The Wilmington Messenger.

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ACTIVE WAR PLANS

Eight Large Steamships Chartered to Transport Troops to Cuba.

TO BUILD MORE BATTLESHIPS.

The Port Royal Drydock Put in Condition to Recieve Our Largest Warships---Consultations Over Plans for the Campaign---General Lee in Washington---More Nations Give Notice of Decrees of Neutrality---Germany Still Holding Aloof---Assurances of Portugal's Neutrality Given. Her Delay Favors Spain.

Washington, April 28.—The shelling of the Matanzas batteries was the topic of absorbing interest throughout naval and official circles generally today. It was discussed on the basis of the press reports from Key West, as the navy department received no information whatever on the subject. Secretary Long said at 4 o'clock this afternoon, as he closed up his office work of the day, that no report had been received from Admiral Sampson nor was the navy department advised in anyway of the shelling of Matanzas. Mr. Long added that he felt no disposition to keep from the public any news concerning such important event as a naval engagement, or a battle. The secretary said that, in the absence of all official information, he was inclined to believe that the shelling was confined to the exchange of a few shots and did not assume the proportions of a regular bombardment. When his attention was directed to reports that the shelling was the result of direct orders from the president, the secretary said this was not so, as the president was giving no direct orders on any of these movements.

The navy department has ceased its purchase of ships for conversion into war vessels, owing to the exhaustion of the $50,000,000 war fund. It is confidently expected that congress will come to the relief as the department is still in need of auxiliary vessels.

PORT ROYAL DRYDOCK READY.

The Port Royal drydock, according to welcome official information, will be accessible to our warships, even the biggest of the fleet, should they meet with accident during the campaign. The report from the constructor in charge shows that the entrance to the dock is now dredged and clear. The work of dredging the basin is still in progress, and while this is not absolutely necessary, it is extremely desirable in order to insure the safety of the ships in docking, and the department is now hastening the contractors in their work. They estimate that about fifteen days more will suffice to complete it.

NEW WARSHIPS TO BE BUILT.

The board of bureau chiefs met today to begin the consideration of the plans for the three new battleships authorized by the naval appropriation bill, and progressed so far that circulars will be sent out tomorrow inviting bids from the shipbuilders. The vessels will be in the main very similar to the battleship Illinois now building at Newport News. They will be about 12,000 tons displacement, 75 feet beam, 23½ feet depth, 16 knots speed, will be covered with heavy armor and armed with 13 and 6-inch guns, in addition to numerous secondary batteries.

PREPARATIONS FOR INVADING CUBA.

A rather striking sign of the imminence of the invasion of Cuba was contained in the chartering today by the war department of eight large steamers of an average capacity of about 2,000 tons and able to carry from 500 to 1,200 passengers each. These are to be used as transports for the conveyance of the first military expedition to Cuba. The names of the boats are the Olivette and the Florida, of the Plant Line, now in the gulf; the Southern Pacific Company' steamer Aranzas; the New York and Texas Company's vessel Comal, now at New York, and the Malamo, now en route to the gulf, and three fine ships of the Boston Merchants and Miners' Line, in Baltimore, the Allegheny, the Berkshire and the Decatur Miller. The price paid for these vessels is from $10,000 to $15,000 for the thirty days in which they are engaged. They will be taken charge of by the quartermaster's department at the earliest possible moment.

General Shafter, in command of the United States troops now concentrated at New Orleans has been in consultation with the officials today as to the execution of plans of the campaign, but the orders given to him cannot be made public.

The president and cabinet will consider tomorrow the large number of applications that have been made for appointment to the posts of major general and brigadier general and there is some expectation that he will be able to nominate a few of these officers tomorrow.

LEE IN WASHINGTON.

General Fitzhugh Lee arrived here late today after a ten days' visit to his family in Virginia. The general shared the keen public interest in report of the shelling of Matanzas. He had visited that city frequently and was familiar with the lay of the land and the defences. He said the batteries were antiquated and were not likely to offer any formidable resistance. General Lee will call at the state department tomorrow morning. Being still an official, he asked to be excused from discussing the war situation, and was very reticent concerning his prospective appointment as major general.

POWERS PROCLAIMING NEUTRALITY.

The French embassy has received a cabe dispatch from the foreign office at Paris, announcing that a decree of neutrality between the United States and Spain has been issued and that a detailed copy will be forwarded by mail. The cable notice is brief, stating only that the decree follows the treaty of Paris of 1856, the state department was advised.

The state department has also been informed that Mexico, Argentine Republic, Korea and Belguim have proclaimed neutrality. Korea's neutrality is considered important, owing to her proximity to the Philippine islands.

GERMANY NOT HEARD FROM.

The state department has heard nothing from Germany, but this causes no apprehension, owing to the strong assurances Germany has given that she will observe strict neutrality between the two belligerents. Germany, Austria and Portugal are the last of the important European nations to declare their attitude.

