

TWO CENTS. SCRANTON, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, 1898. TWO CENTS.

THE PRESIDENT HOLDS CONGRESS

Out of Respect to His Wishes, No Action Will Be Taken on the Cuban Question Until Monday. The Probable Attitude of Europe in Case of Hostilities Is the Subject of Much Speculation. Preparing the Naval Militia for Action.

Washington, April 1 (2 a. m.)—Spain's official reply to President McKinley's latest demand in the Cuban situation was received in Washington tonight. An anxious party, comprising most of the cabinet and several close friends of the administration waited till late in the evening in expectation of developments.

About 10.30 o'clock the message began to come, in cipher, and the work of translation was begun at once. It was officially stated, however, that no intimation as to the nature of the reply would be divulged tonight.

Among those at the White House were Senator Hanna, Secretary Alger, Secretary Bliss, Assistant Secretary of State Day, who had dined with the president; Assistant Secretary of State McAdo, to whom was confined the translation of the message; Senator Spooner and Senator Aldrich.

There was an intensely expectant crowd of newspaper correspondents, larger than often gathers at the White House at night, waiting in the lobby outside the president's office. But they were destined to disappointment, for after the telegraph instrument in the adjoining office had steadily clattered for half an hour, Mr. Porter, the president's secretary, appeared with the announcement from Secretary Day that it was impossible to translate the message in time to give out any statement tonight.

The telegraph instrument was still clicking when the correspondents filed out, indicating that the message was at least quite lengthy.

Washington, March 31.—This has been a day of anxious waiting for Spain's reply to the demands of the United States contemplating the termination of the war in Cuba and the independence of the island. On that reply it was universally believed the issue between peace or war would be decided, unless some new and unexpected considerations arose to postpone the issue further.

The White House continued to be thronged with congressional leaders, anxious to learn from the president what his course was to be. The general view conveyed by these leaders, after they had been with the president, is that he expected to have definite replies from Spain in time to present the entire subject to congress by next Monday.

The department was the center of interest throughout the day, as it was there that Minister Woodford's dispatch announcing Spain's attitude was to be received. The officials shared in the general anxiety but throughout the business hours of the day no word was received from the United States minister.

ATTITUDE OF EUROPE. The attitude of European powers continued to be seriously discussed in official quarters, as it was felt that an offer of European mediation was almost certain to follow a war crisis.

BLANCO SPORTS A "COMBAT" AND A SEMI-OFFICIAL NOTE ISSUES.

Madrid, March 31.—After the cabinet meeting today which was presided over by the queen regent, the minister of the interior, Sr. Garcia, issued a semi-official note.

ANXIETY AT MADRID.

The Spanish government opposed at even a friendly interference to terminate the Cuban war.

Madrid, March 31.—It has been a day of great anxiety. The cabinet have confined themselves to ambiguities on the subject of the cabinet council.

CONGRESS WILL WAIT.

Congress will wait until Monday before any action is taken. The president has asked delay until that time, and assurances have been given by those in charge of affairs, that there will be nothing done until Monday.

The senate committee agreed to, and Senator Lodge reported, a bill appropriating \$5,000,000 to purchase one or more of the Danish West India islands to be used for naval purposes.

AN IMPORTANT ACTION.

The most important action taken by the navy department today was the determination to have the naval militia of the several states prepared for immediate service should this be found necessary.

OVERHAULING THE VESUVIUS.

The dynamite cruiser may leave for the South in a few days. Washington, March 31.—The work of overhauling the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius is now almost finished, and she will be ordered to leave the Washington navy yard probably within the next few days.

EXCITING DAY IN CONGRESS

Representative Lewis Denounces the Administration.

A PROTEST FROM MR. JOHNSON

His Declaration Against War Is Received With Hisses From the Galleries—Mr. Bailey, the Democratic Leader Describes the Horrors of War—Mr. Grosvenor Supports the Administration.

SPAIN'S REPLY.

She Neither Accedes to Nor Declines President McKinley's Proposition.

New York, April 1.—A special dispatch from Washington to the World, dated 2 a. m., gives the following outline of Spain's reply to the note presented by Minister Woodford:

SIGSBEE EXAMINED.

He and Captain Barker Questioned by the Senate Committee.

Washington, March 31.—Captain Sigbee of the Maine, and Captain Barker, Secretary Long's naval aide, who went to Key West after the explosion on behalf of the department, were before the senate committee on foreign relations this afternoon.

MR. LEWIS'S SPEECH.

