

PRESIDENT AND CABINET

CONSIDER THE REPORT

Explosion From External Causes But Responsibility Not Fixed.

INDEMNITY PROBABLY NOT TO BE ASKED

But Everything Points to Hostilities Growing Out of the Cuban Question.

HOW NEATLY A REPORTER CAUGHT ADMIRAL

Sicard, Who Practically Admits the Report Finds the Explosion Was Ex- ternal and Probably Was Due to a Mine—Spain Wants the Reports of the Spanish and American Boards Compared and "Harmonized"— Delay the Object, With the Cuban Rainy Season Probably in View— Uncle Sam Fully Prepared, and Could Train His Guns on the Enemy's Ships This Morning if Necessary.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—After re- ceiving the report in the possession of Admiral Sicaud, the custodian of the document from Key West, the report of the Naval Court of Enquiry, containing the evidence and testimony of the wreck of the "Maine" at 9 o'clock this morning, the President and Cabinet took the document to the House where, at the request of the President, after a long session, over by the President, the chief subject of the explosion of that body.

The report finds that the "Maine" was blown up by external agencies, and that there were two explosions. The explosion, it is understood, was the result of the explosion of the "Maine" who have arrived here. The report will be transmitted to the President tomorrow, and the President will probably have to wait until Monday, when it is expected that it will be transmitted to him, with an accompanying report on the subject.

The question much will depend on the result of the correspondence between the Department of State and the Spanish Government. Mr. McKinley's forthcoming message to Congress, therefore, on the subject of Cuban freedom will probably be forwarded to with the report.

It is not expected on the "Maine" wreck, per se, as the result of this government's name in the Cuban question. It is the fact that the report is found to have operated as a wedge in the relations between the United States and Spain, and that Spain is not likely to be better had that occurred.

The attention of the Spanish Government is particularly attracted to the fact that Uncle Sam is keeping a close watch on the vessel. The tension between the two countries is to be expected, and the approach of the "Maine" towards America is a matter of great concern.

The latter was questioned at the instance of the Spanish Government, and the "meaning" of the report has been altogether different to the government.

Does Not Want the Naval Boards Report Submitted to That Body and Spanish Minister Instructed to Present It if Possible.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—The possibility of the United States is the subject of discussion in this city. The report is so discredited over the report of the President that the report of the "Maine" report is so discredited over the attitude of the Spanish Government.

come towards buying a first class cruiser.

The same semi-official statement adds, that before President McKinley sends Congress the report of the Naval Board, the Spanish Government will request him to come to an agreement with Spain on the matter of submitting it to arbitration.

Instructions have been sent to Spanish Minister Polo y Bernabe, at Washington, to work for arbitration and to try and prevent the sending of the report to Congress.

WHAT SPANISH REPORT SAYS.

Admiral Manterola Claims Explosion of "Maine" "Scientifically Demonstrated" to Have Been Internal.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, March 25.—A despatch to the News Agency confirms the statement that Admiral Manterola has informed his government that the "Maine" was blown up by an internal explosion.

The despatch adds that the "Spanish report states that it has been scientifically and practically demonstrated that the explosion occurred in the interior of the "Maine."

Cabled to Minister Woodford.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—Assistant Secretary Day has been busy engaged today arranging a synopsis of the Court of Enquiry's report to be transmitted to Gen. Woodford, the United States Minister to Spain, at Madrid. The synopsis will give an outline of the findings of the court, for the information of the Spanish government, which will be transmitted by Minister Woodford. The cablegram was sent tonight.

HOW THE ADMIRAL WAS CAUGHT

Sicard Unwittingly Tells What the Board of Enquiry's Report Contains Aneet the Cause of Explosion—Outside Explosion Certain.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Key West, Fla., March 25.—A private despatch, saying that the report of the "Maine" Board of Enquiry had been made public, was shown to Admiral Sicaud this afternoon. In reply to the suggestion that the report would create great excitement, he said:

"I think not. Ninety-nine people in a hundred already believed in the theory of an outside explosion. They will at least not be surprised."

When reference was made to the question of whether a stationary or floating mine did the work, he said the depth of the water was very favorable to the use of a located mine.

"But the Spanish Minister denied that there were mines in the harbor," said the reporter.

"Well," replied the admiral, "if it had been my harbor, I would have mined it."

SPAIN'S POLICY OF DELAY.

Wants to Compare and "Harmonize" Reports, Which Being Impossible of Course, Arbitration Will Be Asked For—Remember the Cuban Rainy Season.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, March 25.—At the cabinet meeting here it was resolved to propose to the United States that the Spanish and American reports on the loss of the "Maine" be compared before they are published in order that they may be made harmonious, and if such agreement is found to be impossible, then the question should be submitted to arbitration.

UNCLE SAM IS PREPARED.

