

NO WARSHIPS PURCHASED The Government Has No Haste to Get Boats.

MUST HAVE THE BEST Warlike Preparations Are Constantly Going on.

Notwithstanding Denials from Department Officials Regarding War Rumors, Every Preparation Is Being Made to Place the United States Army and Navy on a War Footing. Large Orders for Guns and Ammunition.

Washington, March 10.—The United States government has not yet acquired a single additional ship for the navy. This is true not because of a lack of offers of warships from abroad, but simply for the reason that the navy department is proceeding with all of the circumspection consistent with the needs of the case in looking after the qualities and prices of the craft. There is a strong disposition to refrain from being drawn into bad bargains and to insist on getting good vessels at prices not extortionate. Secretary Long was in receipt of a large number of cables today almost all relating to offers of ships. Lieutenant Niblack, the United States naval attaché at Berlin, St. Petersburg and Vienna, is particularly active in the quest for vessels. There was a good deal of talk during the day about the assignment of officers to the command of auxiliary cruisers, the St. Paul and St. Louis being especially mentioned, but Secretary Long set these stories at rest by the statement that he had not made any such assignments and had only progressed to the point of informing himself of the possibility of getting the ships offered and manned quickly.

While looking after new ships the officials of the navy department are not neglecting the old vessels and arrangements have been made to make short repairs on several ships, that in the ordinary course would not be treated in that fashion, but would receive a thorough and time consuming overhauling. Thus in the case of the Philadelphia, which has had five years' work and has never been overhauled as is the custom, orders have gone to Mare Island to put her in shape for sea within forty days. The Yorktown at the same yard is not to be touched at present not only because she is in fair condition but also because she is not so formidable a craft as to make it desirable to divert to her repair attention required elsewhere. At Norfolk the Newark is set down for several days' repairs and as a good deal of work has already been done on her, she will be fitted up as a new ship when she comes out of the yard. The big monitor, Comanche, at Mare Island, has been examined and found in tolerable condition. At League Island the monitor Miantonomoh and the ram Katakhdin went into commission today although they have not yet had their orders. They probably will remain in the Delaware river or drop down into the bay. The torpedo boat Dupont sailed today from Mobile to attach herself again to the flotilla at Key West.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE STORY.

Again it was said at the navy department that nothing had been heard from the court of inquiry at Havana nor from Admiral Slocum at Key West. The presence in the city of several persons connected with steamship lines and steel works led to the circulation of a number of sensational stories. During the day, but perhaps none of these had the persistency of one that found currency at the capitol, until it met with summary denial at the hands of Assistant Secretary of the Navy, General Corbin. He stated that the Spanish government that the president intended to send to congress a message announcing the recognition of Cuban independence.

Commander Corbin left Washington this evening for the south with Engineer Webster and Surgeon Parsons to enlist machinists for the navy. During the day the board changed its plans and finally started directly for New Orleans.

It has been informed that there are a number of good men to be had on the gulf coast and Commander Hawley will open temporary recruiting offices in the gulf cities as he goes along, just as was done by him in the west last summer.

A conference was held at 3 o'clock in the office of Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, to map out plans for arming and equipping merchant vessels as auxiliary cruisers. Mr. Roosevelt presided and others present were Captain Crownshield, of the bureau of navigation; Captain O'Neill, of the bureau of ordnance; Chief Hitchborn, of the bureau of construction, and Commander Bradford, of the bureau of yards and docks. This meeting had been preceded by a call from President Gilchrist, of the International Navigation Company, which owns the four ships—St. Louis, St. Paul, Paris and New York. The board meeting brought out a general discussion of the work the various bureaus would be called upon to perform in making these and other vessels ready as auxiliary cruisers. About ninety-five per cent. of this work would fall to the lot of the bureau of construction, which would have charge of installing magazines, gun mounts, light protective armor for the guns and magazines and the circles on which the guns swing. This work it is said, could be accomplished readily within two weeks' time, as all material except the guns are in hand.

