

INTENSE ANXIETY

Among Naval Officers at Key West Over the Outlook on the Seas.

FLEETS PREPARED FOR BATTLE.

Schley's Squadron Anchored Off the Harbor--Remarkable Run of Capt. Sigsbee in the St. Paul from Hampton Roads to Key West--Speculations as to the Anticipated Naval Battle and Where it Will Occur--The Naval Battle of the War Expected to be Fought Within Forty-Eight Hours from Last Friday.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 21.—Key West, May 19, via Jacksonville—(Delayed in transmission.) Tonight sees the close of the most intensely anxious and most vexatious day Key West has known since the war began. Everything indicates the proximity of a big naval battle, but with an unseen foe, who may appear at any one of several points, and possibly strike a blow and get away before force can be massed to crush him. At this hour the whereabouts of Schley's and Sampson's squadrons are fixed qualities in the equation, the Spaniards are represented by X.

Daybreak found Commander Schley's squadron that sailed from Hampton Roads on Friday, anchored off Sand Key light, six miles below Key West. They have joined Captain Sigsbee's big greyhound, the St. Paul, which, leaving Hampton Roads a day later than they, had beat them here almost a day and a half. The appearance of the flying squadron was supplemented about 8:30 o'clock by two dispatch boats that had been with Admiral Sampson's fleet racing in neck and neck, the Associated Press boat Dauntless in the lead. The necessity of cutting the cable at Santiago de Cuba has already been evidenced in Key West by several Madrid cablegrams via London, sent after the bloody fight at Cienfuegos last week, when the Marblehead's boat crew cut the cable at that point.

Admiral Sampson's fleet arrived here at 5 o'clock p. m. This confirmed the forecast made in these dispatches Sunday as to the whereabouts and intentions of these two fleets. Both had been slow in arriving than well posted naval officers had supposed at that time. All this was interesting enough, but not a word of it was allowed past the censor, and a score of correspondents who had besieged the cable office all the morning, witted down into the hole, and had already looked into the broiling sun, helpless to get a word of the real news of the situation to their papers. Naval news, however, was as ignorant as the correspondents as to how matters stood in the world outside of Key West, and whether or not the Spaniards were being censured had not already looked through the less restricted channels at Washington.

SPECULATION AS TO THE NAVAL CAMPAIGN.

Naval men, however, had less time for speculation, for the fleet was busily engaged in preparing for some move, the details of which were known only to Commander Watson ashore, looking after him. Every officer ashore was on the alert for orders to hurry aboard his ship. Such last night when the fate of the men from the Bancroft, the Castine, the Helena, and the Wilmington. "Hurry orders" reached them at 6:30. Bancroft's quartermaster ashore, looking after the stores when word was sent to him to cancel a provision contract and come aboard. The small fleet was ready under way when he reached her and the Bancroft's rig was snatched up to her davits, while she was steaming through the harbor. Where the small fleet went is still a mystery, all being too slow to act as scouts in the hunt for the Spanish fleet, and not strong enough to do more than guard Havana, where there are already more boats than are actually needed. The most plausible theory advanced to account for the quick departure was that they were to form a second line of scouts to the southwest where the Cincinnati and the Vesuvius were supposed to be watching the narrows of the Yucatan channel. These two vessels moved out Thursday morning and disappeared at a leisurely pace to the southwestward. It may be candidly admitted that all discussion of the Spanish fleet from here is speculative. Key West is lamentably isolated from the current news, save such as is furnished by daily bulletins. The understanding of the situation here, however, is that Sampson counted confidently on finding the Spanish squadron bottled up in San Juan. It was not till daylight on the morning of the bombardment that he learned the harbor was empty. Meantime, according to the best information here, the fleet of seven Spanish ships, probably including the Vizcaya, Oquendo, Cristobal Colon, Maria Theresa and three destroyers, has

Wake County Democrats Declare for Fusion.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., May 21.—At the Wake county democratic convention today Ed. Chambers Smith reported the following resolutions:

"That we heartily endorse the letter of Chairman J. Bryan, and the address of Chairman Jones on the union of the silver forces. We favor co-operation of all citizens, regardless of party affiliations, who, having like sentiments and interests, seek to effectuate their common purposes by the same remedial legislation, and we instruct our delegates to the state and other conventions to use their utmost endeavors to find some common ground upon which those having the same general principles and interests may act together to secure them under the motto of all consistent co-operation, 'In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.'"