PORTUGAL'S ATTITUDE.

The apprehension as to Portugal's course was considerably removed today by the call of Viscount de Santo-Thyrso, who gave strong assurances to the state department that Portugal would remain strictly neutral. The Portugese minister expects the official declaration almost hourly. Although Portugal explains her delay on the ground that the declaration of war was not made until the 24th instant, yet Great Britain declared neutrality with unusual promptness. The effect of Great Britain's speedy action was to force the United States fleet to leave Hong Kong, while the effect of Portugal's delay has been to permit the Spanish fleet to remain at the Cape de Verde islands. Thus speedy action in the first case was harmful to American interests, while delayed action in the second case was equally harmful to American interests.

Attention is now being centered on the course of Austria. Her delay in declaring neutrality causes no material inconveniences, as Austria has no ports at which Spanish ships can take refuge, but it discloses that Austria's strong tendencies are with Spain, owing to the dynastic relations between the thrones of Austria and Spain.

Foreign governments, through their representatives in Washington, are beginning to show much concern over that feature of the war tariff bill, now before congress, which increases the stonnage tax on trans-Atlantic shipping to 20 cents per ton. It is said this increase is about 800 per cent., the present rate being about 3 cents per ton and that nearly the entire burden of the 800 per cent. increase falls on the trans-Atlantic shipping of Great Britain, Germany, France and one or two other commercial nations. Thus, far, however, no official action has been taken on the subject by foreign nations and it does not seem likely that such official action is possible, as the heavy tonnage is considered a warm expedient which foreign shipping must bear so long as they use American ports. There are intimations, however, that it may have the effect of diverting shipping from American ports to Halifax, Montreal and other Canadian ports.

Thousands of afferers from grippe have been restored to health by One Minute Cough Cure. It quickly cures coughs, colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, grippe, asthma, and all throat and lung diseases. R. R. Bellamy.

TO MARCH ON CUBA

Federal Troops Ordered to be in Readiness to Advance on Cuba—The Regiments Brigaded.

Jacksonville, Fla., April 28.—A special to The Times-Union and Citizen from Tampa, Fla., says:

The news of the bombardment of Matanzas forts by Admiral Sampson reached here this afternoon and soon afterward Colonel Melville A. Cochran, commanding the First provisional brigade of Tampa division received a telegram from Washington instructing him to hold his command in readiness for immediate departure with rations for thirty days. This is the first authentic information regarding the future movements of the troops here.

The Tampa division, embracing the troops here and at Port Tampa, has been divided into two brigades. Colonel Cochrane, the senior ranking officer in the camp, has been appointed commander of the First brigade and Colonel John S. Poland, the next ranking officer, to the Second brigade. The first includes the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and Thirteenth regiments. The second brigade is composed of the Fourth, Seventeenth and Twenty-first regiments, these being what are termed provisional brigades. The staff officers have not as yet been appointed, but Colonel Cochrane has appointed Captain Turner, of his regiment, the Sixth, as adjutant and Colonel Poland has selected Captain Wrenn, of the Seventeenth, to fill that position in the Second brigade. The order from Washington relating to the movements of the first brigade, above referred to, is being whispered about among the officers in the rotunda of the hotel this evening. Although no definite orders as yet have been received it is expected the Second brigade will receive a similar message from Washton within a few hours. Officers here expect that all the troops not stationed at Chickamauga, will be here in a few days. These troops consist of 3,600 of cavalry, ten batteries of artillery of 500 men and 2,500 infantry, or a total of 6,600 men. On the arrival of these troops it is quite likely that they will be organized into brigades and regiments for transfer to Cuba.

It is well known that the much dreaded rain season on the island does not set in for several weeks and officers believe that the purpose of the army and navy authorities in Washington is to effect a junction with the Cuban army before that time or else land 10,000 or 12,000 regular troops there and make a rush for Havana.

"I don't know, there may be others," he said, "but I have used 'Parker's Tolu Cough Syrup' in my family for years and would not be without it." He knew better than to buy the inferior preparation that was being urged upon him." Parker's Tolu Cough Syrup" has no equal. It will immediately relieve any Cough or Cold, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Croup, Bronchitis and kindred ailments. Contains no injurious ingredients, is pleasant to take and a safe remedy for children. For sale by J. C. Shepard, J. H. Hardin and H. L. Fentress.

RUSHING TROOPS TO TAMPA.

Eight Thousand to Assemble There as Advance Guard on Cuba.

New Orleans, April 28.—The three regiments of infantry here will probably leave for Tampa under rush orders. The first regiment will leave in the morning. Paymaster E. W. Halford arirved here today.

