

## WILL HE BREAK THE BLOCKADE?

### Can the Spanish Government's Orders to Admiral Cervera be Accomplished, and the Verde Fleet Get Into Havana Before Sampson and Schley Intercept It?

## SPANISH FLEET BEEN LURKING IN GULF OF VENEZUELA

### Where It Could Keep Away From Cable Lines and Publicity, and Possibly Ambush the Oregon as She Proceeds Along the Venezuelan Coast on the Way to Cuba or Key West.

## SAMPSON AND SCHLEY TRYING TO INTERCEPT SPANIARDS

### If Cervera Attempts to Get into Havana—What the Chances of Their Doing So Are—Although the Verde Fleet was Located Sunday in Gulf of Venezuela, Less than One Hundred Miles From Curacao, Nothing Can be Learned of Its Movements Since—May Turn Up Any Day at Havana or Cienfuegos, and Sampson and Schley May Form a Junction or Arrange a Net for It in Time—Sampson's Whereabouts Very Properly Kept a Profound Secret by the Naval Authorities at Washington—The Blockade Must Soon be Broken or the City of Havana Capitulated, Else Starvation Will be the Fate of the Spanish as Well as Native Populace of Cuba, and Spanish Army on the Island as Well.

Admiral Cervera, commanding the Spanish Cape Verde fleet, which may possibly have been reinforced to some extent, as noted elsewhere in this paper, is supposed to be still lurking in the Gulf of Venezuela, away from cable lines.

That is in consonance with the information at hand at this writing. Nevertheless it is possible that today, even, the Spaniard may turn up at Havana in an attempt to break the blockade, or at Cienfuegos, or at San Juan. Such is the reputation which this disappearing fleet has already acquired that neither event would cause any surprise to American naval officers. For there is no cable office in the Gulf to tell of Cervera's movements since he arrived there Sunday.

Or Cervera may continue to lurk for some time yet.

That he is not anxious to meet either of the American naval commanders, so cautiously seeking him, in the open is becoming painfully apparent; that he would like above all things to break the Cuban blockade—that to break it was his intention a few days ago if it is not still—equally evident; that the blockade must be broken, and the city capitulated, or the major portion of the people die of starvation very soon is as certain as anything well can be.

Blanco evidently is relying on Cervera to break the blockade, and he (the Captain General) has been making active preparations to withstand American efforts to capture the city before it is broken, until now it is said that Havana's defenses are much stronger than a few weeks ago.

Thus the delay, as Gen. Lee pointed out weeks ago, has acted in Spain's favor in this matter as well as in almost every other contingency. Delay is the one thing which the Spaniards have sought from the beginning of the trouble.

**CERVERA'S MOVEMENTS.**

It is believed that the Madrid government has ordered Cervera to break the blockade and relieve Captain General Blanco. There are many reasons for this belief, and the fact that starvation is staring, not only the populace but the Spanish army in Cuba, in the face is not among the least of them.

But Cervera certainly does not appear to be in any hurry to make the effort.

When the Spanish Admiral left Curacao last Sunday, which now appears to be an accepted fact with the Washington government, he moved to the Gulf of Venezuela.

This Gulf is a large indentation of the Caribbean Sea in the northeast coast of Venezuela, and is not a hundred miles from the Island of Curacao, which he was forced to leave.

The United States government has information that the Spanish fleet expected to make connection with its coilers there, and have therefore been awaiting their arrival in the Gulf. The fleet did not coal at Curacao, as was alleged. In proof of this the following despatch from Washington is appended:

**WHAT THE DUTCH MINISTERS SAY.**

Washington, May 17.—The State Department has lost no time in bringing the Dutch government up to the point for allowing the Spanish fleet to find a refuge in the harbor of Willemstad. The Minister from the Netherlands, Mr. Weckerlin, was summoned to the department in the forenoon to explain what seemed to be a violation of the neutrality laws—a violation all the more unaccountable because the Netherlands was the second country to declare neutrality after the war began. The Minister insisted that the Dutch authorities at Curacao had given neither aid nor comfort to the Spanish fleet, although there might have been a possibility that the Admiral of the squadron helped himself to supplies by the exercise of force. The conference between the Minister and Secretary Day lasted for nearly an hour, but as the State Department had no

positive proof by which it could convict the Dutch government of unfriendly action, the matter was dropped, without the filing of a formal protest. The Minister promised to have a thorough investigation made, but as later reports indicate that the fleet did not secure coal, and was, in fact, ordered from the harbor, nothing further will be done about the matter. The prompt demand of the State Department upon the Dutch government, however, has had a good effect in convincing the members of the diplomatic corps here that the United States will promptly resent any infringement of the neutrality laws.