A minority resolution was submitted as follows:

"Whereas, An invitation extended by our democratic executive committee is so broad as to allow every one in favor of good government to take part in the primary, therefore,

"Resolved, That we are opposed to all 'entangling alliances,' because they are calculated to breed distrust, apathy and disorganization."

"Resolved, That delegates to the state convention are instructed to use their best efforts to defeat any proposition looking to fusion with any other party."

Minority resolution was defeated by a vote of 171 to 17, and the majority adopted without a vote against it."

Johnston Democrats Oppose Fusion

(Special to The Messenger.)

Smithfield, N. C., May 21.—The Johnston county democratic convention, led by J. A. Narron passed a resolution against fusion with the populists on all terms. The delegates are instructed.

The Cuban Question and Political Issues Sink into Significance with the Man who Suffers from Piles.

What he most desires, a relief. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cures piles. For sale by R. B. Belamy.

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FINAL ORDERS TO THE FIRST REGIMENT TO LEAVE CAMP FOR TAMPA THIS MORNING--OFFERS FROM OTHER STATES TO FURNISH OUR QUOTA OF TROOPS OR FALSE HONORS OF OUR INABILITY TO DO SO.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., May 21.—The First Regiment leaves, all via the Southern railway, on a special train of three sections tomorrow. Camp will be broken at 4:30 o'clock. The first section of the train leaves at 7 o'clock and others at fifteen minute intervals. There was a great crowd at camp this afternoon and there will be an immense one at the depot in the morning to bid the troops farewell. The Second Regiment will march to the station as an escort to First.

Governor Russell late this afternoon received a telegram from Senator Pritchard saying he had used all his influence with the secretary of war to delay the movement of either the First or the Second Regiment from camp here until they were completely equipped. The secretary of war said he would give the matter consideration.

United States officers here say the First Regiment will be completely equipped in forty-eight hours after arrival at Tampa. There was marked enthusiasm among the officers and men of the First when the news came that the movement was certainly to be made tomorrow.

The adjutant general this afternoon received a telegram from R. G. A. Love, captain of the Waynesville company, expressing his regret at his failure to get in the Second Regiment, but saying he was recruiting, that his men are enthusiastic and that by Monday he will be ready to come here if needed.

Lieutenant S. B. Alexander, of Captain Gadd's company, at Charlotte, says he can bring 100 men in two days' time before he starts for Tampa.

News having been sent out by some unknown person that North Carolina was having great trouble in raising her quota of troops, letters are being received by the adjutant general from

ACTIVITY AT TAMPA.

Developments of a Highly Important Character Expected in the Near Future--Strict Censorship on Telegraphic News.

Tampa, Fla., May 21.—Renewed activity is noticeable at Port Tampa, where a fleet of transports is being put in readiness. The Plant Line boat Olivette, which it is understood, will be the flagship of the transports when the movement upon Cuba takes place, has been placed in the slip and is in the hands of the carpenters, undergoing alteration for her work as a transport. Other big steamers have arrived, including the Ward Line boats Seneca and Saratoga.

Important developments of a highly important character are looked for in the near future. That any orders looking towards a movement of the troops toward Cuba has been made, is extremely doubtful. Nevertheless, every one expects prompt action here, following a meeting between the fleets of Sampson and Schley and the Spanish flotilla, which again looms up as more than a possibility, and news from Cuban waters is eagerly looked for.

Under orders of General Greeley, chief of the signal department at Washington, W. F. C. Fellers, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was today sworn in as government censor of all telegraphic business, except the newspaper specials. The will, for the present, continue to go through the hands of Lieutenant Milley, of General Shafter's staff. The holding, during which the newspaper correspondents may have their matter passed upon are limited on account of the short time Lieutenant Milley has to devote to his new duties and for this reason, a vigorous protest has been made.