The bureau of ordnance could not supply all the guns required within

that short time, although some 70 or more are now available. The supply would be adequate, however, for the most effective auxiliary cruisers, and the complete armament of the merchant ships could proceed as rapidly as possible thereafter. On the question of manning the auxiliary fleet, the navy department feels that the most effective step would be to enlist into the United States naval service the present merchant crews of the several ships. These crews are thoroughly familiar with the vessels and could handle them with far greater effect than green crews of blue jackets. The ships would be officered from the line of the regular navy. In the case of enlisting a merchant crew the pay and allowances would be about equivalent to the rates paid ordinary sailors and the time of enlistment doubtless would be limited to short periods.

The proposed batteries for the auxiliary cruisers consist in the case of the steamships St. Louis and St. Paul of eight six-inch guns, four six-pounders and four machine guns. The Paris and New York twelve six-inch; six six-pounders and six machine guns. It is assumed that the batteries of the Caracas and Seneca type a main battery of eight four-inch guns and from six to eight rapid-fire machine guns. The batteries of the auxiliary cruisers on the Pacific coast, if those should be called into service, are substantially similar, six-inch guns being the largest ones designed for use in that service.

The navy department finds itself in comparatively good condition as to supply of automobile torpedoes which constitute one of the most deadly engines of naval destruction. The Whitehead torpedo is now in general use, although a few of the Howell class are still on hand.

THE TEMPORARY FUEL TRADE. Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, of the senate naval affairs committee, today introduced a joint resolution, providing for the temporary admission of duty on naval supplies procured abroad.

Following is the text of the resolution: That such guns, ammunition and other naval supplies as may be purchased abroad by this government for national defense prior to January 1, 1899, shall be admitted at any port of the United States free of duty. The resolution was introduced at the request of the secretary of the navy who, in a letter to Senator Hale, says: "Under existing law a varying but considerable amount of duty on articles falling within the category of naval supplies is imposed. The effect of the resolution if adopted, will be to remit all duties upon guns, ammunition and other naval supplies which it may be found necessary to purchase abroad. The temporary remission of duties on these supplies is deemed important inasmuch as without some special enactment of this nature such portion of the appropriation made by congress for the purpose as may be expended abroad would be very materially reduced by the deduction therefrom of duty amounting in some cases to nearly one-half of the purchase price."

Mr. Allison, of Iowa, called Mr. Chandler's attention to the fact that resolutions and bills of the character of the one presented, ordinarily originate in the house.

Mr. Chandler admitted that that was true, but said that he had introduced it with the idea of having it referred to the finance committee. He was willing, he said, to trust to the wisdom of that committee to make a proper disposition of the resolution. At his suggestion the resolution was referred to the committee on finance.

FEEDING THE CUBANS. Telegrams were received at the navy department today from Admiral Slocum at Key West, announcing the arrival of the dispatch boat Fern from Havana and the departure of the cruiser Marchese from Havana. The date of the departure of the Fern with food supplies for the starving Cubans at Matanzas and Sagua la Grande will depend on the time it takes to transfer the supplies from the wharf to the vessel. It is estimated that she will be ready to start on her mission of mercy tomorrow or Saturday.

Adjutant General Corbin, of the army, has returned from New York and resumed his duties at the war department today. Senator Polo, the new Spanish minister, was a passenger on the same train and the two gentlemen formed a pleasant acquaintance. General Corbin stated in the most emphatic terms today that there was no truth in the reports that he had gone to New York on business connected with emergency military preparations.

General Corbin said that good progress was being made in recruiting for the two new artillery regiments and that they will be fully organized and equipped by the first of May at the latest. All the recruiting officers have been especially instructed to exercise the greatest care in enlistments and only about five per cent. of the men examined are being accepted as soldiers. Orders were given recently to open all the recruiting rendezvous, including that at Washington barracks. It is settled that the two new artillery regiments will be located at Fort Slocum and at Fort Wadsworth. The selection of these posts was mainly due to the fact that they are the only ones where there are buildings sufficient to quarter the men. The probabilities are however that the fifth artillery now stationed at Fort Wadsworth will have to be transferred to other points along the coast, where new fortifications have been established, in order to make room for the additional artillerymen.