Governor Foster tonight called out the national guard battalions who have volunteered and they will probably be mobilized here by Saturday, to the full quota asked by the president. Colonel Stephens will command the First regiment and Colonel E. E. Wood, of the Fourth battalion, this city, the Second. They will go into camp at the race track with the regulars, if any of the latter are left.

Mobile, Ala., April 28.—A train moved out from camp near Mobile this morning for Tampa via the Louisville and Nashville railroad carrying quartermasters' suplies, fifteen escort wagons, twenty-one ambulances, seventy-five mules, with harness for all, and hostlers, teamsters, due to arrive in Tampa, May 3rd. It is reported here that this is the first of a movement that will concentrate all troops now here at Tampa and also those at New Orleans so as to form with the troops at Tampa, a force of 8,000 to be the advance guard of the army of occupation of Cuba, plans of landing in Cuba to be selected by the commander of the fleet and the corps of observation. The Tenth and the Twenty-second infantry regiments received orders this morning to leave for Tampa tomorrow at noon. Colonel Parson, of the Tenth, has been ordered to join the Fifth regiment, which is at Tampa.

Routine in camp was varied this morning by practice in charging. The brigades joined in a grand charge beginning at the east end of the parade grounds and going to the woods with a rush, crossing the railroad track, surrounding the quartermaster's quarters, and finishing at the old breastworks erected here by General Dabney Maury toward the close of the last war.

General Coppinger received today a letter of thanks from the confederate veterans for his courtesy in attending the memorial services Thursday at the confederate burial grounds, and replied in fitting and patriotic words, greatly delighting the veterans.

Chickamauga National Park, April 28.—The Ninth cavalry, the Twenty-fourth infantry and the entire eight batteries of artillery, now centered at Chackamauga, will leave for the south, as soon as they can be loaded onto the cars which are in readiness for them. By tomorrow night it is thought all of the trains will be on their way to Tampa.

Wade Hampton on the War.

Charleston, S. S., April (April 28.—At a meeting of confederate veterans of South Carolina, in annual convention here, General Wade Hampton spoke and caused the wildest enthusiasm by the following reference to war with Spain:

"My old comrades, we know what war is. I do not hesitate to say that I regret the one upon which we are now entering. But you are South Carolinians; you are sons of the men who have shed immortal glory on the palmetto flag in the past, and I would rather die than think that South Carolina would not respond to the call made upon her for volunteers. And old as I am, I can still ride on horseback and wield a sword, and if her quota is not filled, if there is one man lacking to make it full, I myself will volunteer. This is our country and it is our duty to make it the champion of freedom for all time to come."

WAITING FOR BUSINESS.

The Senate Passes an Idle Day—Division Among the Democrats of the House on the Revenue Bill.

SENATE.

Washington, April 28.—Again today the senate was in the attitude of waiting for business to reach it. A few bills of unimportant character were passed, but no business of general interest was transacted.

Senator Pasco, of Florida, presented memorials from the Florida board of trade concerning the interference with the coastwise trade by the present condition of war. Senator Pasco said that the matter was becoming serious, as American vessels were being forced by the conditions existing to refuse business. He thought the committee on commerce ought to consider the subject promptly and the memorials were referred to that committee.

Senator Butler, of North Carolina, introduced the following resolution:

"That the bonded indebtedness of the United States should not be increased, but that the necessary means to carry on the war against Spain should be raised by increasing the revenues of the government including a tax on incomes and by issuing silver certificates against the seigniorage now in the treasury and by such additional issues of the United States legal tender notes as may be necessary."

The resolution went over.

The senate at 1:45 o'clock went into executive session and at 2 o'clock p. m. adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The general debate on the war revenue bill closed tonight after eight and one half hours of speech-making. The debate today lacked both spirit and interest. There was little discussion of the internal revenue features of the bill. The democrats continued their assaults on the bond features and their advocacy of the income tax. The latter was ridiculed as a substitute proposition by the republicans. The authority to borrow money was defended by them as absolutely necessary. There is a difference of opinion on the democratic side as to whether the bill shall be voted for upon its final passage after the minority amendments are voted down. A number of the democrats, led by Mr. McClellan, of New York, have announced their purpose of so voting, but the majority of the democrats believe they could not justly vote for a bond issue.

An effort is being made to avoid an aye and no vote on the final passage to prevent an exhibition of this division and tonight it seems probable that it will be successful. There may be some difficulty about the committee amendments, decided upon today, as under the order the bond features of the bill must first be taken up under the five minute rule tomorrow. If the amendments to these sections should exhaust the time before 4 o'clock the committee amendments would be ruled out and would have to be inserted by the senate.

At 10:30 o'clock p. m., the house took a recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Thirty-five years make a generation. That is how long Adolph Fisher, of Zanesville, O., suffered from the piles. He was cured by using three boxes of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. R. R. Bellamy.

No News From the Montgomery or the Panther.

