

FIRM ATTITUDE

Government Will Not Listen to European Mediation.

REFERENCE TO THE MAINE

Be Made in the President's Forthcoming Message.

SEA MUST BE INDEPENDENT

Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Will Present a Resolution Dealing For Cuban Independence and Intervention and Holding Spain Responsible For the Wreck of the Battleship, Either by Design or Criminal Negligence—New Vessels Proposed to Add to the Auxiliary Navy. Proof That Havana Harbor Was Mined.

Washington, March 5.—The two foreign branches of the Cuban question Washington yesterday were the president's message and European mediation, which now has taken an active part in the courts of Europe, according to advices received at the foreign missions here, though no proffer has been made to the United States. Regarding the first it can be stated that message will be sent to congress tomorrow.

Members of Mr. McKinley's cabinet and his friends in congress stated definitely that it will deal vigorously with the question, will include the Maine incident, and will make definite recommendations to congress, one of which will be the recognition of Cuban independence. As to the mediation of Europe or the pope, they declare that all material and moral powers must be used to induce their suasion on Spain, for this document will insist on independence Cuba as an ultimate sine qua non, and the insurgents themselves would consent to less, and this they flatly refused to do. Speaking on a point one of the cabinet officers said:

You can say or me that all the powers of Europe and the heads of all the churches may propose mediation to



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ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAY.

Spain if they desire, but the United States will positively not listen to mediation of any kind that does not lead to the acceptance of our condition, which is independence for Cuba."

"Wait for Wednesday," was the word passed about the Capitol, and a general understanding to that effect was reached. The Republicans will not initiate and the Democrats will not try to force any action on Cuba until tomorrow, when the president's message will be received. With that understanding the senate foreign relations committee did not report, and the house foreign affairs committee took no action.

It is known that the senate committee has agreed upon a resolution, practically the Foraker resolution, declaring independence and intervention, with an amendment fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine upon Spain, either by design or criminal negligence. The house foreign affairs committee will report, if possible, a resolution in line with the president's recommendations, and it is known that efforts are being made to have the resolutions of both committees agree with the president's wishes.

With the exception of the purchase of ten steamships for use as auxiliary cruisers yesterday was devoid of developments in the military and naval branches of the government. There were the usual constant conferences between the various bureau chiefs of both departments, and Secretaries Long and Alger had numerous callers from the Capitol. No orders, it was stated, have been sent to either the fleet at Key West or the squadron at Hampton Roads, and no confirmation could be obtained of the report that sea orders had been sent the battleship Texas at New York.

Secretary Alger has decided to recommend to the president that an additional allotment from the emergency fund be made for the use of the ordnance bureau of the army. The ordnance department is still lacking ammunition for the sea coast fortifications, and the extra allotment will be used for this purpose.

It was frankly and openly charged in the senate yesterday by Mr. Perkins, of California, in a set speech, that Spain was responsible for the Maine disaster, as it had been brought about by Spanish machinations and Spanish treachery. The speech of Mr. Perkins was only one of four prepared addresses upon the Cuban question delivered in the senate yesterday. Mr. Clay, of Georgia, while hoping for a peaceful settlement of the problem the country is now facing, declared strongly in favor of independence of the Cubans, and pledged to the administration the loyal support of the south, which in the event of war would have to bear the brunt of the conflict. Mr. Perkins took substantially the same ground, and his vigorous treatment of the Maine disaster aroused the crowded galleries to enthusiastic applause. Mr. Mantle, of Montana, while expressing confidence in the administration,

maintained that the time for action had now arrived, and that action must be to the end that Cuba should be free. Mr. Rawlins, of Utah, entirely eliminated the president from consideration in his speech, holding that the case against Spain was already made up, and that with congress rested the responsibility of declaring war. For congress to wait longer was only to invite criticism.

Senator Mitchell, of Wisconsin, who is one of the most conservative men in the senate, and has never advocated intervention in any way until since the receipt of the report of the Maine disaster, received a letter yesterday from a friend in Milwaukee in which an argument for peace is made. Senator Mitchell replied: "I have never favored armed interference in Cuban affairs. I did not feel that we were bound to redress the wrong of Cuba by resorting to war. But the Maine episode will not down." Over refinement of argument is useless. It stands before the American people a plain case of treachery. Perfidy and cruelty run in the Spanish blood. There is little else in its history. Any nation that would permit such an outrage to go unpunished would not deserve to exist. There are some things worse than war. There are some things better than money."

A special meeting of the cabinet was held last night, and at its conclusion Secretary Long authorized the announcement that the president's Cuban message was finished and would be presented to congress tomorrow. The message, which in itself is long, will not be accompanied by the consular reports dealing with the state of affairs in Cuba. These will go to the committee on foreign relations of the senate for their private information, and will not be made public just now. The diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Spain will not be submitted at present.