EXCHANGING COURTESIES. Captain Converse, of the Massachusetts, returned by the Havanna, March 10.—Captain Converse, of the United States cruiser Montgomery, in company with Consul General Lee, called on Captain General Blanco today and was received cordially and courteously. In a letter to United States Consul General Dr. Congosto, the secretary general of Cuba, assures General Lee that there will be no more delay in the passage of relief supplies through the custom house. On account of the discovery of jewelry in such supplies the authorities held up many consignments and some perishable provisions were distributed.

Lewis Kopach, proprietor of the Christian Herald of New York, and one of

WAR BOATS PLACED IN COMMISSION

Two Formidable Ironclads Are Ready for Business.

THE MIANTONOMOH AND KATAHDIN The Monitor and the Ram Katakhdin Are Formally Placed in Commission at the League Island Navy Yard—The Cruiser Columbia Will Be Floated.

Philadelphia, March 10.—The monitor Miantonomoh and the ram Katakhdin were placed in commission at 1 o'clock this afternoon at the League Island navy yard. The ceremony attending the commissioning of the ironclads was short and simple. The officers and men of the respective vessels were mustered aft and the commanders then read the order placing them in commission. When this had been done the commander's pennant was run upon the masthead and the American flag was hung to the top of the flagstaff. This concluded the ceremony, which was witnessed by several thousand persons.

The Miantonomoh is commanded by Captain Mortimer L. Johnson and the Katakhdin by Captain George F. F. Wilde. Sixty-one seamen arrived at the yard today for the two ironclads, seven of them from Boston for the Miantonomoh and fifty from New York for the Katakhdin. They went aboard their respective vessels immediately. Ammunition will be placed on these ships immediately, but it is not known how soon they will sail.

This was the busiest day the navy has experienced since the present activity was inaugurated. The regular force of the navy yard today proved inadequate for the work on hand, and sixty men were sent there from Cramps' ship yard. These included machinists, shipwrights, blacksmiths and other artisans.

The cruiser Columbia, which is in dry dock, is having her bottom painted and will be floated tomorrow at high tide. The Minneapolis, which was in dry dock last week, has finished taking on stores, and with the exception of her armaments is ready for sea. Orders were received at the yard today that the government tug Samost proceeded to Key West. She is ready for sea and will leave the navy yard at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Samost is one of the most powerful tugs owned by the government.

POWDER WILL BE PLENTY.

American Mills Can Furnish a Supply to Make Things Interesting.

New York, March 10.—Lewis Nixon today denied the statements in this morning's papers that the powder mills of the country could make only about half a ton of smokeless powder per day. He said that the mills do not believe this statement, for the facilities of the powder mills of the country must be far in excess of the amount named. "I know however, of a new smokeless powder of high explosive force which can turn out now a ton per day, and can in ten days be in position to turn out five times this amount. This manufactory is now making smokeless powder, giving an unusually high velocity with very moderate pressure, and a temper which will not cause the rapid erosion which now limits the life of a large gun to a few rounds. "This factory was built to meet the demands of an undertaking having nothing to do with the present crisis, but it now becomes available in the general scheme of national defense. "Numerous new machines have been built, and a number have been imported from Krupp, of Germany, so that every refinement known in modern powder making is available actually at work on powder and explosives of proven efficiency upon the waters of Greater New York.

Wilmington, Del., March 10.—Inquiry at the Dupont Powder works this afternoon elicited the information that a comparatively small quantity of smokeless powder is now being manufactured for the United States government. A member of the firm said: "Our works are not fully started on government contracts and the quantity turned out is small as compared with what we will be able to manufacture when fully started. We are now turning out about 4,000 pounds of smokeless powder per day but will turn out more after awhile when we are under way."

When questioned as to the capacity of the works on this grade of powder in the event of an emergency he said: "We can turn out about 12,000 pounds per day."

FERN AT KEY WEST.

The Dispatch Boat Returns with the Maine's Silverware.