Norfolk, Va., April 28.—No news of the transport Panther and the cruiser Montgomery has been received here. Officials at the navy yard fear disaster if the ships were delayed on the Hatteras coast, but the most experienced navigators unite in saying that they ought to have gotten well out to sea before meeting the storm.

The Mosquito at the navy yard is being provisioned and otherwise made ready for departure. Outdoor work was suspended there yesterday and today on account of the storm and for the first time in several months no night force was employed tonight or last night.

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.

To Raise Regiments of Immunes.

Washington, April 28.—The senate committee on military affairs today agreed upon a favorable report on the bill removing the limitations on the supplies the quartermasters department of the army may purchase and also upon the bill permitting the enlistment of a brigade of engineers.

The provision in the engineer bill for the enlistment of yellow fever immunes was inserted practically in response to the president's request which was made known by Secretary Alger. The president and the secretary both think these troops will be especially useful in a campaign in Cuba. They think there will be comparatively little difficulty in securing the number required.

Why allow yourself to be slowly tortured at the stake of disease? Chills and Fever will undermine and eventually break down the strongest constitution. "Febri-Cura" (Sweet Chill Tonic with Iron) is more effective than Quinine, and being combined with Iron is an excellent tonic and Nerve medicine. It is pleasant to take, and is sold under positive guarantee to cure or money refunded. Accept no substitute. The "just as good" kind don't effect cures. Sold by J. C. Shepard, J. H. Hardin and H. L. Fentress.

WARSHIPS IN GREAT PERIL

Narrow Escape of Two of Flying Squadron.

SPLENDID SEAMANSHIP.

During the Severe Storm at Hampton Roads the Brooklyn Drags Her Anchors—Rushing Down Upon the Sharp Prow of the Massachusetts. By Cool-Headedness, Perfect Discipline and First-Class Seamanship the Fearful Disaster Is Averted.

On board the flagship Brooklyn, off Fortres Monroe, April 28.—For thirty-six hours the flying squadron was unable to communicate with shore. The storm struck the coast Tuesday night, came up Hampton Roads like a fury It whistled at the rate of ninety miles an hour through the great superstructure of the flagship Brooklyn and whipped up the sea so that the white foam broke in huge masses over the decks of the Massachusetts and the Texas. The heavy draft of the big war vessels made it impossible for them to get into smooth water and they had to stand the brunt of the storm.

Toward morning the storm increased in violence and as the tide turned flood, the lookout on the forward bridge of the Brooklyn announced that the ship was dragging its anchor. The officer of the deck simultaneously reported that the Brooklyn was getting in dangerous proximity to the battleship Massachusetts. Captain Cook and executive officer Mason went to the bridge immediately and ordered the second anchor down. At this time the wind was blowing so fiercely the men could hardly keep their feet on deck. The second anchor ran out about twenty-fathoms of chain and struck and the big ship stopped and for a short time breasted the wind and tide. But in a few minutes she began to back slowly and it was evident that there was no hold for the anchors. The signal was immediately given to prepare to get under way. Faster and faster she went back, her big broad side swinging toward the dangerous ram on the prow of the Massachusetts. The latter was signalled to pay out her cable and drop away and she did so. In the meantime on the Brooklyn the men in charge of the forward compartments went to their stations, closing the water tight compartments and preparing without any outward evidence of excitement for the expected collision, The Massachusetts cleared away her big booms and prepared for the collision, not daring to ship the anchor for fear of running herself on the sand bar in close proximity or drifting into the Texas. Faster and faster went the Brooklyn toward the battleship and the men at the stations on both vessels stood unflinchingly, ready to perform the special duties assigned them in case of collision. There was no confusion. On the bridge with cool heads, sharp eyes and active brains were Captain Cook and his executive officer, while on the after-bridge, not interfering with the management of the officers of the ship stood Commodore Schley and his flag lieutenant Sears, watching with interest, but with as little excitement as they would a practice cruise, the big ships coming together. A conflict of orders would have meant great disaster, but there was none.

An order from the captain and one of the big anchors comes rattling up and the ship drifts on a little faster toward its evident fate. Then, in obedience to the helm, the stern, now almost scraping the Masachusetts' bow, swing out and the head partly controlled by the anchor swings as if to take the blow. It is within a few yards of the huge battleship and all are awaiting the crash. Captain Cook looks over the port side of the bridge and then says sharply, "Full speed astern." There is a clang of bells, a shiver as the big engines turn and then the cruiser slides rapidly clear of the Massachusetts with barely a hand to spare. "Cleverly done," says Commodore Schley as he goes down to breakfast.

Clever steamship, perfect dicipiline and cool-headed judgment had averted a disaster. "This ship obeys her engines perfectly," said Captain Cook, modestly, after he had anchored further out.

