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PREPARING FOR A FIGHT.

UNDIMINISHED ACTIVITY IN THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

Reason to Believe That the President Has Intimated That the Spanish Torpedo Fleet Must Stop Short of Cuba—Interest Centres in the Report of the Board of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Discussion of the Cuban question was paramount to day in both the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government. At the Capitol Senator Proctor of Vermont made a "statement" giving the result of his observations in Cuba during his recent visit. At the House end of the building the Naval Committee continued its consideration of the nearly completed annual appropriation bill, and at the War and Navy departments the work of putting the country in condition for possible war was pushed with undiminished activity. At the State Department the Cuban question was under discussion and Assistant Secretary Day had another diplomatic bout with the new Spanish Minister, Senor Polo Bernabe, who continues to display the utmost activity in the fruitless endeavor to wrest from this Government some expression of its intentions that can be made of service to Spain by its effect upon other foreign nations. Diplomacy has had little weight to day in the Spanish controversy, however, and the hurried departure of Senor Polo's predecessor marked the time when dilly-dallying gave way to action. The President, acting through Assistant Secretary Day, declined to consider Consul General Lee's recall; he declined to send relief supplies to Cuba in merchant vessels; he declined to withdraw the fleet from Key West, and now there is reason to believe that he has "intimated" to Spain that her torpedo fleet, which has set out from the Canaries, would do well to stop short of Cuba. The Spanish Minister does not admit that he has received such a notice as this, but there is good reason for believing that such is the fact.

In the War and Navy departments an embargo has been placed upon the giving out of news, but even with this handicap enough is learned of what the officials are doing to give the nation a fair idea of the completeness and comprehensiveness of the preparations being made for the threatened conflict with Spain. Not a point is being overlooked in the offensive and defensive programme.

The all-absorbing question of the hour still is, When will the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry be received in Washington, what will it contain, and how will it be made public? It is comparatively an easy matter to answer to this question fully now. Officially, however, no information is obtainable as to any branch of it, as telegraphed to The Sun last night, there is every reason to believe that the report will be in the hands of the President early next week, possibly by Monday; that it will go at once to Congress with the President's statement of his request for reparation from Spain, and that this report will be followed by a demand for indemnity if it is not at once complied with. Unofficially, too, it is known that the court will report that an outside explosion wrecked the Maine, but whether they will hold that Spain is guilty of culpable negligence is a matter which no official of the Administration appears to know.

The President, through his friends in Congress, has effectually disposed of the widely circulated report, which was entirely without foundation, that he desired to have Congress adjourn before the report of the Court of Inquiry should be submitted. This absurd report evidently grew out of the well-known desire of the leading men in both Senate and House to bring the session to a close as speedily as possible as a matter of general party policy.

The President sympathized with the movement, and felt that he would feel much more hopeful of ending the Cuban question satisfactorily and avoiding war if he were left free to act without being handicapped by the uncertainty of what Congress might do. The advocates of intervention and of even a still more radical policy of closing the controversy with Spain, now having learned of the intentions of

what they call the peace party, are prepared to oppose them, and it is therefore not improbable that Congress will remain in session until the whole controversy involved in the Cuban question is settled, whether by the peaceful methods of diplomacy or by an armed conflict. This feeling on the part of the more radical friends of Cuba does not arise from hostility to the President. It is born of their conviction that his hands would be strengthened by having Congress in session. If, however, the President should say in so many words, "after submitting the report of the Board of Inquiry and the long-delayed Consular reports, and after stating the nature of his demands upon Spain, that a satisfactory settlement of the question demanded the adjournment of Congress, he would undoubtedly have his way. His hands will be upheld hereafter, as they were upheld when he asked for the passage of the \$50,000,000 bill and the increase in the artillery force of the army.

The purpose and effect of Senator Proctor's speech to day are not yet entirely clear. The Senator says that he spoke upon his own responsibility alone, and without any desire to advocate the adoption of a particular policy of intervention in Cuba. He says that he is not in any sense the mouthpiece of the President, and that he changed his purpose of making his "statement" in the form of a newspaper interview at the request of Senators to whom he had read the manuscript, who begged him to give it the added dignity of having been delivered in the Senate. Whatever Mr. Proctor's intentions were in making the speech, it is plainly apparent that it is regarded in Congress and by the officials of the Administration as highly important and especially significant.

