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WAR SEEMS CERTAIN.

Last Hope For Peace Said to Be Gone. Bloodthirsty Spaniards Murder Two Hundred Starving Reconcentrados.

LEE TO MAKE STARTLING DISCLOSURES.

Cabinet Discussing Means of Carrying on War. Is McKinley "Crawfishing" Again? Spanish Fleet Sails for Canary Islands. Gen. Lee to Make Startling Disclosures About Conspiracy to Blow Up the Maine. War Regarded as Inevitable.

The war news yesterday as shown by FREE PRESS bulletins, opened with statements looking as if war is certain. This was followed early last night with opinions from official circles in Washington to the effect that McKinley still hopes for peace, which we suppose means that he hopes Spain will concede U. S. demands. Most people, however, have come to the conclusion that McKinley will back down if he has a chance.

The queen regent of Spain is doing her best to avert war, but Spanish butcheries in Cuba continue, and there is fighting between Spaniards and insurgents.

Foreign powers to take no further steps towards mediation.

Lee leaves Havana today and to make startling disclosures Monday regarding conspiracy to blow up the Maine. Consul General ordered to leave Porto-Rico. Army officers ordered to their regiments.

Spanish cabinet secretly considering a question of grave importance, surmised to be a communication from the Pope.

All prospects of peace said to be gone. A member of the Spanish cabinet quoted as saying war is inevitable.

Frequent conferences around the white house and war and state departments are the only outward signs of the approaching crisis in Cuban affairs. Pending the culmination of diplomatic developments, which is approaching, the president is avoiding all possible outward evidence of a crisis. The president's message will be placed before congress Monday unless some radical changes in the program take place between now and then. Meanwhile the departure of American citizens from Cuba continues.

Minister Woodford is arranging to leave Madrid at a moment's notice. Members of the senate foreign relations committee say that war is inevitable, and the discussion is directed toward the method of procedure. A hundred Republicans have been pledged to insist on the message being sent to congress Monday.

IS MCKINLEY "CRAWFISHING" AGAIN? Washington, April 8, 6 p. m.—In official circles the opinion was freely expressed late this afternoon that the message will not go to congress Monday. It is given out semi-officially that the president hopes to be able to destroy his war message and substitute a peace communication to congress.

SPANISH FLEET SAILS. Senor Barnabe, the Spanish minister, is advised that the Spanish flotilla has sailed from Cadix for the Canary islands. This flotilla is composed of three battleships and twelve cruisers.

The Cuban delegation here says that 300 reconcentrados have been murdered by Spaniards in Cuba this week.

CENSORSHIP MORE RIGOROUS. Consideration of Peaceful Solution Involves a Reconstruction of Spanish Ministry. Queen Regent Urging Peace.

By Cable to THE FREE PRESS. Madrid, April 8.—Spain's laconic war minister, Gen. Correa, has at last broken his silence. In an interview yesterday he said: "War is the better of two evils. It is better to fight foreigners than to fight Spaniards rising in indignation if their honor and rights are trampled under foot." The ministry held a secret session today. The censorship of telegraph messages is becoming more rigorous. The consideration of a peaceful solution of the situation will involve a reconstruction of the ministry.

The queen regent is using all of her influence for the preservation of peace, and is endeavoring to bring about an armistice in Cuba.

BLOODTHIRSTY SPANIARDS. Murder 200 Starving Reconcentrados. Good Friday Observed in Havana.

By Cable to THE FREE PRESS. Havana, April 8.—Two hundred starving reconcentrados availed themselves of permission to go beyond the limits and went beyond the dead line to work. Spanish troops followed and murdered all of them.

Everything is now quiet in the city. Expectancy and doubt continue. The observance of Good Friday is a more general topic than the war of diplomacy. Beginning with today the code of telegrams to and from Cuba must be translated in the censor's office, with the code in sight.

GRAVER THAN EVER. Said That All Prospects of Peace Are Gone. Lee to Make Startling Disclosures About Conspiracy to Blow Up the Maine. Army Officers Ordered to Their Regiments. War Regarded as Inevitable.

By Telegraph to THE FREE PRESS. Raleigh, April 8.—Press telegrams at 9:30 o'clock say the situation is graver than ever, and that all prospects of peace are gone.

It is asserted that the European powers will take no further steps towards mediation at Washington.

It is said that Gen. Lee will make some startling disclosures regarding the conspiracy to blow up the Maine, when he appears before the foreign relations committee next Monday to give in his evidence. He leaves Havana tomorrow.

The United States consul general at Porto Rico has been ordered to leave immediately.

Many army officers on duty at military colleges and on other special duty have been ordered to join their regiments.