Key West, Fla., March 10.—The United States dispatch boat Fern arrived today from Havana. The Fern brought the Maine's silverware and sixty rifles recovered from the wreck. Mr. Bissell, stenographer of the court of inquiry, was also on board. Both official stenographers have now left the court, and it has only a temporary clerk. This leads many here to think that its work is practically done, and that it will return to Key West by or before Saturday.

The Fern shoaled and the provisions for the starving Cubans were then put on board. She is scheduled to sail for Matanzas tomorrow. The Marchese will go from the Tortugas to Tampa, where it is reported she will take on additional ammunition. The British cruiser Cordelia sailed today.

RECRUITS PLENTY.

Forty-Four Applicants Pass at the New York Station.

New York, March 10.—The recruiting office of the United States army was crowded today with men who wished to enlist in the new artillery regiments recently authorized by congress. Up to noon forty-four applicants had passed the preliminary examinations

and their names were placed upon the register. Several hundred extra mechanics are employed at the navy yard in Brooklyn. The dispatch boat Dolphin has a variety of painters and about a hundred mechanics rushing work upon her. It is said at the yard that the Dolphin must be ready in two weeks. Much work is being done on the cruisers Chicago and Atlanta. Work on the torpedo boat Stiletto will be completed by the end of the week when she will be ready for sea. A test was made today of one of a consignment of rapid fire guns just received from the Colt factory at Hartford. A large quantity of ammunition for use in the rapid fire guns arrived at the yard today. Supplies and ammunition destined for Key West and League Island navy yard is being placed on barges. Five inch rifle shells and powder on a barge was towed to the Jersey City docks for shipment via the Pennsylvania railroad. Presumably the cruisers Minneapolis and Columbia at Philadelphia.

SHOULD ALL STAND AS ONE.

W. J. Bryan Heartily Approves the Support Given the Administration.

Atlanta, Ga., March 10.—Hon. W. J. Bryan was in Atlanta yesterday, en route for Macon, where he speaks tonight. When asked his opinion of the appropriation of \$50,000,000 for national defense, he said: "If an exact house acted promptly and unanimously. In fact, it might have been better to have made it a hundred millions, to show the world that congress and the American people are ready to support the administration in any action necessary for the honor and welfare of the nation. This appropriation will not necessarily lead to war. Instead, a prompt liberality at this time may lessen the probability of war and in the end prove a wise economy. I never believed that the recognition of belligerency would result in war, but in the present crisis it is useless to discuss what might have been. When quiet is restored, the people can consider the past more calmly, but in the face of danger on people should stand as one in the nation's defense."

Mr. Bryan took occasion to compliment Consul General Lee, saying that he had performed his duty with great ability, courage and discretion, under trying circumstances.

QUIET DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate Amendment to the Indian Bill Is Held in the House.

Washington, March 10.—No business of real importance was transacted by the senate in open session today. The session lasted only an hour, the time being largely consumed in disposing of routine morning business. A few bills of minor importance were passed. After a debate in the house which lasted more than five hours the senate amendment to the Indian appropriation bill providing for the free entry of colored Indian lands was today non-concurred in by a vote of 99 to 54. The friends of the free home claim made a grand struggle but they met the opposition of the some of the prominent leaders on the Republican side, Messrs. Dingiey, Grosvenor, Dalzell and Payne and they were further weakened by the fact that many of the friends of the proposition were alienated by the belief that as drawn, the amendment would work injury to the agricultural colleges of the country. The senate amendment was also non-concurred in after the substitute proposition offered by the conferees to ratify the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache treaty had fallen under a point of order. The action of the house today sends the bill back to conference with non-concurrence on all the senate amendments.

NO ULTIMATUM TO CHINA.

The Report That Russia Forwarded One Denied by England.

London, March 10.—Answering a question in the house of commons today on the subject, George N. Curzon, the parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, said Russia had not sent an ultimatum to China with reference to Port Arthur and Tientsin. Mr. Curzon announced also that the British ambassador at St. Petersburg had confirmed the report that Russia was negotiating for the lease of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan, for the same period and under the same conditions as granted Germany in the case of Kiao-Chow, and that Russia was also negotiating for the right of constructing a railroad from Peking, on the Trans-Manchurian line, to Wankang-Chung-Tze, Mukden and Port Arthur; but Mr. Curzon explained, Russia did not demand sovereign rights, nor has she threatened to move troops into Manchuria in the event of China's non-compliance with her demands. Mr. Curzon denied that Russia and France had protested against the Anglo-German loan to China.