HAVANA HARBOR WAS MINED.

Naval Attache Colwell Has Evidence to Prove the Fact.

London, April 5.—Details have been obtained of the manufacture of submarine mines in London for Spain, which was first brought to the attention of the United States embassy and cabled to the United States on March 5. A man whose cards describe him as being an electrical engineer, and whose name was forwarded at the time to Washington, then said he sold to Spanish officers in London, several years ago, a large number of mines, eight or ten of which were placed in Havana harbor. He said they were made in a special way, had a specially constructed mine, which he can identify if the smallest piece is produced, and he added that some of the mines were fixed so that they could be fired from a fort, while two of them had fuses so arranged that they would explode upon a vessel coming into contact with them. The man added, however, that he did not believe the fuses would be used in water as shallow as that of Havana harbor. Finally the man exhibited plans of one of these mines, which he said was the most likely to produce the effect described as causing the wreck of the Maine.

Lieutenant Commander J. C. Colwell, the United States naval attache, has since investigated the matter and has made a report on the subject to the United States government. The facts learned strongly tend to show that Havana harbor was mined, and they unquestionably prove that Spain purchased mines for that purpose. The firm of Lattimer, Rhodes & Clark, electrical engineers, during 1887-8, filed a large order for Spain of a lot of mines, in which were used 1½ tons of gun cotton. The work was done under the surveillance of General Fernandez and Captain Bustamante. The mines were divided into four consignments—for Havana, Ferrol, Cadiz and Cartagena. The mines were manufactured under the direction of J. P. Gibbons, after Gibbons' patents.

Gibbons, from whom a press representative obtains the information, and who furnished to Lieutenant Commander Colwell a written statement of the above facts, and outlined the theory of the explosion which wrecked the Maine, was then employed by the firm as superintendent of the torpedo department. He also says a similar lot of torpedoes was manufactured for Spain in 1896.

The manager of the Westminster Engineering company, which is the successor of the aforementioned firm, and with which Gibbons is connected, confirms the latter's statement as to the manufacture of mines for Spain.

WAR NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Spain's Formidable Torpedo Fleet Disbursed at Cape Verde Islands.

Washington, April 5.—Tuesday of last week added considerably to the excitement at Washington, which resulted in a conference of Republican members of congress who are determined to demand speedy action on the part of the administration. A key West dispatch announced that food contributed for starving Cubans was rotting at that place because no vessel had been detailed to land it in Cuba. Word was sent from Washington to various points authorizing enlistments for the navy. In the senate several belligerent resolutions were introduced, including a declaration of war, recognition of Cuban independence, armed intervention and other decisive steps against Spain.

On Wednesday an effort was made to force a Cuban recognition resolution through the house by Mr. Bailey, the Democratic leader. The Republicans, however, voted almost solidly against the resolution, and it will be presented by one of their own party at the proper time. It was officially announced that President McKinley has made a formal demand for Cuban independence, and the house decided to await Spain's answer. An important act of the navy department was the appointment of Captain Sigsbee, of the destroyed steamer Maine, as aid to Secretary Long. He and Colonel Warner, of the army, will form the joint board of defense plans. Dispatches from abroad showed that Queen Regent Maria Christina, of Spain, had appealed to Austria for mediation, but her cousin, Emperor Francis Joseph, will extend only sympathy.

Thursday was a day of anxious waiting for Spain's reply to President McKinley's demand for Cuban independence. When the reply arrived, late at night, it was not given out for publication, but it was plainly intimated that it was entirely unsatisfactory. On

that day William J. Bryan was interviewed at his home in Lincoln, Neb., and he declared unqualifiedly for intervention, even at the risk of war's horrors, in order to save the starving Cubans.

Last Friday was a day of great excitement. It was given out, though not officially reported, that the reply of the Spanish government to the president's letter was very unsatisfactory, and that a message would be sent to congress explaining the whole position on Monday of this week. The general opinion on that day was that congress would declare for armed intervention that Spain would resist, and that was to follow. A telegram from Madrid announced that Spain's formidable torpedo flotilla had arrived at Port Rico, but this proved to be untrue. The fleet encountered a severe storm en route, and the vessels were compelled to seek shelter at Cape Verde Islands, in badly crippled condition to make repairs. They are 2,500 miles from Porto Rico.

