

Eugene City Guard.

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EUGENE CITY, OREGON.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Interesting Collection of Current Events
In Condensed Form From
Both Continents.

The first mining and irrigation congress ever held in the Pacific Northwest met in Baker City, Or., Tuesday. Much interest was manifested and numerous delegates attended.

A Cairo dispatch says: It is announced that the gunboats and Anglo-Egyptian troops attacked Shendi Saturday, destroyed the forts, captured quantities of grain, cattle and ammunition and liberated over 600 slaves. The derivishes lost 160 men. There were no casualties on the Anglo-Egyptian side.

A London dispatch says the situation in the far East is considered gloomy and unsatisfactory, and there is deep discontent here over the results of Lord Salisbury's diplomacy. The belated movement of the British fleet in Chinese waters has caused as much uneasiness in financial circles as satisfaction among other classes. This apprehension would have affected all classes of securities if American stocks had not been remarkably buoyant, and carried everything upward.

The Official Messenger, of St. Petersburg, publishes a circular which has been telegraphed to the representatives of Russia abroad. It is as follows: "By virtue of a convention signed at Peking on March 27, Port Arthur and the port of Tientsin and territories adjacent thereto have been ceded to Russia in usufruct by China. You are requested to notify the government to which you are accredited, adding that the above mentioned ports and territories will be immediately occupied by Russian troops and the Russian flag will be hoisted by the side of the Chinese flag. You may at the same time inform the foreign minister that the port of Tientsin will be open to foreign trade and that the largest measure of hospitality will be extended to ships of all friendly nations."

John G. Brady, governor of Alaska, came down on the last steamer from the north. He is on his way to Washington in the interest of Alaskan legislation. Governor Brady said that all saloons in Alaska will be closed, if it is within his power. He does not expect, however, that this will put a stop to the use and sale of liquor in Alaska, it being his opinion that prohibition cannot be successfully carried out there. Governor Brady declared himself in favor of high license. On his visit to Washington he will endeavor to have the general land laws of the United States extended to Alaska. He will suggest that a commission be appointed to draft a code of laws for the territory.

The United States supreme court has decided that a person born in this country of Chinese parents is entitled to citizenship.

Chicago Typographical union has telegraphed the Illinois representatives in congress calling for the intervention of the United States toward ending the inhuman war in Cuba.

Frank B. Clark, of Chicago, has purchased 1,000 feet of river frontage at Linton, a few miles below Portland, Or., and is negotiating for more. He will construct a large ship-building plant.

A diet kitchen and dispensary, where 2,000 sick will be cared for daily has been started in Havana. The kitchen was built by the central committee, and serves its purpose excellently. The sick and feeble will find the dispensary a great source of comfort and help.

The dispatch of the British fleet from Halifax to Bermuda, following the agitation for an Anglo-American alliance, is considerably commented upon by diplomats in London. The authorities explain that it is merely considered desirable that the British ships should be in the vicinity of Cuba in order to safely guard British commerce and British subjects, in case of war. The idea of Anglo-American co-operation in Cuba is scouted.

The levee on the Wabash river, near Sullivan, Ind., went out with a break of 100 feet, entailing a loss of \$100,000. Twenty thousand acres of land are overflowed, and hundreds of families are rendered homeless and destitute. Citizens are responding for miles around in the effort to remove families and stock. Hundreds of cattle and horses are hemmed in. Such a rush of water was never known in this section of the country before.

Deep interest is felt in Havana in the news received from the United States. La Lucha, in an editorial, says: "The United States' note to Spain demanding that a date be fixed to end hostilities is simply a declaration of war. It was not issued until after the finding of the United States court of inquiry had been received, which finding is without scientific basis, and is open to question even upon the part of the most prejudiced."

The senate committee on appropriations has recommended that Cleveland's forestry order, reserving large areas of land in many states, be rescinded. Should the order be rescinded, the land, about 17,000,000 acres in all, would be restored to the public domain, and the state of Washington would be extensively affected. Senator Wilson has secured an allowance of \$10,000 for the military post at Spokane, Wash., and \$10,000 for the establishment of a fish hatchery at Baker City, Or.