It is very probable that an official order will be appointed within a day or two and then the delays (unavoidable under the present arrangement) done away with.

Will Asst. Chandler who was recently appointed a major of volunteers was today attached to the staff of Major General Wheeler. He has turned over the command of his band of volunteers to his brother, Winthrop Chandler, who arrived in Tampa from New York.

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE DAY.

- Belated Cablegrams Announce Sampson's and Schley's Fleets at Key West on the 19th. Sigsbee in his Flyer, the St. Paul, and Schley nearly two days and a half.
- The First Regiment of N. C. Volunteers was to Leave Raleigh at 7 o'clock this Morning for Tampa.
- Wake County Democrats Declare for Fusion of Free Silver Men.
- The Monterey, the Most Formidable of our Monitors, is Ordered to Manila.
- Important Naval Developments are Looked for at Tampa in a Day or Two.
- The Government Censorship over Telegraphic News as to the War is Made Stricter.
- A Passenger and a Troops Train Collide near Chattanooga--One Man is Killed and Many Wounded.
- Captain Clark, of the Oregon, was Opposed to Being Restricted by Orders from Washington in his Long Trip Around the Horn.
- The Dauntless Returns to Key West after Having Made the Cruise to Porto Rico with Admiral Sampson's Fleet.
- Rumor says Admiral Sampson won a Decisive Victory Over the Spanish in the Windward Passage Yesterday.

General O. O. Howard, who for the past week has been conducting religious meetings among the troops at Tampa, will leave tomorrow for Mobile, thence to Kentucky. He will be accompanied by Major D. W. Whetstone.

General Shafter's Staff.

Tampa, Fla., May 21.—In a general order issued today, Major General W. R. Shafter formally assumed command of the Fifth Army Corps, composed of the United States forces at Tampa and vicinity. He also announced the following officers as members of his staff:

First Lieutenant R. H. Noyes, first infantry, aide.

First Lieutenant J. D. Milay, second artillery, aide.

Major S. J. Groesbeck, judge-advocate and acting adjutant general.

Major J. W. Jacobs, chief quartermaster.

Colonel E. L. Weston, assistant commissary general of subsistence, chief commissary.

Major B. H. Pope, chief surgeon.

First Lieutenant J. Thompson, ordnance department.

First Lieutenant T. Green, signal officer, attached.

Major General Wade with his staff officers left for Chickamauga today.

Brigadier General Poland and Bate also left for Chickamauga, where they will report to Major General Brooke of the First Army Corps.

Troops Reach Mobile.

Mobile, Ala., May 21.—The transport Florida arrived today. The transport Orizaba is expected from New Orleans with the fifth cavalry. The torpedo boat Porlier, Lieutenant Fremont in command, arrived up this morning and has gone on the dock to be scrapped and made her keel straitened, which was sent by contact with a reef off Cuba. The lighthouse tender Arbush is taking on four miles of submarine cable to be laid at once to connect Fort Morgan with Sand Island and Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island, and thence with the main land on the western shore of the bay.

Efforts to Locate the Spanish Fleet.

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Kingston, Jamaica, May 21.—A private telegraphic inquiry concerning the Spanish fleet said to be at Kingston has failed to bring any response through the cable is a work in progress.

The Oregon at Barbadoes.

London, May 21.—A special dispatch from Barbadoes dated Friday says: The American battleship Oregon arrived here yesterday all well.

The Charleston Sails.

San Francisco, May 21.—The cruiser Charleston sailed for the Philippines this afternoon.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

Rumors of Another Decisive Naval Battle in the Windward Passage.

TWELVE SPANISH SHIPS SUNK.

The Report Lacks Confirmation--General Masso's Proclamation to the Cubans--Prize Vessels Ordered to be Sold--A Duel on the Tapis Between Two Spanish Legislators--The Monterey Ordered to Manila--No News at Navy Department as to the Fleets--The Newark in Commission--Gen. Shafter Appoints His Staff.

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Cape Haytien, May 21.—A passenger from Port de Paix, who arrived on the Haytien steamer today, brought a rumor that a fight had taken place off Mole St. Nicholas, in which twelve Spanish warships had been sunk and two American warships disabled. The report, however, lacks confirmation.