War Eventuates Over the Settlement of the Cuban Question, the U. S. Government Will Be Ready for It—Not Expected to Result From the "Maine" Incident—That Torpedo Flotilla Again.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—Although it is certain that the "Maine" was blown up by some outside agency, and that there are suspicious circumstances connected with the anchoring of that ill-fated vessel over the particular spot where she was blown up, it can be pretty definitely stated tonight, and on good authority, that no indemnity will be asked of Spain by this government.

But war has never been more probable between the two countries than at this moment.

And if war comes it will find the United States fully prepared. The many important steps taken yesterday, as detailed in these despatches last night, add to those of today and heretofore, by the Navy and War Departments have about completed a perfect chain of precautionary measures.

The orders of these departments which have followed each other with such significant rapidity serve to place this country on a splendid war footing, which by the time war is precipitated, if it is at all, will be well nigh perfect.

The impression is growing here that Spain means to fight before she will relinquish control over Cuba. As to selling the island, it is not believed that the Sagasta ministry would even entertain the proposition.

That the American people and the Congress, in both branches, demand the cessation of the policy of murder and starvation which Spain is now enforcing in Cuba, does not admit of a doubt. It is believed, too, that President McKinley is disposed to make that exaction of the Spanish government. But it appears that he means to exhaust all available diplomatic methods of bringing about the peaceful solution of that question.

Failing in that, however, as it now certainly looks will be the case, those who know him best declare that he will not hesitate when the pinch comes to relieve that bleeding, starving people through the arbitration of war if it becomes necessary.

MORE HONORS AWAIT SAMPSON.

To Be Made Commander of All the Naval Forces of the U. S. If War Eventuates—Regarded by President as the Man for the Occasion.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—The assignment of Captain Sampson as commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic naval stations, as announced in these despatches, is merely preliminary to a still greater compliment which is to be soon paid that officer.

It was decided, after a careful consideration of the claims and fitness of the higher naval officers, that Captain Sampson is the man for the occasion, and should war be declared he will be nominated to the Senate by President McKinley as Rear Admiral of all the naval forces of the United States.

SCHLEY TO COMMAND KEY WEST SQUADRON.

Commodore Schley will command the Hampton Roads squadron, as stated last night, and will be ready there for any duty requiring quickness and despatch, such as the intercepting of the torpedo boat flotilla or the overtaking the fleet of transports with supplies for the enemy.

Capt. Evans, the new commander of the "Iowa," will undoubtedly be given charge of the Key West squadron if Sampson is made commander-in-chief of all the American naval forces.

It is understood that he was placed on the "Iowa" with that purpose in view.

Full crews for the "Minneapolis" and the "Columbia" will be received by tomorrow at League Island navy yard, and on Sunday or Monday they will sail for Hampton Roads, to join the flying squadron.

These ships were ordered into commission three weeks ago, and since then the naval officials have been making strenuous efforts to secure sufficient men to give them large complements.

There has been a rush of applicants for enlistment, but much difficulty is experienced in securing the class of material desired. Today seventy-three sailors were shipped from Erie to League Island for the ships, some of the men coming from the old "Michigan" on the great lakes, and the remainder being raw recruits.

The most important emergency order of the day was merely that all battleships, cruisers and other vessels under Commanders Sampson and Schley, with the exception of the torpedo boats, shall be painted black at once.

Many tons of black paint will be shipped to Key West and Hampton Roads at once, to enable the carrying out of these orders, and the blue jackets will have plenty to do.

Black is considered the best color for ships in war times. They cannot be seen so distinctly at night, and do not present so good a target in the day time.

The order was given with especial reference to the coming of the dangerous Spanish torpedo flotilla.

SPANISH CRUELTY MUST STOP

President Decides to End Barbarities in Cuba.

UNCLE SAM WILL NOW TAKE A HAND

In the Settlement of Affairs on the Island and Will So Notify Sagasta Next Week—Unless Spain Voluntarily Relinquishes Her Hold on the Bleeding and Starved Isle, the United States Government Will Break Her Hold in the Name of Humanity—Message From President to Congress Next Tuesday—Rumored That Gen. Lee is to Leave Havana.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—With almost bewildering swiftness the controversy between the United States and Spain is approaching a crisis.

Today's events have been of the most momentous importance and of the most exciting character, and the situation will undoubtedly become hourly more intense until it culminates on next Monday in the official publication of the report of the Naval Board of Enquiry.

According to President McKinley's present plan, on Tuesday he will send a message to Congress announcing that he has notified Spain that he has asked Congress for a large appropriation for supplies to be sent to Cuba, in merchant vessels, and notifying Spain that it is the purpose of the United States to put an end to the horrors of the Cuban war.

The President's plans of further intervention is to secure a system of self-government for the Cubans, with the assent of Spain, if possible; otherwise, without it.