**SPANISH FLEET'S FUTURE MOVEMENTS.**

While the fact is known that on Monday the Spanish fleet was harbored in the Gulf of Venezuela, positively nothing has since been heard as to its future movements.

Publicity is the last thing in the world the Spanish fleet desires, and it would keep away from cables as much as possible and the fact that the world knew of its presence at Curacao, was of itself enough to make it leave, especially in view of the fact that a cable runs to that island.

There are no tele-cable offices or wires in the Gulf of Venezuela, and the fleet may lurk there indefinitely and leave without the fact being known at any time. One of the objects of its remaining there longer, if it should, may be the possibility of its serving it as an ambush from which to pounce on the Oregon as it moves along the Venezuelan coast in the direction of Cuba or Key West.

As to this possibility The Post can say nothing further this morning, because of the rigid censorship now exercised over the dissemination of news from the Navy Department at Washington concerning the movements of our war vessels, which as stated in yesterday's paper, is now maintained by the United States authorities—and very properly so, we may add.

The publicity given to the movements of our vessels in American newspapers has already served to defeat several important objects which the naval authorities had in view, and the action taken now is proper and necessary.

**SAMPSON'S WHEREABOUTS.**

It cannot be stated in The Post this morning, therefore, just where Admiral Sampson and his fleet of fighters are. The likelihood is that when Admiral Sampson is again heard from, if he has left the vicinity of the Windward Passage, he will be at Key West to form a junction there with Commodore Schley's fleet. It will be in the power of the press cablegrams from the West Indies to be subject to the censor.

**WHERE THE BATTLE MAY BE FOUGHT.**

If the Spanish fleet is really bound for Cuba, the program for the future can be easily discounted. It is about 700 miles from Cape Haitien to Cienfuegos. This distance could be covered in forty-eight hours at the rate of fourteen knots an hour, a speed probably in excess of his actual movement. It is about the same distance between Key West and Cienfuegos, and the ships of the flying squadron could reach there as soon as Admiral Sampson. It is 900 miles in a straight line from the Gulf of Venezuela to Cienfuegos, so that if the expected naval battle is to take place at that point the Spanish ships will reach there just after Schley and Sampson have combined their forces.

How long the game of hide and seek is to be continued in the West Indies no one can foretell.

No one can predict that a conflict

will occur within two days, three days, or a week. It needs no great amount of reasoning to make this point absolutely clear.

The American forces are not likely to engage the enemy until they have combined and can bring into action a squadron of such strength as to remove all doubt of the result. The Spanish, on the other hand, will not run into danger if they can avoid it. Their policy will undoubtedly be to prey upon detached ships, and not to meet Schley and Sampson in an unequal struggle.

### EFFORTS TO GET INTO HAVANA HARBOR.

Most probable of all, they will attempt to throw us off the scent and get into Havana harbor, successfully evading our battleships and forcing their way with ease through the blockade now maintained in front of Havana, but sinking some of our smaller gunboats and cruisers as they make their way into the beleaguered harbor. The policy of the naval strategists now is to defeat the Spanish fleet before it has the opportunity to get into Havana. It is very important that this should be done, but it may be very difficult of accomplishment.

Several Senators yesterday added their protests to that of Senator Gray against the keeping of several of our best warships in North Atlantic waters, where they are not needed, in order to "ally the fears" of some very scary people residing along the New England coast, and it is now announced that the Columbia and other cruisers will be withdrawn therefrom and sent to do duty in Southern waters where they are actually needed, or ordered to join the fleet in Cuban waters.

### WHEREABOUTS OF THE TERROR.

By Cable to The Morning Post.  
St. Pierre, Martinique, May 17.—The Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer Terror is still at Fort de France. The repairs to her boilers are nearly completed, and it is reported that she will sail tomorrow.

The Spanish torpedo-ship Alicante also remains at Fort de France. She will probably leave with the Terror. Signal lights were seen on the hills near here again last night. It is difficult to catch those who are doing the signaling.