Toward the afternoon the storm cleared off, and the heavy seas quickly subsided. Boats began running from the ships and communication with the shore was resumed. The steamers of the Boston and Providence line and of the Old Dominion Steamship Company, which were delayed yesterday evening, left as usual tonight. Anxiety is felt as to a large schooner three-masted disabled by loss of main top-mast, part of the fore-mast, and rails and anchored near Chicomico life saving station, which is ninety miles south of Virginia beach, and twenty miles north of Cape Hatteras. The shooner whose name was not known was anchored two miles north of the station, and was thought to be in danger if the wind continued strong from the northeast, this last intelligence coming early yesterday morning.

Telegraph and telephone wires from Virginia Beach to the south are many of them down, as only Cape Henry and Virginia Beach were heard from last night. A section of the Virginia naval reserves acting as a signal corps is stationed at Cape Henry, and is having a taste of rough weather.

The farmer, the mechanic and the bicycle rider are liable to unexpected cuts and bruises. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is the best thing to keep on hand. It heals quickly, and is a well known cure for piles. R. R. Bellamy.

ONLY EIGHTEEN MINUTES

Is Needed to Annihilate Spanish Forts.

THE SPANISH SURPRISED.

They Opened Fire, Expecting the Warships to Retire. The Fire Returned With Vigor—Fearful Destruction by the Big Guns—The Last Shot From the Puritan's Pet—Every Spanish Gun Silenced — Spanish Account of the Battle.

Key West, April 28.—The bombardment of the forts of Matanzas by the United States cruiser New York, the flagship of Admiral Sampson; the monitor Puritan and the cruiser Cincinnati is eagerly discussed here, and every incident of the affair is weighed and reweighed by army and navy officers and the newspaper men.

From the fact that the Spaniards opened fire on our warships while the latter were making a reconnaissance in force and when the vessels were nearly five miles out from the batteries, leads to the belief that the enemy believed that all that was necessary to induce the United States fleet to move further away was for the batteries to open fire on them. But, if from former experience, they had reached this conclusion, they found that forbearance had reached the limit, and they must have been intensely astonished when the New York, being the fartest west, but the nearest in shore, opened fire with her batteries with a vengeance, steaming nearer shore, accompanied by her consorts, made such excellent practice with her guns that in eighteen minutes every Spanish gun was silenced.

It would have been worth a year's pay to any one to have seen effects of the last shot fired—that from the Puritan's 12-inch pet, when a mass of stones, earth and abatis went sixty feet in the air, falling in the rear of the spot where a Spanish gun had been but a few minutes before.

There must have been many casualties on the Spanish side, since the rapid-fire guns were used on all the ships, as well as those of larger calibre. It seems to be the general opinion that the Spaniards had nothing heavier than 8-inch guns, and that they had very poor gunners with any of their ordnance. However, just before the Spanish batteries were silenced, one gun on the west side of the harbor seemed to be getting the range of the flagship, several shots striking near the New York and one both sides of her. If the purpose of the reconnaissance and the subsequent cannonade was to secure an available place for the landing later of United States troops, such purpose has been well accomplished, for no doubt exists that the Spanish batteries at Matanzas have been silenced for good, or at least for a longer time than will be necessary to effect a landing.

SPANISH ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

Madrid, April 28.—The version of the bombardment of Matanzas by the United States fleet which has reached here, says that "after half an hour's fighting the Americans were obliged to retreat." Little credence is attached in Madrid to the dispatches from New York telling of the bombardment of Matanzas, as the latter "conflict with the official reports." The latter, in addition to saying the Americans "were obliged to retreat," admit that "several men were killed," and that "some damage was done to the town," also saying that the "American loss is not known."

The forts of Havana, it is announced here have not yet fired a single projectile, the cannon shots being merely signal guns.

(Copyright by Associated Press.)

On the flagship, off Havana, April 28, 1 a. m. via Key West April 29.—The bombardment of Matanzas batteries is now a matter of history. The flagship has returned to her station off El Morro. It is believed the Spanish must have sustained some loss of life in addition to having their nearly completed earthworks and fortifications torn up by the explosion of shells. The capture of the city was not at all contemplated, the object being to stop the erection of the batteries.

The New York was lying about twenty miles east of Havana at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning when Rear Admiral Sampson decided to steam to Matanzas. At the entrance to the harbor the monitor Puritan and the cruiser Cincinnati met the flagship. A stiff wind was blowing and the waves poured over the low bow and stern of the monitor. At slow speed the flagship proceeded toward the harbor, the Puritan following a half a mile astern and the Cincinnati about two miles to the westward. Rear Admiral Sampson and Captain Chadwick stood on the high bridge. When about three miles from Punta Gorda, the extreme point of the eastern arm of the harbor, a long yellow streak was seen on shore. It looked like a newly erected earth works. Closer inspection revealed a number of men clustered around the shore. Still the New York steamed slowly ahead until it was ascertained without any doubt that the Spanish troops were busy in erecting what seemed to be a sand battery and already gotten several guns into position.