Mr. Lewis replied to Mr. Johnson in a humorous strain for a time, in which he created a great deal of merriment. He accused Mr. Johnson of being muzzled by the speaker and afraid to shake off his shackles, quailing when the speaker looked at him.

SMALL COAST TOWNS ALARMED.

Washington, March 31.—Many applications are being received at the navy office in Washington for the erection of some means of defense to withstand the assaults of foreign ships in the event of war.

LAKE SAILORS READY TO SERVE.

Chicago, March 31.—Six hundred sailors of the local seaman's union met last night and indulged in vigorous demonstrations of American loyalty in connection with the Cuban trouble.

Sympathy for Americans.

London, March 31.—At a meeting of the Fenian members of the house of commons today, Mr. John Redmond, the Fenian leader, presiding, a resolution was adopted expressing "deep sympathy with the efforts of the people of America to secure the independence of Cuba, trusting that their efforts will be speedily crowned with success, to the glory of humanity and the greater glory of the republic of America."

Floping Princess Located.

London, March 31.—Princess Louise, of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, eldest daughter of King Edward, and wife of Prince Philip, of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and her lover, Lieutenant Maitland-Kemp, with whom Prince Philip recently sought a duel, are at the castle of the lieutenant, which is situated near Golubovetz, Croatia.

Rates for War Risks.

New York, March 31.—Rates for war risks advanced sharply today, some marine underwriters asking 50 per cent. more than yesterday. "War risks" upon American steamships sailing tomorrow for the east coast of South America were taken at 1 per cent. American sailing vessels, which departed yesterday for the coast of the United States, were asked through 3 per cent. Rates for future sailing were proportionately higher.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: Fair; Northerly Winds.

- 1 Telegraph-Government Officials Anxious About Spain's Reply. General Blanco's Report. Exciting Time in Congress. 2 The Tribune's Popular Want Columns. Neighboring County News. The Markets. 3 Battle of the Monitor and Merrimac. 4 Editorial. Comment of the Press. 5 Local-Sessions of Common and Select City Bank Case on Trial. 6 Local-Meeting in Penn Avenue Baptist Church. 7 Local-Van Horn Case Will Be Appealed. Cumberland Fire Company's New Quarters. 8 Local-West Side and Suburban. 9 Lackawanna County News. 10 Telegraph-Pardon Recommended for Thomas Campbell, of Carbonada, a Life-Sentenced Prisoner. Relief Agent's Return from Cuba. Congressmen Will Abide the President's Pleasure.

MILITARY STRENGTH.

Table Compiled from the Reports Made to the Department by Army Officers.

Washington, March 31.—The military information department of the war department has made public a table bearing on the strength of the militia of the United States in 1897. It also gives data as to the number of militia companies, information in regard to appropriations, company officers, equipments and mobilization. The table is compiled from the reports made to the department by army officers detailed for duty with the militia of the states. The authorized strength of the militia of the entire country (which, however, includes several states where this strength is not limited) is 186,848, while the aggregate actual strength is 113,760, made up as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Strength. Infantry 100,179; Artillery 5,955; Cavalry 4,938; Special troops 2,279; General and staff officers 778; Non-commissioned staff officers 699; Total number of men liable to military duty in the country is 163,573.

READY AT KEY WEST

Warships Stripped of Everything That Would Impede Action--Are Ready for Service.

Key West, Fla., March 31.—Every preparation for action was taken by the warships today. All woodwork was stripped off exposed spots and sent ashore. The wood piloted houses on the cruisers were taken down. To a certain extent interior woodwork was also removed and sent ashore. Even the sailors' wooden boxes were removed from some of the ships.

EVERYBODY TO ENLIST.

Favorable Report on the Bill for a Military Force Organization. Washington, March 31.—The senate committee on military affairs today authorized a favorable report on Senator Hawley's bill for the organization of the militia force of the United States.

FUNERAL OF ANTON SEIDL.

New York, March 31.—Private funeral services over the remains of Anton Seidl were held today at his late residence.

ENGLAND, TOO, SHUTS OUT OUR APPLES.

London, March 31.—It is said the board of agriculture will take steps to prevent the landing in England of a consignment of American apples which has been refused admission into Germany because the fruit is alleged to be infected with the San Jose scale.

GEN. BLANCO SENDS REPORTS

Submitted by the Governors of the Provinces of Cuba.

AN ELABORATE TREATMENT

The Situation Viewed from a Spanish Standpoint.

THE GOVERNORS DO NOT SEEK TO MINIMIZE THE DREADFUL CONDITION OF THESE PEOPLE BUT ENDEAVOR TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO ALLEVIATE THE MISERY.