PAINTERS WANT MORE PAY.

Employers May Order a General Lockout Next Month.

Chicago, March 10.—Trouble is threatened about April 1 between the Master Painters' association and the Painters and Decorators' union over the scale of wages for the next two years. The Master Painters held a meeting today at the Sherman hotel and resolved unless the differences between the two organizations could be patched up in the mean time, to order a general lockout in April. The proposition submitted by the Painters and Decorators provides for a scale of 35 cents an hour until March 1 next and 37 1/2 cents per hour for the year following. The employers say that 35 cents would be a fair rate of wages for the two years and declare they will not sign an agreement to pay the rate demanded.

CAWARDLY ASSASSIN.

Shoots Mother and Daughter Through a Window.

Toronto, Ohio, March 10.—At Empire, three miles south of here, last night, Rose Miller and her daughter, Winnie Adington, aged 10, were shot. The shots came through a window in Mrs. Miller's home. Both mother and daughter may die. David McCoy, aged 30, is charged with doing the shooting and the police are after him. McCoy was killed by Mrs. Miller and she says he had threatened her life.

NEGRO BURGLAR SHOT.

Alfred Betts, an Aged Toll Keeper, Guards the Cash.

Wilmington, Del., March 10.—George Tillman, a negro burglar from Maryland, was shot and probably fatally wounded early this morning by Alfred Betts, the 70-year-old toll-gate keeper on the Philadelphia turnpike, five miles above Wilmington. Tillman attempted to force an entrance into the toll house, when Betts fired through the door, the bullet entering the burglar's stomach.

DRIVEN FROM FISHING.

The Pacific Steam Whaling Company Awarded \$50,000 Damages.

San Francisco, March 10.—A jury in the superior court has rendered a verdict for \$50,000 damages in favor of the Pacific Steam Whaling company and against the Alaska Packers' association, for being driven from the profitable salmon fisheries in the open waters of the ocean near the Kariuk river, Alaska, by the employees of the Packers' association.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE PENDING UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN

A Combination That Can Defy the World—Outcropping of England's Good Will—Significance of Queen Victoria's Interest in the Cuban Question Now Apparent.

London, March 11.—The New York correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "I have it on the highest authority that a triple alliance between Great Britain, the United States and Japan is pending."

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. Hon. Hubert Valentine Duncombe, Conservative, was to have brought the American-Spanish situation before the house of commons today by asking Mr. Curzon, Parliamentary secretary, for the foreign office, whether, with the view of recognizing the identity of interests of all English-speaking people, the British government will consider the advisability of placing the services of the British fleet at the disposal of the United States. He withdrew the question, however, deciding that its exact form made its presentation inopportune.

He said: "It was framed owing to the widely held opinion in the house of commons that it is high time the foreign powers should be told in unmistakable terms that any blow struck at either Great Britain or the United States was equally a blow at the other. I was profoundly convinced of this today. Many more members than I supposed would do so came to me in order to say they heartily endorsed my question. I am convinced the government would have desired to answer my proposed question affirmatively and would have done so had it not involved other considerations, besides expressing what I believe the present government sincerely holds—that in the face of foreign complications the interests in the future of Great Britain and the United States are inseparably intertwined. Today's expression and endorsement we will eventually so soon as we can frame the question in the exact terms which clearly express the feeling of the house of commons—that any trouble threatening the United States will be shared by Great Britain.

Other members of the house of commons who were interviewed on the same subject all spoke in a similar strain. In response to a question from Mr. Ronald Munroe Ferguson, Liberal, Mr. Curzon said that no communications on the Cuban question had been exchanged between Ambassador Pauncefote and the United States government.

MORE AGITATION IN THE FAR EAST

Japan Sounds a Note of Warning to Russia—Gathering of the War Vessels—Philippine Rebels Active.