### TO REARRANGE NAVAL FORCES.

So That Each Squadron Will be Better Fitted for the Work Assigned It.  
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Washington, May 17.—It is understood that consideration is being given by the Strategy Board (if it has not already rendered its decision) to rearranging the naval forces, so that each squadron will be better qualified to perform the work assigned it.

The Admiral's squadron is a flying squadron, in fact as well as in name, and to corner it is the problem now confronting the administration. The United States has only two ships corresponding with the Spanish cruiser and one of the destroyer type.

The New York and the Brooklyn, and a host of protected craft, are available for a new flying squadron.

By a general exchange between Sampson, Schley and Watson, each could be put in better shape to overwhelm the enemy.

The Brooklyn and the Sparrows could attend to two of the Spaniards and a half-dozen protected cruisers could look out for the rest, with some converted fast yachts for destroyers.

For the reformed flying squadron, there are available the New York, the Brooklyn, the Oregon, the Columbia and Minneapolis, the dynamiter Vesuvius and some fast gunboats.

The armor-clad division could be composed of the Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Texas and later on the Oregon, with some torpedo-boats and scouts.

This would leave for the maintenance of the blockade the four monitors, ten gunboats, and many smaller craft.

## INVADE CUBA IN A WEEK

### The Government Decides On An Immediate Campaign.

## THE SITUATION WARRANTS IT

### With Practically the Whole Naval Strength of the United States in Cuban Waters, it is a Match for Any Spanish Fleet and Can at the Same Time Safely Guard the Transportation of Troops to Cuban Soil—Soon as Sampson, Schley and Watson Form a Junction Expeditions Will Leave Tampa.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Washington, May 17.—The government has decided upon an immediate military campaign in Cuba.

In the opinion of the administration the naval situation has so changed as to warrant the landing of troops in the island, despite the fact that the Spanish fleet has not been defeated.

The determination to begin operations at once was reached at the cabinet today.

The President and his advisers are opposed to pursuing a temporizing policy and emphatic objection exists against allowing the elusive Spanish fleet to figure any longer so as to cause a postponement of the Cuban invasion plans of the army administration.

The change in the naval situation warranting this policy, is the gathering of nearly the whole naval force of the United States in the vicinity of Cuba, thus giving a force sufficient to deal with the enemy's fleet and at the same time protect the transportation of the military in the west, will be used, their important positions being filled with volunteers.

It can be said positively that the administration does not now intend to send as many as 20,000 regulars.

The starting of the expedition will be rushed more than ever, as the delay is causing much criticism.

It was informally agreed by the cabinet that more troops are necessary to accomplish the subjugation of Cuba.

Details of the plan for issuing a second call were discussed, and although no decision was reached, it is probable that Congress will be asked for the necessary authority at an early day.

The total number of men accepted for duty up to tonight exceed 30,000, and very nearly reach the 100,000 mark.

### TO BRING ABOUT A FIGHT.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Washington, May 17.—The intention of the administration to expedite the military occupation of Cuba is apparently to be coincident with a rearrangement of the plan of naval campaign, which will increase the efficiency of the sea forces and insure with greater certainty a speedier engagement with the Spanish fleet.

Your correspondent was told today that the administration had decided to ignore the Spanish fleet in the West Indies and make a vigorous campaign on land and water.

Sampson's armor-clad division and Schley's ships are rapidly converging on the blockade force.

A junction can be effected in a few days, and with such a fighting force in Cuban waters there is no need of other delay.

The gathering of these squadrons in the West Indies will result in something more important than expediting a military campaign.

### VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING AT CHICAGO.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Chattanooga, Tenn., May 17.—Volunteers have been arriving all day and are formed into brigades as fast as possible.

The first troops to arrive today were the Second Wisconsin infantry, followed by the Third and Sixteenth Pennsylvania infantry, Thirty-first Michigan, and First Ohio light artillery.

### THE OCCUPATION OF CUBA.

What Senator Hanna Says of the Forces Needed and the Cost.  
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Cleveland, May 17.—In an interview here Senator Hanna says that every soldier who has been at Columbus will be rushed to Cuba as soon as Rear Admiral Sampson has destroyed the Spanish fleet. He says it would require 50,000 men to occupy Cuba, and that it is costing the government \$1,000,000 a day to prosecute the war even at the present stage.