Bishop Hartzell, of Liberia, is now in London endeavoring to obtain from the English government a promise to obtain the integrity of his country from French encroachment. He will also ask the United States to aid in protecting its African offspring.

By a vote of 18 to 7 the Maryland senate has ordered engrossed the bill to appropriate \$50,000 a year for two years to John Hopkins university. The house has concurred with the senate in passing a bill to change the form of judicial oaths, doing away with the words "so help me God."

ON STATEN ISLAND SHORE.

Government Fortifications on Condemned Property.

New York, April 4.—Great activity prevails on the Staten island shore at the southern extension of Fort Wadsworth, where the government has acquired residence property and is using it for fortification. Tenants of condemned residences have received official notice from Major Adams, in command at Fort Wadsworth, that they must vacate in four days.

Much energy is being exerted about Captain King's residence. Even while the household effects were being moved workmen were felling trees on the lawn and digging trenches. Beyond the ruins can be seen the concrete emplacements of the battery of disappearing guns belonging to Fort Wadsworth.

In a diagonal line from the ruined domicile to the lawn in front of the King residence hundreds of workmen are making an enormous trench. The excavated earth is carried beyond, where a growing mound marks the site of a new battery which is to be constructed. This battery will command a view of South beach. Near by are other houses still the property of private citizens, who, however, will have to relinquish them to the government.

SPAIN'S ANSWER FINAL.

The Situation Is Critical, But the People Do Not Realize It.

Madrid, April 4.—According to the best information obtainable today Spain has definitely resolved not to make any further concessions to the United States.

Views from an authoritative source already bulletined to the press from Madrid are the substance of the official note on the subject published today. The Spanish government takes a bright view of relations with the United States, and believes peace is secured. Important newspapers comment on the note in this strain. But inquiries made last evening of Minister Woodford failed to secure anything confirming the optimistic impressions prevailing here. He has so earnestly been a friend of peace throughout that his silence now causes much anxiety in diplomatic circles. Woodford was busy until late last night. The substance of yesterday's proposals of the Spanish government, the press learns, is:

First.—That the insurgents should ask for an armistice, and not the United States.

Second.—That the request for an armistice should be dealt with by the autonomist cabinet of Cuba, and without the intervention or good offices of the United States.

VANDERBILT'S PATRIOTISM.

In Case of War He Will Give the Government a \$5,000,000 Warship.

New York, April 4.—W. K. Vanderbilt, it is reported, has decided, in the event of war with Spain, to present to the government a warship to cost \$5,000,000. This interesting information came from a most reliable source, with the explanation that Mr. Vanderbilt, impressed with the justice of the nation's attitude, believed this to be the most direct and practical manner in which he could be of service to his country. His grandfather, Commodore Vanderbilt, during the civil war, presented to the federal government the steamship Vanderbilt, valued at \$1,000,000.

Iconoclast Brann Killed.

Dallas, Tex., April 4.—A special to the News from Waco says: In the midst of busy preparations for city election meetings, while hands were playing and scattering handbills from their decorated vans calling the people together, W. C. Brann, editor of the iconoclast, and Captain M. T. Davis met and fought a revolver duel, which resulted in Brann's death tonight. The combatants met at 6 o'clock on South Fourth street, in front of the Cotton Belt ticket office, and after exchanging a few words, both began emptying their revolvers into each other's bodies. When the battle was over Brann was found to be perforated in the left lung, the left leg, and the right foot. Davis was shot through the right lung and through both arms. The difficulty between the two men grew out of the Brann-Baylor feud of last year.

The Colville Mining Boom.

Spokane, April 4.—Mining men down from the north half of the Colville reservation last night report a lively rush to the new camp of Republic, in Eureka district. Four stages run daily, and men are rushing in by the hundred—in wagons, on horseback and afoot. Capitalists are coming in large numbers, and many transfers are being made.

