however, that the name, Pepe Taco, must have been a mistake, as the man mentioned had died a few days before the explosion took place. Witness thought the name should have been Pepe Barquin, who had died a couple of days after the explosion.

THE REVOLT AMONG REPUBLICANS.

The Michigan delegation met this afternoon in the room of the committee on foreign affairs and unanimously decided to call upon President McKinley tomorrow morning in a body and urge upon him the necessity and advisability for prompt and vigorous action on the Cuban question. They will say that in asking for intervention they represent the overwhelming sentiment of the people of Michigan. William Alden Smith is chairman of the delegation.

The revolt in the house against further delay of action on the Cuban issue culminated today in a conference of republican members whose ideas are in accordance with a positive early course. About fifty representatives attended, representing all sections. Representative Hopkins, of Illinois, a member of the ways and means committee, presided. Representative Joy, of Missouri, was secretary. The meeting was called to take steps to secure immediate interyention in some form and the recognition of Cuban independence.

It was the first definite step following the discussion in the cloak rooms and lobbies since the president's message was submitted yesterday, by many members who favor immediate and aggressive action. Up to this afternoon the sentiment was a half concealed, but strong, feeling against voting money for Cuban relief unless accompanied by action to stop the war. The meeting today was called with a view to accomplishing the unqualified removal of the Spanish troops from Cuba and the prompt armed intervention in the affairs of that island. Late this afternoon it was decided to call a meeting immediately after adjournment. The word was quietly passed around but many who are enthusiastically in favor of intervention failed to receive notification, though the number present would be sufficiently large by consolidation with the democratic forces to carry out a programme. Representative Hopkins, as chairman, briefly stated the objects of the meeting. He indicated his disappointment that the president's message carried no outline of definite responsive policy toward Spain, and that he did not believe further delay should be brooked. He, however, thought the administration might have another day or two within which to act and, failing to do so, congress should take the matter into its own hands independently and at once. He favored action looking to Cuban independence, but made no specific suggestions as to the method of its accomplishment.

Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, another member of the ways and means committee, said this country should not stop short of securing the absolute independence of Cuba. He referred to the efforts to have the matter brought directly before the house and said he was glad to secure a resolution for the prompt consideration of the question on the floor.

Representative Belknap, of Illinois, who favors immediate and decisive action, took the floor to ask a number of questions tending to bring out the sentiment of the meeting and the policy to be followed. Various views were presented as to the best means for securing action, though the feeling that no action other than the cessation of hostilities on the island and absolute independence would be taken apparently was unanimous. Representative Marsh, of Illinois, chairman of the committee on the militia, made a vigorous speech in which he denounced Spain as the proven culprit party to the blowing up of the Maine. He had hitherto taken a more conservative view of the situation and had not believed it would be shown that Spain had had a hand in the disaster. Now he said he would put an end to Spanish rule there by immediate intervention and a formal recognition of Cuban independence just as early as congress could act. His reference to Spanish policies as to reconcentrados and other phases of the war were warmly applauded.

Representative Lorimer also spoke at considerable length and said he was in favor of securing absoute independence by any means whatsoever. He deprecated the delay that had already occurred and protested that the people of this country would not stand the withholding of action.

Other speakers were Representatives Reeves, of Illinois; Pierce, of Missouri; Hicks, of Pennsylvania; Brumm, of Pennsylvania; Mann, of Illinois; Joy, of Missouri; Kirpatrick, of Pennsylvania; Arnold, of Pennsylvania and Lawrence, of Massachusetts.

It was pointed out that while it was fit that the question should be given, as he had been, a reasonable time within which to advise, it was exclusively the function of congress to declare war, or take measures tending to commence hostilities or take action of the character. The remarks carried the view that a mere recognition of belligerency was not to be considered, for it would not itself bring a cessation of hostilities and that intervention, if resorted to, should be prompted and immediate, and recognition of independence only would be considered. Some one conservatively put it "if we intervene and, if necessary, supply such action by the prompt dispatch of land and naval forces for Cuba."