### RECONSIDER NEUTRALITY.

A Russian Newspaper Which Thinks That the Proposed British-American Anglo-Saxon Alliance Sufficient Cause to Induce Such Reconsideration.  
By Cable to The Morning Post.  
St. Petersburg, May 17.—The Novoye Utraya, commenting upon the recent speech at Birmingham of Joseph Chamberlain, the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, says: "We doubt whether the United States desires an alliance, and whether it would be agreeable to the other powers that the United States, after wresting the Philippine Islands from Spain, should afterwards sell them to Great Britain." The paper says it considers such an intention "sufficient to induce the powers to reconsider their neutrality during the present war."

### BLOCKADERS ARE READY

To Meet the Spanish Fleet—They Have Been Warred.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Key West, Fla., May 17.—The blockaders on the South coast of Cuba having been warned that the Spanish squadron is reported off Venezuela, bound northwest, they will double their vigilance.

Powerful vessels, which it is not necessary to name, will be ready to aid the ships stationed there in resisting the progress of the enemy, and there is small chance that the Spanish will be able to enter Cienfuegos, a fortified port desirable to them on account of large coaling facilities and machine shops as capable as any in Cuba.

Both our squadrons are informed about the course of the Spanish flotilla. The United States tug Uncas, which was sent to Cuba, under the command of Lieut. Brainard, to arrange for the exchange of two Spanish prisoners for the two American newspaper correspondents, said to be Charles Thrall and Hayden Jones, who were captured in Pinar del Rio during the Gussie expedition last week, returned today, bringing word that, while the correspondents had not yet been released, an exchange had been arranged.

### SPANISH DERELICT SUNK.

Discovered by the New York Sun's Despatch Boat Where She Was Evidently Left to Disable An American Warship—Reported to the Wilmington Which Sunk Her.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Key West, May 17.—Since the affair at Cardenas when the "Winslow" was disabled, the blockade along the northern coast of Cuba has been almost without incident.

Two fishing smacks are keeping inshore, and as no steamships are attempting to get into any of the ports, the work of the gunboats on duty is in the main nearly routine.

The New York Sun's despatch boat was steaming along the coast of Cuba on Monday morning, when a derelict was sighted about twelve miles off shore.

It was boarded and examined. Both her masts had been chopped off.

The boat was loaded with forty pairs of railroad car-wheels, of American make.

The vessel was abundant evidence that the schooner had been wrecked, and the presumption arose that her condition was the result of a Spanish scheme to harm some of the American ships.

Should one of the smaller craft on the blockade run against that railroad iron it would be bad with her.

The Premier's crew left the derelict, and reported her to the "Wilmington" off Cardenas.

The gunboat immediately steamed west, and having found her, used her as a target until she sank.

Four shots did the work.

### THE REBEL CABINET

Are Taken to Cavite by the McCulloch, Dewey's Despatch Boat—Promise Allegiance to Dewey and Merritt, and to Conduct Campaign On Humane Principles.

By Cable to The Morning Post.  
Hong Kong, May 17.—Dewey's despatch boat, the McCulloch, sailed today for Manila.

The rebel cabinet took on board Gen. Aquinaldo, Col. Delpillar, Private Secretary Lela and fifteen other rebel leaders, forming the insurgent cabinet.

Gen. Aquinaldo will land at Cavite, where 37,000 troops are said to be awaiting him.

He proposes to conduct his campaign on humane lines, and to give allegiance to Admiral Dewey and Gen. Merritt.

### THE MERRITT INTERVIEWS.

Matter Came Up at the Cabinet Meeting But Before Action Was Taken a Telegram From the General Arrived Disowning Them.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Washington, May 17.—The President and Secretary of War have decided to take no action with regard to the published statements of General Merritt, in which he inferentially criticised the government for not furnishing a larger number of regular troops for the Philippine Islands.

A telegram was received from General Merritt by the Secretary of War this afternoon, in which General Merritt said the interviews published were incorrect and unauthorized.

Merritt made a decided stir and went the talk of the day in administration circles.

Secretary of War Alger brought the matter up in the cabinet meeting today, and it was understood that General Merritt should be asked in a personal way for an explanation.

Before such action was taken, however, the telegram arrived.

### THE "POLARIA" AT KEY WEST.

She Will Go into Havana Shortly With London Newspaper Correspondents, and to Take Awful German Citizens Who Desire to Leave.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Key West, Fla., May 17.—The German steamship Polaria arrived in Key West this afternoon from Santiago de Cuba with one passenger (Augustin F. Medina, a wealthy Cuban), who is on his way to Paris. The Polaria is waiting here for orders.