The Spanish cabinet at Madrid was reported to be considering, with unusual secrecy, some question of grave importance. It was surmised that the matter might be a communication from the Pope. A member of the Spanish cabinet was quoted as saying that he regards war with the United States as inevitable.

FIGHTING IN CUBA. Garcia and Gomez Have Joined Forces to Move on Havana.

By Cable to THE FREE PRESS. Key West, April 8.—There is fighting sixty miles from Havana. Great activity of Spaniards and insurgents is reported.

Gens. Garcia and Gomez have formed a junction and are awaiting a naval demonstration by the United States to move on Havana.

The Spaniards are rushing a large force of field artillery into the back country, in order to oppose the possibility of the United States invading forces and for the purpose of checking the advance of Garcia and Gomez.

GLENFIELD ITEMS.

April 7, 1898. Miss Lizzie Moore closed her school last Friday.

Mess. Britt Sugg and Jim Warters visited near Institute Sunday.

Miss Nannie Barwick, of Ft. Barnwell, is visiting Miss Pattie Lassiter.

Several from this vicinity attended church at Wheat Swamp last Sunday.

We are having a rather cool spell now, but hope that the fruit is not damaged.

Miss Emma Sugg and Mr. H. M. Warters spent Sunday with Miss Belle Pridden.

Mess. Ray Dawson and Frank White, of Institute, were visiting near here Sunday.

Miss Annie Canady is visiting her sister, Mrs. Wm. Gooding, of Cadez, Jones county.

Mr. Thos. Harper and family, of Snow Hill, spent last Sunday at Mr. J. F. Hooker's.

Misses Lizzie and Sallie Moore visited Miss Mattie Albritton, of Snow Hill, last Saturday.

Miss Mollie Hardy and Mr. George Allen were visiting at Mr. J. J. Moore's last Sunday.

The farmers of this section are having a pretty tough time of it hauling their fertilizer from Kinston.

WAR IS NOW INEVITABLE.

So Says The Washington Post, Which is Close to The Administration.

Washington, April 8.—The Washington Post today says: War is now inevitable unless Spain should absolutely surrender, and this is an event which is not expected.

The president's message, recommending immediate armed intervention and reciting at length the injuries which the mis-government of Spain in Cuba has inflicted upon American commerce and American citizens, culminating in the destruction of the battleship Maine, stands unchanged. It will be sent to congress next Monday, unless, as The Post stated yesterday, Spain should agree to the withdrawal of her flag from the island and the abandonment of her sovereignty.

Another, and probably the most significant actual step, showing the finality reached by the United States government, was the authoritative statement that Consul General Lee would leave Havana on Saturday. This step, it is known, will be regarded by Spain as akin to an overt act, preceding war, as it will terminate the medium of official intercourse between the United States and the island. Gen. Lee has cabled that he believes it will be possible to get all the Americans off the island by tomorrow.

His anxiety in their behalf, while probably occasioned by a fear of a massacre, is probably due more to the fact that if they did not leave at this time they will remain virtual prisoners on the island for an indefinite length of time. If Havana is bombarded and the island is invested, the Americans who remain will find it very difficult to either communicate with the United States or escape. This is the practical view of his appeal for time to transport all American citizens to American soil.

DOVER ITEMS.

April 6, 1898.

Mr. W. A. Wilson made a business trip to Goldsboro Tuesday.

Mrs. Sallie Rouse, of near Woodington, is spending some time with relatives here.

Mrs. Thompson, of Goldsboro, came Tuesday to visit at her son's, Mr. A. P. Thompson. Her son, Mr. L. G. Thompson, accompanied her.

We are glad to note that Mess. West & White's business at their basket and barrel factory is of such volume as to require them to run on extra time.

Rev. J. W. Crowson filled his regular appointment at the Methodist church Sunday morning and night. We have heard his morning sermon highly spoken of.

We have heard faintly a sound of marriage bells, but will not proclaim it loudly yet. It is said that a Carpenter is at work out West, in the Close section preparing for the reunion of the hearts and hands.

The public school at Wise Fork, which was taught by Mr. G. B. Wilson, closed today. The true teacher, devoted to his calling, feels an interest in and attachment to his pupils and parts from them with reluctance.

We wish the editor the full measure of success with the DAILY FREE PRESS, which his perseverance in trying to keep his patrons abreast with the times and furnish them with interesting and reliable reading matter merits.

A colored man, whose name we have forgotten, who was at work for Mess. Hines Bros. Lumber Co.'s logging business, had his leg so badly crushed by a log rolling on it last Thursday that amputation was necessary. Dr. J. W. Duguid did the work successfully.

The Goldsboro Lumber Co.'s planing mills have been stopped for several days on account of a break down of some part of the machinery, and the boys have been spending the time in gunning and other sports. We suppose that they have the break down about repaired and are about ready to resume work.