The advocates of a radical Cuban policy on the part of the President and Congress are highly pleased with what they regard as an unanswerable argument by the President's own friend for intervention of the most direct sort to end the war and set Cuba free at whatever cost. It is known that Senator Proctor not only did not go to Cuba at the request of the President, but that, on the contrary, Mr. McKinley greatly regretted, after the destruction of the Maine, that the Senator went at all, just as he regrets that other Senators have seen fit to go to Havana since the disaster, apparently to learn the facts of the explosion which the Naval Court of Inquiry were appointed to investigate. Mr. Proctor saw the President yesterday but did not see him when he called at the White House to day. It may be possible, as stated, therefore, that Mr. McKinley was not consulted as to the advisability of having the statement made public in the form of a speech in the Senate rather than a newspaper interview. However, the speech was listened to with profound attention, and while there is some doubt as to whether its author favors a policy that would end in war there appears to be reason for the claim of the "jingo" that it constitutes a strong plea for intervention. Some of them go further, and in justification of their claim quote the words of a Cabinet officer who said to day:

"The speech means that the President wanted the American people to understand the situation fully, so that they would be prepared to justify whatever measures, however radical, the Administration may take to end the war and declare the Cuban people free."—New York Sun.

Discovered by a Woman.

Another great discovery has been made and that too, by a lady in this country. "Disease fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly and could not sleep. She finally discovered a way to recovery by purchasing of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and was so much relieved on taking first dose, that she slept all night and with two bottles has been solutely cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz. Thus writes W. C. Hamnick & Co., of Shelby, N. C. Trial bottles free at Shuford Drug Co. Regular size 50c and \$1.00 every bottle guaranteed.

REPORT TO-DAY.

It Will Probably Not be Made Public This Week.

SPAIN WILL BE NOTIFIED FIRST.

The Court's Finding Will Then be Sent to Congress With a Message Stating the Diplomatic Action Taken With Respect to it.

Secretary Long said yesterday afternoon that the report of the Maine court of inquiry would not reach Washington before Thursday or Friday. This was given out as an official statement. The Secretary said that he heartily agreed with the suggestion that had been made that the President should be allowed a reasonable length of time to consider the report before giving it to the public. The intimation was made that the court's findings might not reach Congress this week.

The procedure in connection with the submission of the report by the President to Congress is now clearly outlined. If the report reaches Washington next Thursday, a copy of it will be laid before the Spanish government very early, and as soon as can be consistently done the report will be sent to Congress and made public at the same time.

The report to Congress will be accompanied by a message from the President, stating that after receiving the report the conclusions were laid before the Spanish government and appropriate action from that quarter asked.

It is stated positively that no part of the report, and no intimation of the findings, has as yet reached the executive authorities in Washington. At the same time it is noticeable that the current of official opinion is beginning to follow that of the unofficial opinion expressed so positively and persistently at Havana and Key West, that the cause of the explosion was external.

Officials high in the administration stated yesterday that while they were wholly without exact information as to the findings of the court of inquiry, they found themselves sharing in the conviction, for apparently intangible reasons, that the cause of the explosion was not accidental. Opinions expressed by the Maine survivors who reached here last Saturday doubtless have contributed largely to this view in official circles.

An officer of the Cabinet, in discussing the delayed report of the Maine court of inquiry and the probability of a still further delay, said:

"In so important a matter the country can well afford to give the Chief Executive, in whom it has so much confidence, reasonable time for deliberation, feeling assured that the full report will then be given out. This same confidence will lead Congress and the public to recognize that the President has the best sources of information by reason of his communications with foreign governments and his diplomatic channels, and if anybody can shape a policy which will lead to a satisfactory settlement of the present critical situation it is the President.

"The solution," he added, "may not be far off after all. The country may be sure of one thing, that the President will safeguard its rights and its honor to the utmost and will at the same time let no opportunity slip to preserve these with peace."

Yellow Jaundice Cured.

Suffering humanity should be supplied with every means possible for its relief. It is with pleasure we publish the following: "This is to certify that I was a terrible sufferer from Yellow Jaundice for over six months and was treated by some of the best physicians in our city and all to no avail. Dr. Bell our druggist, recommended Electric Bitters, and after taking two bottles I was entirely cured. I now take great pleasure in recommending them to any person suffering with this terrible malady. I am gratefully yours, M. A. Hogarty, Lexington, Ky." Sold by Shuford Drug Co.

Hood's Pills are the best family cathartic and liver tonic. Gentle, reliable, sure.

RESOLUTION OF ANNEXATION.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Agrees to Recommend It in Open Session—Text of the Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The Senate committee on foreign relations today agreed to recommend the Hawaiian Island annexation bill in open session, and agreed upon a joint resolution for the accomplishment of this purpose. Later, Chairman Davis reported the resolution in the Senate. It went to the calendar. The resolution is as follows:

"Section 1.—The government of the republic of Hawaii having in due form signified its consent in the manner provided by its constitution to cede absolutely and without reserve to the United States of America all rights of sovereignty of whatsoever kind in and to the Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies, and also to cede and transfer to the United States the absolute fee and ownership of all public government or crown lands, public buildings or edifices, harbors, military equipment and all other public property of whatever kind and description, known as belonging to the government of the Hawaiian Islands, together with every right and appurtenance thereunto appertaining, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That said cession is accepted, ratified and confirmed and that the said Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies be and they are hereby annexed as a part of the territory of the United States, and are subject to the sovereign dominion thereof and that all and singular, the property and rights herein before mentioned are vested in the United States of America."