When the facts of the court's findings are officially promulgated it will be difficult to restrain Congressmen from taking such action as will cause Spain to relinquish her hold upon the island for to fight; and it will be incumbent, therefore, upon the President to quickly make known his plans if he, and not Congress, is to take the initiative.

Mr. McKinley is still hopeful that his plans can be put in operation without bringing on war. He is cautious, almost to the point of timidity, about assuming the details of his policy, for fear of saying or having anything said that will cause his purposes and plans to be misrepresented and so bring about premature acts of hostility.

For the past forty-eight hours the President has been urged, almost to the point of desperation, by high officials, to accept the sailing of the Spanish torpedo flotilla as an hostile act, but has persistently declined to do so, thus far.

RJ MORRIS TO LEAVE HAVANA.

No Facts to Support It, However, Other Than That the "Nashville" Received Orders Last Night to Go There—Important Movement of Fleet at Havana Impending.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Key West, Fla., March 25.—More official despatches have been transmitted to and from the squadron here today than on any day since the "Maine" disaster.

It is believed that some important movement of the fleet is impending.

It is reported that the gunboat "Nashville" goes to Havana tonight, but this is denied by the officers. She is under sailing orders, however, and may go tomorrow.

It is definite known that Captain Chadwick has been detached from the "New York" and ordered to go North, and hold himself in readiness for his next command; and that Lieut. York Noel, who brought the tug "Samoset" here, has also been detached and sent North under orders similar to those given Chadwick.

There is no foundation in the facts known here for the circulation of the statement, sent out tonight, that the "Nashville" is under orders to go after Consul General Lee and bring him home.

A messenger from the "Nashville" came ashore at 10:45 o'clock tonight, however, with orders for all of her crew to go on board.

He said that his ship had just received orders to go to Havana, but that fact does not imply that she is to "go after General Lee," in the absence of any direct information to that effect.

DEPENDENT ON ITALY NOW.

If the U. S. Government is to Get Any More Warships Abroad Italy is the Only Probable Source of Supply.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, Eng., March 25.—Commander Brownson, who arrived in Paris a few days ago, has gone to Italy to pursue his negotiations for the purchase of warships for the United States.

No other ships than those which Italy may possibly be induced to dispose of, are obtainable in Europe now.

At Holyoake, Mass., a company has just been organized to build a machine for removing the burr from cotton and wool, cleaning and preparing the fibre for spinning purposes.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate Not in Session and That of the House Wasted Through Filibustering Tactics.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—The session of the House today was almost entirely wasted, and when adjournment came it was the understanding that the Committee on Rules would report an order tomorrow providing for the speedy passage of the Naval Appropriation bill.

After Foss (of Illinois), a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, had concluded an hour's speech extolling the prowess of the American navy, Stewart (of New Jersey) and Bartholdi (of Missouri) spoke under the five-minute rule.

Hartman (of Montana) then began a political speech, against which Mr. Boutelle made a point of order.

This was sustained by the chairman, and the Democratic leaders, feeling that they were being discriminated against, filibustered with such vigor that very little of the bill was read, forcing the Republicans to decide on the above outlined plan.

MR. PEARSON'S QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—Just before the House adjourned Pearson (N. C.), arose to a question of personal privilege, and stated that newspapers in his State had charged him with violating the franking privilege. It was not true, he said, and he was permitted to insert in the Record evidence supporting his assertion.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Special Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—Congressman Pearson stated that the letters alluded to were franked owing to a mistake made by his clerk; that as soon as discovered he paid the postage.

RAILROAD SUITS CONTINUED.

Case Looking to the Appointment of a Receiver of the Western N. C. Railroad, and Suit to Stop It.

Special Telegram to The Morning Post.

Salisbury, N. C., March 25.—The case of S. T. Pearson and Mrs. Clemmy E. James, administratrix, against the Southern Railway, set for hearing today before Judge McIver at Asheboro, upon the motion for the appointment of a receiver for the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, was continued until the May term of Rowan Superior Court and by consent. Also the case of the Southern Railway Company against S. T. Pearson and Mrs. James, set for a hearing before Judge Simonton on the 5th day of April, in the Circuit Court of the United States in the State court, was, by consent, also continued, the latter until Tuesday of the June term of the Circuit Court of the United States at Charlotte.

REHABILITATION BALTO & OHIO.

Pierpont Morgan & Co. Have a Plan for its Effectuation, Etc.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Baltimore, Md., March 25.—The interest in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad represented by Pierpont Morgan & Co. are endeavoring to have the bill now before the State Legislature providing for a reorganization of that road amended, in order that persons, other than those named in the bill as incorporators, may rehabilitate the company if it be to the advantage of all concerned.

RENEWED WAR PREPARATIONS.