Rear Admiral Sampson decided that this was detrimental to a pacific blockade. "General quarters," was sounded. The men rushed to their guns. When the New York was about 4,000 yards from Punda Gorda, her helm was put to starboard, and "commence firing" the bugler blew. Naval Cadet Boone, in charge of "Waist," the 8-inch gun amidships on the port side, had the honor of firing the first shot. The flagship shook from stem to stern as the first projectile flew from the muzzle of the big gun. A little cloud of dust was seen to rise at the right of the earthwarks. For the first attempt at 4,000 yards it was by no means a bad shot. Without the aid of glasses the objective point could be clearly defined. With a deafening roar the 8-inch gun in the forward turret let fly its iron missile. It landed high. The after turret came next with the same sized projectile. A shout of delight went up from the flagship as a dense cloud rose slowly from the very centre of the earthworks, showing how true had been the aim.

Then from the entire port side a fearful fulisade was poured on the shore, the four turret guns firing almost simultaneously and the 4-inch guns adding their smaller hail.

At this stage the guns of the Quintas da Recreo battery were observed to be firing on the flagship. This fort is on the eastward arm of the harbor, 7,000 yards from where the flagship was lying. It is provided with 4-inch guns. The flagship's fire was at once directed upon it. Up to this period the New York had been in the firing alone. Captain Harrington, on the Puritan, and Captain Chester, on the Cincinnati, had drawn up and were vigorously signaling for permission to fire. When this was reported to Read Admiral Sampson he said: "All right; tell them to go ahead."

So while the New York was commencing to fire on Quintas da Recreo the Puritan took a position to the eastward and opened fire on the same point. The Cincinnati went to the westward and pounded a rapid-fire broadside into the earthworks on Punto Gorda. Occasionally shots from Quintas da Recreo could be seen coming in the direction of the New York. All fell short and at no time threatened the ship.

Leaving Quintas da Recreo to the tender mercies of the Puritan which was still merrily banging away, Captain Chadwick put his helm to starboard until the port battery once more bore on the Punta Gorda earthworks. Another shell came from shore, whizzing along over the flagship. "Too high but a better shot than I thought they could make," said an officer. Then the Cincinnati and the New York poured shot into the yellow earthworks and the surrounding land until the smoke hid everything from view. Only one more shot from Punta Gorda was noticed. It fell short of the New York by about 200 yards.

SPANISH SPIES

In the Southern States to Wreck Trains Bearing Troops to the Front

Atlanta, Ga., April 28.—Governor Atkinston today received a letter from Dr. James L. Long, of Good Hope, Ga., saying that Spanish spies were planning to wreck and blow up trains bearing troops to Key West. Dr. Long is a prominent physician of Good Hope, in Walton county, and is known to the governor. The letter reads:

"I write you to inform you that two Spanish spies passed through this vicinity yesterday, going south. Their intentions are to blow up the bridges and trains loaded with United States soldiers when en route to Key West and other places south.

"I hope you will not let them go unnoticed, as they blew up our battleship. Please inform the department officials. It has also been ascertained that they intend to employ negroes to work in front."

"In a minute" one dose of Hart's Essence of Ginger will relieve any ordinary case of Colic, Cramps, or Nausea, an unexcelled remedy for Diarrhoea, Cholera Morbus, Summer complaints and all internal pains. Sold by J. C. Shepard, J. H. Hardin and H. L. Fentress.

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE DAY

A Frenchman Claims to Have Contracted With Our War Department for Balloons to be Used in Coast Defence.

Cool Heads, Clever Seamanship and Perfect Discipline Prevented a Collision Between the Brooklyn and Texas During the Severe Storm at Norfolk.

The Crew and Passengers of the Panama Are to Be Held as Prisoners of War.

The Guido, Captured by the Terror and Macrias, is a Valuable Prize.

It Took Our Warships Only Eighteen Minutes to Silence All the Guns of the Matonzas Forts.

The President Will Appoint Generals Lee, of Virginia, and Wheeler, of Alabama, Major Generals.

The Powder Mills Near Easton, Pa., Are Blown Up. They Were Working for the Government.

It is said Spanish Spies Are in the South to Wreck Trains Bearing Soldiers.

Eight Thousand Troops are Being Assembled at Tampa to Form the Advance Guard on Cuba.

No News Has Been Had From the Montgomery or Panther.

Today Bids Will Be Called for to Construct Three More Battleships.