The resolution then adopts the language of the treaty, beginning with the second paragraph of the second section and taking all the remainder of it, but it does not cite it as a part of the treaty.

These provide for the disposal of the Hawaiian public lands, for the temporary government of the islands until Congress decides upon a permanent form of government, the abrogation of Hawaiian treaties, and the preservation of the Hawaiian customs regulations until those of the United States shall be put in operation, the assumption of the public debt of Hawaii by the United States to the extent of \$4,000,000, the regulation of Chinese immigration, and the appointment by the President of five commissioners to prepare a code of laws for the government of the islands.

Section 2 provides that the commissioners provided for shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated by the third and last section for the purpose of carrying the resolution into effect, and this sum is made immediately available.

Senator Davis said no determination had been reached as to when the joint resolution would be called up for consideration in the Senate. Senator Davis submitted with the resolution an extended report of the committee, setting forth in detail the committee's reason for favoring the annexation.

President and Speaker.

Speaker Reed is attending to his public duties as President McKinley is attending to his—intriguingly diligently and conscientiously. The two men think alike about many things, although not about everything. Just now both of them are working for peace. They are agreed in the opinion that an avertable, unnecessary war would be not only a public misfortune, but a political crime.—Hartford Courant.

VIEWS OF SPANISH SAILORS.

Naval Officers Say There Was No Outside Agency in the Maine Explosion.

MADRID, March 17.—Unofficial statements which have been received here from Spanish naval officers, who have closely examined the wreck of the Maine, declare indisputably that the explosion originated on board the warship.

The greater includes the less. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures scrofula, and may be depended upon to cure boils and pimples.

THOUGHTS OF HOME.

(A Poetical Effort.)

As I stand near the Blue Ridge mountains,
And view the landscape fair,
I think of my home in the north land,
On the banks of the calm St. Clair.

The golden sun in his splendor,
Is lowering now in the west,
And the plowman weary with labor,
Returns to his home and his rest.

The smoke from the mountaineer's cottage,
Rises peacefully on the breeze,
That gently murmurs and whispers,
Among the tall pine trees.

White clouds o'er hang the blue sky,
Which redly glows in the west,
And the fowls around the farm yard,
Are seeking their place of rest.

As I gaze on the beautiful scenery,
And think of my friends at home,
There comes to my mind the question,
Do they miss me when I am gone?

'Tis sweet to know that they miss me,
What a picture of pleasure it makes,
To think how they'll welcome with gladness,
My return to "The Land of the Lakes."

Oh how great are the blessings of friendship!
The far away traveler can say,
Looking back on his friends and his loved ones,
I know they think often of me.

Ah! the sun is now disappearing,
I will leave the landscape then,
Trusting in the Heavenly father,
That I'll see the loved ones again.

—GEO. B. DANA.

SUBJECT OF INDEMNITY.

United States Must Prove Negligence on the Part of Spain.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 17.—E. J. Phelps, ex-United States Minister to England, discussing the subject of the claim of the United States for indemnity for the loss of the Maine, today said:

"Had the Maine been blown up through the agency of Spain, the destruction of the ship would have been an act of war. But that supposition is not, in my judgment, conceivable, and it may, I think, be safely assumed that the report of the board of inquiry will reject it. If it shall appear by the report that the explosion was caused from the outside, and by the agency of Spanish subjects, the United States government will still have no claim upon Spain for reparation, unless it could also be shown that the occurrence was due to the neglect of the Spanish authorities to afford such protection against it, as in the exercise of ordinary prudence and care was requisite and within their power.

"While the comity and usage of nations admits to their ports the public vessels of countries with which their relations are friendly, and receives them with marked tokens of courtesy and respect, the safety of such ships against accident or outrage by parties unknown is not guaranteed by the nation in whose waters they lie, and especially where no reason for apprehending such an event is known to exist. All that can be required, where no danger of that sort is anticipated is that the usual and ordinary precautions of police and harbor regulations shall be observed, and that prompt action shall follow any warning that it is likely to be necessary.

"Whether due care has been observed in these respects is a question of fact to be determined upon the evidence and the circumstances of the case, in regard to which no arbitrary rule can be laid down beforehand. The burden of proof in case of dispute is upon the party who claims that the injury is due to official neglect. But it would be an unjust imputation upon the nations concerned to anticipate that such a question, in the case of such a calamity, would not be discussed on both sides with a fairness and candor that would lead to a right and satisfactory conclusion, and avoid any disturbance of the relations between the countries."

CASTORIA.

The greater includes the less. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures scrofula, and may be depended upon to cure boils and pimples.