Experts who have examined the Republic mine report that over \$2,000,000 worth of gold ore has been blocked out.

The townsites was put on the market two days ago, and men stood in line for hours to buy lots. Mining men predict that the town will have 10,000 population before next winter.

To Man a Monitor.

New York, April 4.—Orders were received by the commander of the New York naval reserve today to send 100 men to League island to bring to this port one of the monitors now there. The men will leave at 8:30 P. M.

San Francisco, April 4.—A water bicycle driven by two men seated tandem fashion, may daily be seen on the bay. It was built on original lines by F. O. Winquist, a foreman in the Union iron works, and E. Olsen, who proposes to sail up the Yukon. The strange craft is constructed of aluminum and steel and it is said a speed of 18 knots can be made. Tests have proven the claims of the inventors and owners. They crossed the bay on the squally day the bark Almy was wrecked.

Havana, April 4.—The pacification of Cuba and settlement of matters at issue between the insurgents and the Spaniards by means of the methods now being employed by Blanco are demonstrated to be impossible. Two agents of the Spanish government, acting under direction of general Pando, are trying to secure an audience with Gomez, to open peace negotiations, but the Cuban chief positively refuses to receive them without first being assured that the negotiations will be based on independence for Cuba. This assurance not being given, the whole matter is at a standstill.

THE ISSUE MADE UP

President Regards War as Inevitable.

IMPORTANT CABINET MEETINGS

Spain's Answer Is Entirely Unsatisfactory to This Country—The Matter Goes to Congress.

Washington, April 4.—There is little doubt that the president and members of his cabinet now regard a conflict with Spain as almost inevitable. In his message to congress, which in all probability will be sent in early in the week, it is understood that the president will review at some length the record as it stands between this government and Spain, but will not insist upon further time in which to continue negotiations looking to a peaceful settlement of the Cuban problem.

The cabinet meeting this morning was unquestionably the most important held in many years. It received Spain's answer to the ultimatum of this government, and finding it unsatisfactory, practically decided upon a policy which at this hour seems certain to involve hostilities. The whole record will be laid before congress, and the question is now under earnest consideration of what shall be the particular form our policy shall take in bringing to an end the horrors in Cuba, and securing the independence of the island.

Propositions ranging from a simple recognition of Cuban independence to a straight out declaration of war have been urged at the capital, but there is hardly a doubt that the majority of congress would take the executive lead before taking action, and are disposed to adopt Mr. McKinley's suggestions on this point. It is not thought that any of the resolutions, except, possibly, a simple recognition of independence, would lead to war.

There were, of course, all sorts of rumors in circulation, including reports of mediation by some European powers, but no such suggestion has come to this government, for as late as 5 o'clock, in response to a direct question, Secretary Day said there had been no offer of mediation by any foreign government.

Cabinet Member's Statement.

One member of the cabinet, in speaking of the meeting today, said:

"In the morning, it was apparent to all of us that, having exhausted all diplomatic efforts to bring about a better condition of affairs in Cuba, the whole question must be submitted to congress. At our afternoon meeting, the president requested each member of the cabinet to express freely his individual opinion as to what should be done. The discussion was entirely on the lines indicated by the members. Nothing definite was decided upon, and no conclusions reached. The president will now take the views submitted to him under consideration, preparatory to his message to congress, which will be sent early in the week."

"President McKinley has done a great deal of work recently, and appears pretty well fatigued. Consequently, he will take some little rest before beginning work on the message. He has not yet determined what recommendation will be communicated to congress."

"My own individual opinion is that but little faith can be put in promises made by Spain, and this makes me hesitate about accepting with any confidence her latest proposals. In the first place, she promised a long time ago that the reconcentrados would be released; the result shows this promise has not been kept. Now she proposes to release them, but keep them under military supervision. Who can tell whether she will adhere to this expressed intention?"