On Saturday the reports had it that the president was unalterably opposed to the war spirit in congress. It was given out that the Spanish assure that the reconcentration in Cuba would be provided for. But it now looks as if this statement was given out to secure delay, as it was also asserted that the government had purchased large quantities of ammunition abroad, which had not yet been shipped. Powder makers in this country, too, are clamoring for more time. The papers were published to show that no more formidable fleet of war vessels was ever gathered together, under any flag, than Commodore Schley's flying squadron at Hampton Roads. A Wayne, Me., dispatch announced the invention of a terrible engine of war by Thomas Maxton, brother of the famous gun inventor. This latest invention is called the Maxim naval torpedo, and will throw a ton of dynamite a distance of five miles.

In an interview at Madrid Sunday Senator Sigsbee, the Spanish premier, said: "We did not object in principle to an armistice for the Cuban insurgents. We are, however, of the opinion that it does not behove Spain to take the initiative, and that a suspension of hostilities ought to be asked for by the insurgents. We suggested that the United States government might, if so inclined, exercise its influence with the insurgents to induce them to apply for an armistice with a view to further the ends of peace, on the understanding, however, that the armistice would be destined to lead to the submission of the insurgents to the new autonomous regime."

Senior Sagnata declared further that the question of Cuban independence, the sole of that colony or any invasion of Spanish rights was not mentioned in the recent negotiations.

Private Claims Against Spain.

Washington, April 5.—Claims against Spain aggregating \$16,000,000 for injury and loss incident to the war in Cuba have been filed with the state department by citizens of the United States residing in that country. They cover claims for personal injury, imprisonment, loss of stock, burning of sugar plantations, etc. All are properly indexed at the state department, and then presented to Minister Woodford, at Madrid, where they are presented to the Spanish government for adjudication. The claims were filed yesterday. The state expects an annual income of \$100,000.

Mrs. William G. Whitney, wife of the ex-secretary of the treasury, is expected to receive from the president that happens to her while hunting in South Carolina.

Monday, April 4.

New York's commercial says the claim is about \$20,000,000 beyond the legal limit.

Great Britain has demanded from China a release of Wei-Hai-Wei, a Chinese port on the coast of Manchuria.

W. H. Harvey, familiarly known as "Com" Harvey, is critically ill in the Mayo, with appendicitis.

Eight thousand school teachers in New York will receive an average advance in pay of \$100 a year.

The wife of Justice Brewer, of the United States supreme court, died in Washington last night.

A captain from Japan says that native auction and tobacco and Evansian have been shipped from Japan to Peru.

Tuesday, April 5.

Daniel Parsons, who said he was 16 years old, died in Paterson, N. J.

The Japanese cabinet has decided to refrain from action in China at present.

The Chinese government has announced the opening to trade of three ports.

A party of French scientists will attempt to reach the Klondike country in a balloon.

The trial of Mildred Brewster for the murder of Anna Wheeler on May 29, 1897, is in progress at Montpelier, Vt.

In the event of war the Camden Naval Reserves will patrol the bay and coast as far as Barnegat in the monitor Ajax.

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

Wednesday, March 20.

The new torpedo boat purchased in Germany has been named the Somers. Flood damage near Greensburg, Ind., exceeds \$150,000. There were a dozen persons drowned.

The public funeral of Lieutenant Jenkins, who lost his life in the Maine disaster, took place at Pittsburg today.

The national senate has passed the bill appropriating \$300,000 for the industrial exposition to be held in Philadelphia.

Two more bodies have been taken from the ruins of the burned Ayer building, Chicago, making a total of 12 thus far found.

Thursday, March 31.

During the civil war the sessions of congress did not consume as much time as is usual in times of peace.

It is reported that Denmark has sold to the United States the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix, in the West Indies.

A stock jobbing rumor in London yesterday was to the effect that President Kruger, of the Transvaal republic, had been assassinated.

The Italian government has ordered Italian consuls in the United States to see that the Italian emigrants observe the strictest neutrality in the event of war.

Friday, April 1.

Hon. James L. Wolcott, former chairman of Delaware, died at his home in Dover.

It is reported that Japan has asked the United States to join Great Britain in supporting Japan's position at Wei-Hai-Wei.

The two men who attempted to assassinate King George, of Greece, at Athens in February, have been sentenced to death.

The appeal of M. Zola, the noted French novelist, for a new trial will not be granted, but it is admitted that he will not be sent to jail to serve his year's sentence.

Saturday, April 2.

Edmunds celebrated his 81st birthday yesterday.

The report of Senator Wilson to the government's best sugar experiment has been sent to congress.

W. T. Gowan, editor of the *Democrat*, had a street duel with Wm. T. Davis, captain T. M. Davis, attorney and

the two men were wounded little boy, and none of the combatants lost a limb.

The contracts for the dredging of the Mississippi under the new system were issued yesterday.

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