After vigorous speeches denunciatory of Spain, it was decided to defer action until 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The present programme is to present to the speaker evidences that a large majority that take the step and the Cuban sympathizers believe that once convinced of the members enlisted in its support, they will yield to the pressure. It is also proposed to communicate their sentiment to President McKinley. The step today is expected to bear fruit in important action in the house Thursday. Tomorrow a poll of the house will be taken.

HAVANA'S CONDITION OF DEFENSE.

Havana, Key West, Fla., March 29.—It is impossible to explain or understand the serene confidence of the civil, military and naval officials here, who, believing war with the United States imminent, declare Havana impregnable. They are pleased to attribute this "impregnability" to what they term the "concentration of a heavy cross fire," referring to the number of heavy guns (a few 12 inch guns and, the majority, 8 and 10 inch guns) mounted along the horseshoe curve of the shore, above and below the narrow entrance of the harbor.

As to the food supply, for which no apparent provision has been made, the Spanish officers have nothing to say. But the Spanish merchants, bankers and other prominent people here are not so confident, nor are they reticent. Such people aver that if Havana is attacked or blockaded and no stores are provided to feed the beseiged, the soldiers and residents will be the first to rebel, even to the extent of blowing up the palace itself. Everybody recognizes that there is no food in the country district, and it is generally admitted that the insurgents will keep the troops busy in case of hostilities between Spain and the United States.

THE PARTICAL ELECTIONS.

Probably at any deep interest was felt in Sunday's elections for delegates to the cortes in Madrid, in view of the graver matters occupying public attention. The election, however, was as far cical as it was supposed it would be. In many of the districts of Havana six bona-fide votes were cast out of hundreds which were eligible. In one province in the interior, with a total of over 2,000 qualified votes, the number of votes polled was fifty-nine. The government denies these statements, and the cortes refuses to allow them to be sent direct over the wires, but all the local papers indicate the facts, plainly intimating that the ballot boxes were stuffed to repletion with unvoted tickets.

It is also said openly here that Captain General Blanco and the autonomist secretaries should resign at once it being claimed that it is useless for them to work for the local elections of April 24th and 26th when, it is asserted, the tactics of Sunday last will be repeated.

The relief train carrying supplies to towns in Havana province, which left the city the morning at 9 o'clock was wrecked about 11 o'clock, twenty-one miles outside of Havana, between Cienaga and Bejucal. No one was hurt.

ALL THE RIVERS LEAVE HAVANA.

Key West, Fla., March 29.—All of the divers of the United States navy who have been at work on the wreck of the battleship Maine returned from Havana on board the Bache. Captain Chadwick, U. S. N., who went to Havana to investigate the feasibility of further wrecking work on the Maine, was also a passenger on the Bache. It is believed Captain Chadwick finds the work to be impracticable.

The officers of the Bache and Mangrove say everything is outwardly calm at Havana but that the talk of an anti-American demonstration and riot continues.

Rear Admiral Sicard's appearance before the medical examining board, it looked out today, was ordered by the navy department. It was by no means in accordance with his personal wishes, nor, as was generally understood at the time, the result of his own application. In fact the navy department ordered him point blank to have the board of retirement appointed, indicated its composition and ordered him to appear before it.

Provisions for the Cubans which arrived here two weeks ago still lie in the naval station for want of authority to ship them to Cuba. The authorities today asked permission to use the survey boat Hache for this purpose, but no answer has yet been received. The original programme was to send this shipment by the Fern, but the arrangements were broken by the sudden call of that vessel to Havana.

The torpedo boats tonight made a mimic attack on the flagship New York, and the battleship Indiana, the largest number of such boats ever employed in the United States navy in an evolution of this kind participating.

The Montgomery sailed tonight for Hampton Roads. Commander McCalla, of the Marblehead, returned from Tampa today. His special mission was devoted to the coaling facilities at that port.

The Iowa arrived tonight from the dry Tortugas, after coaling.

SPANISH WARSHIPS ON GUARD DUTY.