Conferees Agree on the Naval Bill

Washington, April 28.—The conferees of the two houses reached an agreement on the naval appropriation bill before adjourning tonight. All the senate increases in the way of monitors and torpedo boats were adopted. These increases include four monitors at $1,250,000 and sixteen instead of twelve torpedo boat destroyers. All the other important additions made by the senate are retained. The language in regard to the enlistment of seamen was changed so as to provide for 1,000 more marines. A provision was inserted giving the secretary of the navy authority to enlist volunteers up to the rank of commander. This was done so that the department could avail itself of the services of the officers of the American liners chartered by the government. The conference will be reported tomorrow.

Centres of Mobilization

Washington, April 28.—It is now said that the war department officials will avail themselves of the facilities offered by the cities of Nashville, Atlanta and Chattanooga for concentrating some of the troops of the volunteer army. Washington and Richmond are also places at which these troops will be concentrated. The probability is that other cities in the south will also be selected for this purpose, but it is not likely that any steps in the direction of mobilization will be taken for some weeks at the earliest, and it may be delayed beyond that time.

M. L. Yocum, Cameron, Pa., says "I was a sufferer for ten years, trying most all kinds of pile remedies, but without success. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve was recommended to me. I used one box. It has affected a permanent cure." As a permanent cure for piles DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve has no equal. R. R. Bellamy.

Governor Atkinson Nolunteers

Atlanta, Ga., April 28.—Governor W. Y. Atkinson today tendered President McKinley, through the Georgia delegation in congress, his services as a volunteer. The delegation will ask that he be made a brigadier general. If the appointment is made Governor Atkinson will resign as governor of Georgia. The governor also issued a proclamation calling for volunteers to furnish the necessary quota asked for in the recent call of the president.

Children like it, it saves their lives We mean One Minute Cough Cure, the infallible remedy for coughs, colds, croup, bronchitis, grippe, and all throat and lung troubles. R. R. Bellamy.

Lee and Wheeler to Be Major Generals

Washington, April 28.—Representatives Lamb and Rixey, of Virginia, called on the president today and presented the name of William Nalle, adjutant general of Virginia, for brigadier general, who is endorsed by Governor Tyler.

During the interview President McKinley intimated that he had practically decided upon the appointment of General Fitzhugh Lee and General Wheeler, of Alabama, as major generals.

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.

When a man is suffering with an aching head, a sluggish body, when his muscles are lax and lazy, his brain dull, and his stomach disdaining food, he will, if wise, heed these warnings and resort to the right remedy, before it is too late. "Parker's Sarsaparilla," the "King of Blood Purifiers," makes the appetite keen and hearty—invigorates the liver—purifies the blood and fills it with the life-giving elements of the food. It is a wonderful blood maker and flesh builder. Sold by J. C. Shepard, J. H. Hardin and H. L. Fentress.

Key West, Fla., April 28.—J. B. Patterson, an attorney of Key West, recently appointed by United States District Judge Locke, chief prize commissioner, to adjudicate the cases of ships captured from the Spaniards, has resigned. He will represent the owners of the cargoes and various ships in the prize cases. Judge Phipps, of Key West, has been appointed to succeed him.

AUSTRIA AIDS SPAIN

By Supply of Money and Volunteering of Officers in Spanish Army.

NO NEWS FROM ASIATIC FLEET.

Mystery as to Whereabouts of the Spanish Warships---Change Sentiment in Manila Favorable to the United States---The Critical Situation Porto Rico---English Consul There Asks for a Warship---Portugal's Censorship of Cablegrams as to Warships---Searching for American Vessels in the Mediterranean Sea.

Madrid, April 28.—An official dispatch from Manila, capital of the Philippine islands, received today, says the Spanish squadron, which has taken up a position several miles from Manila, is still waiting the arrival of the United states squadron under the command of Admiral Dewey.

The governor's proclamation, appealing to the patriotism, honor and religious prejudices of the Spaniards and otherwise inciting them to animosity against the Americans, is said to have had a great effect upon the people, who are alleged to be volunteering in large numbers eager to "repulse the enemy."

In the senate today General Donoso greatly eulogized the captain of the transport Montserras for running the blockade.

Admiral Bermejo, minister of marine, replying, said the government had decided to confer a decree of decoration on the officer.

A dispatch to El Imparcial from Havana says the insurgents attacked Artemisa, province of Pinar del Rio but were repulsed.

An official dispatch from General Blanco says: "Part of the enemy's squadron has gone eastward. One of the American ironclads has grounded opposite Dimas, province of Pinar del Rio, and three other ships are working to refloat her. Spanish volunteers are watching on shore."

Washington, April 28.—No information of the grounding of one of our warships was received either by the president or the secretary of the navy tonight, and, so far as could be learned, no such dispatches are at the navy department. An examination of the best Cuban map of the war department fails to show any point on the coast called Dimas, the nearest approach to it being Point Diamente, on the northern coast of Pinar del Rio province, a short distance west of Havana and in the blockade zone.