Washington, March 31.—The Spanish legation has received full reports through Captain General Blanco, from the governors of all the provinces of Cuba, and from the aides and chiefs of police from the principal cities, as to the condition of the reconcentrados. It is an elaborate treatise on this subject by the officers directly in charge and gives the situation fully from their standpoint. It is noteworthy that they do not seek to minimize the dreadful condition of these people, but endeavor to show that they are doing their utmost to alleviate the misery and misfortune which exists.

General Blanco's Report is, in substance, as follows:

In the midst of the painful impression caused by the situation of the reconcentrados, it is some satisfaction to note the great improvement in their condition as compared with what it was four months ago. In response to the keen interest which the home government has shown in the matter, this government has endeavored from the very first to carry out by possible ways to alleviate so much misery and misfortune. The cities overfilled with men, women and children, without work who are unable to sustain a population of consumers who produce nothing; the destruction and pillage of so many small hamlets by the insurgents; the reconcentrados, the unfortunate inhabitants to seek refuge in the towns to save their lives, in Puerto Principe nearly all the reconcentrados were of this class. The material originated by the crowding together of human beings and the fatal effects of an inevitable death, combined to take away from many the necessary energy to struggle for life, and to discourage private charity which considered itself in perfect condition to do a decided help from official charity.

The dispositions of this government were directed to attack the evil at its source. By the decree of the 24th of November last, the return of all the reconcentrados to their homes was permitted and they were authorized to resume their occupations in order to defend their property. By this the cities were relieved of a large part of their abnormal population, and a check was put on the reconcentrados by overworking. Committees of help were organized, official charity, a few days after the establishment of these committees provided the means for their maintenance on the 23rd of November and \$50,000 of the 23rd of March. The government has endeavored to induce upon them to show their zeal by giving a good example, an appeal to which these authorities responded with an immediate increase in their productivity. In this way private charity encouraged and enabled to organize its own productive committees, economic kitchens and charitable societies in perfect condition; those of San Luis, Songo and Cañamares may be cited as models. In Cañamares 14 thousand free railway tickets were given to the reconcentrados who returned to their old homes.

PUBLIC SPIRIT BEGAN TO RISE.

As a result of all this public spirit began to rise again, confidence was renewed and at the same time a large number of workmen to cultivate the land. Santa Clara there are actually a dozen number of those unhappy beings occupied in field labor. In Pinar del Rio the insurgents are in perfect condition and effective measures are being taken to increase and encourage agricultural labor. In Santiago de Cuba the cultivated zones are in perfect condition; those of San Luis, Songo and Cañamares may be cited as models. In Cañamares 14 thousand free railway tickets were given to the reconcentrados who returned to their old homes.

Gradually the gaiety of the crisis is passing away, but owing to the fact that the reconcentrados can be accomplished in a brief time.

APART FROM ANY PROPOSED IDEA IT IS THE ONLY ONE THAT COMES FROM THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO A POWERFUL MEANS OF RELIEF IN THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS SAID TO NOTE THAT THE RECONCENTRATED, BUT IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS IS BY NO MEANS DONE EXCLUSIVELY TO WANT AND MISERY. THE EXTRADITION WHICH OCCURRED IN SOME CITIES WAS ENORMOUS; IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA ALONE, 12,000 PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN SIGNED. THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS ALSO SHOW THAT THE HIGH RATES OF MORTALITY ARE NOT DUE IN MANY CASES TO THE ABSENCE OF PROVISIONS. IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED THAT THE LARGEST NUMBER OF DEATHS OCCUR upon the arrival from the country of new groups of reconcentrados who unwillingly take the advice of the doctors in their deliberate refusal to eat the rations that the thoughtful charity of the soldiers makes them proffer, in many cases with fatal results.

I will say in conclusion that the situation has improved much and that the most acute point of the crisis has passed. The problem, however, is not resolved nor can it be done immediately because the majority of the persons dependent on public and private charity at the present moment are children and women whose future has to be assured.

A STATE OF WAR INEVITABLY LEAVES DEEP SCARS AND MUCH WORK IS NECESSARY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE IN A SINGLE DAY.

THE HERALD'S WEATHER FORECAST.

New York, April 1.—In the middle states and New England, today, fair, slightly cooler and fresh northerly and northerly winds, preceded by some easterly winds. New England coast and in the lake region, on Saturday, in both of these sections, fair weather, slight to fresh variable winds, mostly southerly and southeasterly, followed by some cloudiness.