CLOSS ITEMS.

April 7, 1898.

Our farmers have finished planting corn. The children at Bethany are preparing for Easter Sunday.

Mr. J. W. Pollock is expecting to be called to go to war every day.

Mess. Will and Harry Lane, of Hickory Grove, spent Sunday with Mr. John Pearce.

Mrs. S. D. West spent Monday and Tuesday at Dover, visiting Mrs. R. A. Richardson.

Mr. Whitehurst, of Kinston, was here yesterday and bought some fine cattle from Mr. John Kilpatrick.

A few days ago a buzzard with a tiny bell around its neck was seen near Mr. James Daughety's. Some of the young men were greatly interested in the buzzard, as they had never heard of such a thing.

HOOBERTON ITEMS.

April 7, 1898.

Mr. W. O. Dixon went to Snow Hill Monday.

Mr. W. M. Edwards made a business trip to Grifton Monday.

Miss Treasa Potter went to Snow Hill Monday to visit friends.

Our clever and genial postmaster is all smiles this week. It is a fine girl.

Mr. A. L. Sasser, of Goldsboro, returned home Monday after visiting here a few days.

Mr. H. C. Brooks, of Grifton, spent Monday night with Mr. D. H. Dixon, on his way to Goldsboro.

Some are afraid that the frost and cold weather, which we have been having for the last few days, will make fruit scarce this year.

The water in the creek is high enough for boats to run now. Steamers Laura and Nettie came up yesterday and others will be up today.

Mrs. A. L. Sasser, from whose head Dr. Jordan removed six encysted tumors (wens) last Monday evening, is doing well. This is a total of sixteen the doctor has removed from her in three sittings.

Mrs. Fannie Albritton, than whom there is no more self-sacrificing Christian worker, called a meeting of the Woman's Church Autograph Quilt society Monday night, when the amount of fifty dollars was pledged to the church fund. This quilt will contain twenty-five squares with eighteen names to the square. For ten cents your autograph can be placed thereon. The quilt will be disposed of to the highest bidder when completed. The ladies deserve great credit for their effort to remodel our church here. Work on the church will be commenced at once.

A Beautiful Exhibit.

The advent of spring was most beautifully characterized at the formal opening of Mess. Einstein Bros. last Wednesday and Thursday. It was a scene of grandeur, and from the favorable comment of fair feminine admirers, we judge it was an occasion of exceptional elegance and one long to be remembered. The visitor, upon entering the store, was greeted with a perfect mass of beautiful silks, dress goods, ribbons, laces, parasols, fans, slirt waists and other lines of women's apparel so various that to mention all would embrace any and everything to be found in a thoroughly modern dry good store.

The display of silks and wash goods was especially meritorious, and in these lines we noticed some special effects in organdies, grenadines and mousseline de soie. The latter, sold exclusively by this firm, is a silk material of the finest texture and a fabric of marked elegance.

Some very fine laces and ribbons were shown and also the new liberty silk chiffons, gauzy, fluffy material now so popular and so extensively used for covering fronts.

All the new ideas in neckwear, belts and other little things of this character were lavishly shown, and the fans and parasols were all beautiful. Such a collection as one would scarcely believe could be handled in a town this size.

On the whole the occasion was, we dare say, the finest thing of the kind ever attempted here, and the results from such an effort cannot help but prove satisfactory and profitable. This firm pays special attention to mail orders, and out of town patrons can have samples for the asking.

Naval Reserves Elect Officers.

The Naval Reserves met in the town hall last night to elect a junior lieutenant. Lieut. W. D. Pollock presided. Mr. N. B. Moore was elected without opposition unanimously. Mr. Moore made a nice little speech of thanks.

Mr. W. B. Coleman was unanimously elected ensign in place of Mr. N. B. Moore. Mr. Coleman also made a nice little speech of thanks.

Lieut. Pollock announced that the old esteemed commander of the division, Dr. Harper, had been appointed chaplain for the North Carolina battalion.

Dr. Harper made a short and impressive speech and said that he would be with the soldier boys.

Mess. E. E. Sugg, R. R. Rouse, W. C. Fields, Jr., Ed Morton and A. R. Jones enlisted last night.

McKinley Hanged in Effigy.

The people of Lumberton, N. C., held an indignation meeting Thursday night and hanged McKinley in effigy. The figure was a large man of straw kneeling at the feet of Mark Hanna. At the foot of the effigy a United States flag was dragged in the dust by a chariot of gold, driven by Mark Hanna.

Mines in North Carolina Harbors.

A detachment of engineers of the U. S. army arrived at Ft. Caswell, near Wilmington, Thursday, to mine the bar and its approaches. They will also go to Beaufort to lay mines there.