Captain Laine, of the British steamer Belvidere, from Boston, March 24th, for Port Antonio, which has arrived there, reports that at a Spanish iron clad is watching the Windward passage, about forty miles off the coast.

THE SITUATION IN MADRID.

Madrid, March 29.—The semi-official El Liberal says: "The report on the Maine contains no grave statement. Therefore, president McKinley will not use that pretext for declaring war, but will use the relief of the Cubans." It adds: "We believe the Spanish government will never tolerate a foreign nation, in the guise of philanthrophy, invading our territory, for it would be followed by the unanimous protest of the Spanish people." The same paper then counsels Spain to prepare to repel any kind of intervention—to be uncompromising, and to "accept nothing affecting the dignity or sovereignty of Spain."

Beyond the fact that a few policemen and a couple of civil guards stand outside the American legation, there is absolutely no sign in Madrid of the tension between Spain and America. So far as the general public is concerned, the matter is little discussed, even the press being today generally hopeful of a peaceful settlement.

The note United States Minister Woodford presented is practically a repetition of the one presented in September, which, in the interests of humanity, asked Spain for immediate cessation of hostilities in Cuba. Upon Spain's reply to this matter hinges the conference held at the presidency this afternoon at which Senor Sagasta, the premier; Senor Gullon, the foreign minister; Senor Moret, the minister for the colonies and General Woodford were present, and at which it has been hoped a decision would be reached.

General Woodford's conference was of an hour's duration and the ministers continued in deliberation after the United States minister withdrew.

In the course of an interview after the conference, Senor Sagasta said to the correspondent of the Associated Press that "United States Minister Woodford, at the conference asserted that he desired to express the wishes of his government on the subject of the situation in Cuba and of the reconcentrados. Senor Sagasta added that the conference decided some of these points and that he had promised to study General Woodford's propositions and to submit them to the queen-regent and then to a cabinet council, considering them from every point of view in order that the cabinet might take a resolution thereon. Senor Sagasta authorized the correspondent of the Associated Press to deny any other version of the conference as untrue. The conference adjourned to 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon. United States Minister Woodford seemed pleased with the result and every indication points to a settlement.

WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESIDENT VOTED.

Cincinnati, March 29.—The chamber of commerce of Cincinnati had before it today a resolution expressing confidence in the wisdom and patriotism of the administration in dealing with the Cuban question, but that resolution was carried off its feet with a whirl of enthusiastic patriotism when the following substitute offered by General Hickenlooper was adopted in its stead:

"Resolved, That from this time forth we insist that the honor and dignity of the nation demand the enforcement of a firm and vigorous policy, which will have for its purpose—peacefully, if we can, but forcibly if we must—the redress of past wrongs and the complete and unqualified independence of Cuba."

There was no opposition to the substitute and its passage was greeted by shouts of applause.

RIOTS IN HAVANA FEARED.

Washington, March 29.—The state department gives no official confirmation of reports that official advices from Havana state that riots headed by the Weyler element are apprehended. It appears, however, that Captain General Blanco has sent a communication to Washington in which he says he believes that a demonstration may be precipitated at any moment by an element made up of certain Americans of strong anti-Spanish tendency now at Havana.

Blanco clearly and unequivocally declares that the presence of American correspondents in Cuba make the situation in his view more critical.

STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY ALGER.

Washington, March 29.—At the close of the cabinet meeting today Secretary Alger gave out the following statement: "So far from there being any difference of opinion among the members of the cabinet, they are all in hearty accord with the president, and have been without a single exception. When he read to them yesterday his message on the Maine, there was not a dissenting voice nor a suggestion of change. It commanded the approval of every member. How could the president have said more? He gave congress the report at once and stated that he had forwarded it to Spain and is awaiting her reply. He must take one step at a time. It may be said further that there need be no fear that he will not take the step. He has not lost a moment in presenting not only the Maine incident, but the whole situation to Spain. The country can well afford to await the result of the negotiations which will be promptly made known, whatever the result."

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