Her captain intends taking her into Havana within a few days, permission having been granted her for this purpose by the State Department.

## ANNEXATION OF HAWAII

### The Newland Bill is Reported to the House.

## REPORT FAVORS PASSAGE

### Statements of General Schofield and Admiral Walker Incorporated in the Report, Pointing Out the "Risk of Delay"—Advantage of Securing the Islands as a Strategic Point Urged Upon Congress—Annexation Alone Will Accomplish the Object Aimed at, etc.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.  
Washington, May 17.—In the House today Chairman Hitt reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs the Newland resolution, providing for the annexation of Hawaii, with the recommendation that it pass.

Accompanying the report is quite a lengthy document. It reviews the several seizures of the islands by the French and British forces, and negotiations, covering half a century, for annexation with the United States.

The strategic importance of the islands is set forth, and the statements of Gen. Schofield and Admiral Walker to the committee last week are quoted under the heading, "Risk of Delay."

In the report, the committee says: "Annexation, and that alone, will securely maintain American control in Hawaii. Resolutions of Congress declaring our policy, or even a protocol, will not insure."

"Annexation imposes responsibility, but it will give the full power of ownership and absolute control. In the struggling interests that have recently come into play in the Pacific, the separate existence of the Hawaiian Government is liable at any time to raise complications with foreign Governments. Once incorporated into the territory of the United States and all this is done away with."

The commercial interests, says the committee, would be promoted and secured by a union of the two countries. The only possible exception would be the sugar refining interests.

Under the present treaty only raw sugars are admitted free of duty; under annexation, of course, both raw and refined sugar would have free entry.

In conclusion, the committee says: "The annexation of these islands does not launch us upon a new policy or depart from our time-honored traditions of caring first and foremost for the safety and prosperity of the United States."

Washington, May 17.—No arrangement has yet been made regarding the consideration of the Hawaiian resolution.

There was some talk this morning, but no conclusion was reached.

Speaker Reed's opposition is still unaltered, but it is believed that it will not avail.

As one of the members of the House graphically described it today: "There seems to be a disposition to run the road-roller over the old man in this matter."

The Committee on Rules, which must report the resolution for the consideration of the Newlands' resolution (if it is to be considered at all) stands 3 to 1 against the measure.

The only question about the passage of the resolution, should the House get an opportunity to vote on it, is the size of the majority in its favor.

The probabilities of the resolution in the Senate are uncertain.

Mr. Pettigrew, of South Dakota, a violent anti-annexationist, declares that the war revenue bill should not pass the Senate if the House passes the Newlands resolution, but Senator Teller, of Colorado, just as rampant a silver man as Pettigrew, says the revenue bill shall not pass the Senate until the House sends over the annexation resolution.

### WAR REVENUE BILL IN SENATE.

Washington, May 17.—After passing a bill to provide for the payment and maintenance of volunteers during the interval between their enrollment and muster-in in the United States service, the Senate today took up the War Revenue measure, and Jones (of Arkansas) presented the Democratic side of the question.

He said that he did not expect that the war expenditures would exceed \$250,000,000 for the next fiscal year.

He spoke against the tax on beer, and urged the inheritance tax.

The differences between the minority Senators on the Finance Committee and the majority Senators was that the latter believed that the taxes should be on consumption, while the majority believe they should be on property.

The discussion was continued by Senators White (Democrat, of California), Aldrich (Republican, of Rhode Island) and Stewart (Populist, of Nevada).

In discussing the plan on which the bill was to be acted upon, Wolcott (Republican, of Colorado) suggested that action should first be had on the amendment proposed by the Democratic Senators, so that if the tax of one-fourth of 1 per cent. on gross receipts of corporations were agreed to or was rejected, Senators might then have a clearer insight into what their votes should be on other provisions of the bill.

Senators Jones and Allison admitted that it might be wiser desirable, but as the bill was to go over at 3 o'clock today, no action was determined on in that direction.

In the mean time, reading of the bill was proceeded with, and uncorrected amendments were read.

At 3 o'clock the revenue bill was laid aside, and the Senate took up the resolutions in relation to the death of the late Representative Milliken, of Maine, and as a further mark of respect to his memory, the Senate adjourned.

Jim Moody's New Job.  
Special Telegram to The Morning Post.  
Washington, May 17.—Jas. E. Moody has been appointed Chief Commissary of Subsistence, with the rank of captain.