The war department does not expect news from Admiral Dewey and the Pacific squadron before Saturday.

Gibraltar, April 28.—Three Spanish torpedo boats are constantly cruising between Algeciras bay, near here, and Getares bay at, the entrance of the bay of Gibraltar.

Lisbon, April 28.—The official Gazette will publish tomorrow a decree declaring the neutrality of Portugal in the conflict between Spain and the United States.

The terms of the decree will be similar to those used on the occasion of the government's neutrality proclamation at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war.

London, April 29.—The Madrid correspondent of The Daily Mail says: Senor Cadorniga will ask in the congress tomorrow for the expulsion of certain foreign correspondents. His request refers to the representatives of American newspapers.

The Madrid correspondent of The Standard says: The parliamentary outlook is less satisfactory, despite the praiseworthy efforts both the government and Senor Silvela are making to induce the opposition to reduce the wonted dilatory debates, with a view to getting voted rapidly these bills and authorizations which are indispensible to enable the government to carry on affairs in the present critical circumstances.

Cadiz, April 28.—Three steamers of the Campania Trans-Atlantica are being rapidly armed as cruisers.

The forts at Tiofa, six miles northeast of Cadiz, and at San Cataline are being strengthened and new guns are being mounted there.

AUSTRIA'S AID TO SPAIN.

London, April 29.—The Vienna correspondent of the Morning Post says: Emperor Francis Joseph privately contributed 20,000 pounds ($100,000 to the national naval subscription in Spain and has further shown his sympathy by permitting a number of Austro-Hungarian officers to serve under the Spanish flag. The Archduke Eugene has gone to Madrid to stay with the queen-regent during this critical period. Austria maintains the strictest neutrality, but I am informed from the best source that in the event of a revolution in Madrid the Austrian forces will be at the disposal of the queen-regent. The emperor is determined that her majesty shall have the benefit of his fullest protection.

THE SITUATION IN PORTO RICO.

(Copyright by Associated Press.)

St. Thomas, West Indies, April 28.—Porto Rican advices today say four Spanish gunboats are at San Juan de Porto Rico. Martial law has been proclaimed in Porto Rico and it is being sternly enforced. Crowds of people are leaving for the interior and the capital is almost deserted by civilians. The military authorities are most actively engaged in preparing for the defence of the island. Torpedos have been planted in the main channel. An old steamship has been sunk across the harbor entrance, the buoys in the channel have been altered and all lights are to be extinguished at night. The French residents are seeking refuge on board the French cruiser Admiral Rigault de Genouilly.

An American sugar estate, it is announced, was plundered after the receipt of the news of the declaration of war between Spain and the United States. The British consul at San Juan, who has charge of American interests, has cabled to this government requesting that a British warship be sent to that port.

Danger is apprehended from the incompetent and youthful volunteers of Porto Rico. The warehouses of Porto Rico are reported to be full of provisions and the Spanish authorities say they can stand a seige of two months.

No United States warships are known to be in the vicinity of Porto Rico.

FLEET STILL AT CAPE VERDE.

St. Vincent, Cape de Verde Islands, April 28, 3:08 p. m.—Although the Spanish squadron is still at anchor here. It is believed the warships will probably sail tomorrow, as the paymasters have been settling up accounts today.

THE SHENANDOAH SAFE.

Liverpool, April 28.—The four masted American ship Shenandoah, Captain Murphy, from San Franisco, reported to have been captured by the Spanish, arrived here safely this afternoon.

NO NEWS FROM ASIATIC SQUADRON.

London, April 29.—The Hong Kong correspondent of The Daily Mail telegraphing Thursday says: There is no news from Manila, as to the whereabouts of the American fleet. The British gunboat Linnet sailed this afternoon to watch British interests in the Philippines and the Esmeralda also sailed for the Philippines, both presumably to bring away passengers. Large sums are being paid by people anxious to leave Manila.

The neutral attitude hitherto observed by the public toward the Hispano-American dispute has been changed by the absurd proclamation of the governor of the Philippines and public opinion is now favorable to the United States.

MYSTERY OF SPANISH FLEET.

London, April 29.—The mystery regarding the movements of the Spanish men-of-war is still unexplained. The secretaries at the Spanish embassy interviewed on the subject ridicule the statement that the squadron at Cape Verde islands were in lack of coal. According to advices from Bayonne, the battleship Pelayo, fully equipped, has gone to Cadiz. Reports that she has been cruising in the company with other vessels probably means that she has been trying her boilers. It is believed that the squadron at Cape Verde islands has really been waiting for the arrival of the Pelayo, and the Alfonso XIII and other men-of-war, but now that Portugal has declared neutrality, the fleet will be compelled to said without delay, whether reinforced or not.

PORTUGAL'S CENSORSHIP OF WAR NEWS.

Lisb