War Department Can Mobilize Army East of Rockies on the Coast in 5 Days—Big Expenditures Authorized.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—With nearly the whole standing army ready to move toward the seaboard on the receipt of orders, which will probably be transmitted in a few hours, the War Department resumed today with renewed energy its preparations for the defense of the whole Eastern coast.

The President has authorized the Ordnance Bureau to expend nearly \$400,000 additional, and the Signal Corps to expend \$100,000 in electrical apparatus alone.

The Ordnance Bureau will purchase heavy guns, the contracts for which were allotted today. The Bureau of Military Information has prosecuted inquiries which brought out the encouraging fact that the entire national guard of the country, east of the Rocky Mountains, can be landed on the Atlantic coast within five days after ordered. Thirty thousand tents have been ordered for the use of the militia.

"CONFLICT UNAVOIDABLE"

Opinion of Leading Spanish Paper at Madrid Based on Despatches From America.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, March 25.—The Imparcial, in commenting upon the situation outlined in its cable despatches from America, says:

"A conflict is unavoidable. The United States forces Spain into it in a most brutal fashion. To send the 'Maine' report to Congress is the same as throwing a lighted torch into a barrel of gun-powder."

THREE MEETINGS OF CABINET

Held Yesterday to Consider the Maine Report.

WHAT WILL SPAIN DO ABOUT IT NOW

Synopsis of the Board of Enquiry's Report Prepared and Cabled to Minister Woodford at Madrid Last Night, With Instructions to Ask the Sagasta Ministry What Spain Intends to Do About It—What Will the Answer Be?—A Proposition to Arbitrate, no Doubt—Senator Edmunds the Great International Law Expert Consulted, Etc.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—Two long Cabinet meetings today, and further conferences tonight, marked the receipt by the Government of the findings of the "Maine" Court of Enquiry.

The Cabinet met at 11 o'clock, and after hearing the findings, discussed the character of action that should follow.

The second meeting was held this afternoon.

Tonight the President is in consultation with Vice-President Hobart, ex-Senator Edmunds (of Vermont), (an authority on international law), and Mr. Adee, Second Assistant Secretary of State.

The findings of the court are terse and leave no doubt as to the court's meaning; and while nobody at the Cabinet meeting will disclose the contents of the document, it is hinted that they do not differ materially from the reports already published, sustaining the outside explosion theory and indicating design in the destruction of the "Maine."

The President told the Cabinet that he would send the report to Congress Monday, with a mere message of transmittal. The second session of the Cabinet was notable, because of Secretary Long's absence.

The first outcome of these meetings was the transmittal, by cable, to Gen. Woodford, United States Minister to Spain, at Madrid, for presentation to the Spanish Government, of the text of the court's findings, with the request for a statement of what Spain intends to do about it.

THE FLEET AT KEY WEST.

Immense Piles of Provisions for the Ships—Orders Relieving Admiral Sicaud Not Received Yesterday But Will Likely Reach Key West Today.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Key West, Fla., March 25.—The steamer "Mangrove" left here for Havana this afternoon, to bring back the guns and other material saved from the wreck of the "Maine."

Not since the Civil War have the people seen the Government dock here in such a condition as it has been today. There was literally an acre of space piled high with barrels and boxes of supplies for the sailors of the squadron.

Admiral Sicaud and Capt. Sampson held a consultation here this morning, after which the two went off to the fleet.

Admiral Sicaud has not yet received the orders to turn over the command of the fleet to Capt. Sampson, which were issued from Washington yesterday, but they will probably turn up tomorrow.

MORE BODIES RECOVERED.

By the despatches from Capt. Sigbee, it is learned that six more bodies of the crew have been recovered, making in all nine that now await shipment. These will come tomorrow.

SAMBO WILL HELP SETTLE SPAIN.

As the Cubans Are Largely Negroes It is Evidently Felt That He Should—Great Excitement Among South Carolina Darkies.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Charleston, S. C., March 25.—W. H. Robertson, Colonel commanding the First (colored) Regiment, National Guards of South Carolina, notified Governor Elerbe tonight that he had 1,000 negro soldiers ready to march toward Havana tomorrow.

Great excitement prevails among the South Carolina negroes.

Robertson says he can get 5,000 men in line within a week. One company has been organized and equipped. A conference of war among the officers of all the negro troops will be held Sunday, to feel the strength of the command and to make an appeal to the State government for arms, etc.

GEN. WHEELER'S RESOLUTIONS.

They Provide for Appropriation of \$11 the Money President May See Fit to Use in Case of War, Etc.

By Telegram to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 25.—Representative Wheeler (Democrat, of Alabama) introduced in the House today a bill "to provide for the safety of this country and to protect its honor and prestige."

It provides that, in the event of act of war being committed prior to the next session of the Congress, the President is authorized to accept tenders of volunteer troops, purchase arms and munitions of war, equip troops, etc., and that the necessary money to carry out these provisions is hereby appropriated.