London, March 11.—The Morning News says it learns that Japan has warned Russia that if the latter retains Port Arthur, Japan will retain Wei-Hai-Wei and the island adjacent. The same paper says the Japanese admiralty has ordered the men of war building abroad to be hurried, and denies the report that Japan will sell the cruisers now being built at Philadelphia and San Francisco. The Yokohama correspondent of the Times says: "Japan is calm, and the government does not expect war." The Hong Kong correspondent of the Daily Mail says it is reported there that the Philippine rebels have captured Bolinas, near Manila. According to the same correspondent the British cruiser Edgar will sail for Manila this (Friday) morning. A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Singapore says it is reported from Hong Kong that the American squadron has sailed for Manila.

RUSSIA'S INVASION OF CHINA.

Natives Fleeing in Terror Before the "Zar's" Troops.

London, March 10.—A cablegram from Hongkong says the Russian war ships Sissoi Veliky and Navarin, both belonging to the Black sea fleet, have arrived there. The Chinese of Heilung Chang province are fleeing for their lives, owing to the crossing over from Russian territory into China of large bodies of Russian troops, composed of cavalry, infantry and artillery, in various parts of Heilung Chang province. The Russians seem to be divided into three main corps, numbering some 12,000 to 15,000 men each. Strict discipline is observed in the Russian ranks, although there seem to be some 3,000 Hung-Hu (Red Beard) bandits among them. The territory occupied by the Russians does not contain 5,000 Chinese troops.

COAL FOR KEY WEST.

Contract for 250,000 Tons is Closed by Government Officials.

Cleveland, O., March 10.—Kirk Woods & Co., of this city, today closed a contract with government officials for 250,000 tons of coal to be rushed to Key West. Special arrangements have been made by the government with the railroads to have this coal rushed through to Key West as fast as it is mined. The trains conveying the coal will carry no other merchandise, thus avoiding the delay of stopping at intermediate points to leave cars.

ESTERHAZY BACKS DOWN.

On Advice of Council He Withdraws Suit Against Mathieu.

Paris, March 10.—A sensation has been caused by the announcement that Comte Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, on the advice of counsel, has abandoned his prosecution of M. Mathieu Dreyfus, brother of the ill-fated prisoner of the Isle of Devils, for defamation in accusing him of having written the bordereau.

Large Orders for Projectiles.

Cincinnati, O., March 10.—Eastern projectile machines. The Cincinnati concern with the Davis & Esgan company, of this city, has secured on several large projectile machines. The Cincinnati concern is figuring for government on coast arsenals. Orders from Washington have been received for immediate deliveries.

Notifying the Guard.

Springfield, Ill., March 10.—Dr. George N. Kelder, surgeon for the Second brigade, Illinois National Guard, received notification today from the war department, through the adjutant general's office here, to have all the appliances of his department ready.

The Herald's Weather Forecast. New York, March 11.—In the middle states and New England, today, partly cloudy, with hazy weather will prevail, preceded by fair in New England with light and fresh southeasterly winds and fog on the coast, followed by light rain in the section. On Saturday, in both of these sections, cloudy to partly cloudy weather will prevail with rain, slowly falling temperature and fresh southeasterly and southerly winds, preceded by fog and high winds on the coasts.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: Showers; Easterly Winds.

- 1 General—War Preparations Show No Abatement. Triple Alliance Pending. Miantonomoh and Katakhdin Ready for Service. 2 State—Charges of Bribery in Philadelphia's Councils. Board of Health. Insurance Commissioner Lambert. 3 Local—Differing Opinions on the Outcome of the Lattimer Trial. 4 Editorial. Comment on the Lattimer Verdict. 5 New York City as It Was One Hundred Years Ago. 6 Local—Weyandt Children Disposed. Board of Trade Urges the Repair of Asphalt Streets. 7 Local—Common Council Postpones Action on the Traction Company Vandalism Resolution. Was Keogh Doped? 8 Local—West Side and Suburban. 9 Lackawanna County News. 10 Financial and Commercial.