Cape Haytien, May 21.—It is reported here from a vague source that cannonading was heard off the Mole to the northward yesterday, ceasing at nightfall, and the firing was renewed early today and continued until noon.

[Mole St. Nicholas is the western point of Hayti, just across the Windward passage from the eastern point of Cuba.—Editor.]

Washington, May 21.—The confirmation of the rumored engagement off Mole St. Nicholas had not been received at the navy department up to a late hour tonight, and naval officers are disinclined to believe that the American fleet has encountered the Spaniards. It was expressly denied at the department that information even giving an intimation of a fight had been received and, further than that, it was stated that a meeting between the two fleets was hardly looked for tonight. This statement is significant, in that it indicates that the opposing squadrons are not so close together as to justify an expectation of immediate developments.

A PROCLAMATION TO THE CUBANS.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 21.—A special to The Times-Union and Citizen from Tampa says: "The text of the proclamation issued by Barthelmeo Masso, president of the Cuban republic, has reached here via New Orleans. In it Masso strongly urges the autonomists, guerillas and Cubans leaning toward Spain to come over to the Cuban ranks. He assures them that, with the aid of the United States troops, a decisive blow to Spain is soon to be struck and that the Cuban cause will soon be won. He points out that all who fail to join the Cuban forces before it shall be too late, must seek a home in some other country."

PRIZE VESSELS ORDERED TO BE SOLD.

Key West, Fla., May 21.—In the United States circuit court today several Spanish prizes, Mathilde Candidato, Sofia and Argonauta, against which pro-confesso was entered yesterday, were formally condemned and ordered to be sold. The day of the sale was not set. The rifles and ammunition found yesterday in a secret chamber of the Argonauta are valued at \$5,000. They also were condemned and ordered sold.

THE NEWS FROM MADRID.

Madrid, May 21, 3 p. m.—The information received here as to the whereabouts of the Spanish fleet is contradictory. The government maintains absolute secrecy on the subject, but it is officially declared if the Americans cut the Cuban cable the Spaniards will retaliate by cutting the Galveston cable so as to interrupt Southern Pacific communication.

3 p. m.—There was a scene in the chamber of deputies today. Senor Boris, a nephew of Senor Romero y Robledo, branded a statement of the viscount Di Pucoste as baseless. The latter requested Senor Boris to leave the chamber and, following him into the lobby, told him to consider his ears boxed. They have appointed a second and expect to have a meeting tomorrow.

Captain General Blanco cables from Havana that "in order to deceive the Americans who hoisted Spanish flags, but were immediately recognized and repulsed. The captain general also reports that insurgent bands have been defeated in the provinces of Matanzas and Havana and that several insurgents have been killed."

Prices on the bourse her today rose in expectation of favorable news.

9 p. m.—Admiral Camara, after having had several conferences with the minister of marine, Captain Almon, has returned to Cadix. The fleet commanded by the admiral will, it is said, sail under sealed orders.

9 p. m.—Great indignation is felt here over the statement contained in General Blanco's telegram that the American warships hoisted the Spanish flag before attacking Guantanamo. The newspapers contain savage attacks upon America regarding the alleged action of the United States vessels.

Washington, May 21.—The news event of the day at the navy department was the dispatch of the order to the Monterey to proceed to Manila to reinforce Admiral Dewey's squadron. The Monterey is a tower of strength in herself and her addition to Admiral Dewey's force, together with the dispatch of thousands of troops to Manila is ample evidence that the administration has assumed no half-hearted attitude toward the Philippine question and is determined to take no chance of dispossession until such time as the

THE NEWARK IN COMMISSION.


Norfolk, Va., May 21.—One thousand and sixty six shells were taken from the magazines in St. Julian's creek today and brought to the navy yard. A portion of these were put on board the United States Steamship Newark which, her repairs completed, went into commission today. The remainder were sent to Newport News and put aboard the Dixie, which is about completed and is taking stores at that place.

Five divers were sent to Key West tonight by order of the secretary of the navy. The cleaning of the vessels' bottoms, fouled by long stay in southern waters is believed to be the reason of this order.

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