"Broadly, there appears to be three courses open to the president in dealing further with this matter. The first of these is to accept the proposals submitted by Spain in reply to the American representations, the second to relegate the whole matter to congress, and let that body do as it seems proper—which I think would mean intervention—and the third, to take a middle stand. But, as I said before, nothing has yet been determined upon by the president, or, if he has reached a decision, he did not communicate it to the cabinet."

"Yes, reference was made by Spain to the Maine matter in the reply she sent through Minister Woodford. She made no offer to pay for the loss, but suggested that the matter be settled by arbitration. So far as I recall, she expressed no regret for the sad occurrence, and the whole thing was regarded as a cold-blooded statement."

The reply of Spain is said in effect to be representation that the independence of Cuba means the partition or cession of Spanish territory, which cannot be done without the consent of the Spanish cortes, which will not be in session until April 24. That a counter-proposition is submitted that the Cuban matter shall be settled upon a basis equitable among nations. The United States is asked to give Spain time to treat with the insurgents and ascertain what can be done in the nature of a peaceful settlement.

At Porto Rico.

Madrid, April 4.—The Spanish torpedo flotilla has arrived at Porto Rico.

Kruger Was Not Assassinated.

London, April 4.—A report was current on the stock exchange today to the effect that President Kruger, of the South African republic, has been shot and killed. The general representative of the Transvaal discredited the report. The story is probably a stock exchange canard.

Naval Station at Pearl Harbor.

Washington, April 4.—Secretary Long has sent to congress the report of the project for establishing a naval coaling and repair station at Pearl harbor, Hawaiian islands, submitted by Rear Admiral Miller, commander-in-chief of the naval Pacific station.

Washington, April 4.—Representative W. Sayers, of Texas, minority member of the committee, said: "I will not vote for an appropriation to furnish food for the suffering Cubans unless it be accompanied by armed intervention."

FLEET READY FOR ACTION.

Extraordinary Preparations Under Way at Key West.

Key West, April 2.—Every preparation for action was taken by the warships today. The woodwork was stripped off exposed spots and sent ashore. The wooden pilot-houses on the cruisers were taken down. Even the steersman's wooden box was removed from some ships. These precautions have been adopted to prevent, as far as possible, the danger of flying splinters in case of action. The officers sent their personal valuables and belongings to be stored on shore.

The Castine and two torpedo-boats left their anchorage after dark, and steamed to the southward, where they will patrol during the night. This precaution was ordered by Captain Sampson today. He is particularly anxious to watch closely the southern entrance to this harbor, and also to afford additional safety for the Iowa, Indiana and New York, which lie unprotected six miles out.

The naval station officials have received orders to overhaul their marine engineering stock, so that it could be used instantly in case of emergency.

The establishment of a patrol is considered by the few who know of it as most significant. The entire fleet is now in readiness to move at 15 minutes' notice.

The five bodies from the Maine brought here last night were buried today with the usual simple ceremony.

ASKED BLANCO'S OPINION.

How the Situation Now Appears in Madrid.

New York, April 2.—A dispatch to the World from Madrid says: The Spanish government has wired the substance of the negotiations between this country and the United States to Captain-General Blanco, at Havana, with a view of obtaining his opinion on the disposition of the insular government, the autonomist and other colonial parties, and as to what disposition the army and the volunteers would show toward the contemplated means to hasten the pacification of Cuba.

While conflicting impressions prevail in political and diplomatic circles on the issue of the negotiations, the impression is that the government will do its best to secure peace by reasonable concessions to America and Cuba, although complete independence may not be conceded.

A GERMAN BLUFF.

An Effort Made to Secure Possession of Liberia.

New York, April 3.—Joseph Hartzell, an American Methodist bishop in Africa, who has just arrived from the Dark Continent, says that while he was in Liberia a German gunboat arrived and demanded \$11,500 indemnity for an alleged offense to a German subject. The indemnity was calculated as follows:

Damages to property, \$3,500; \$3,500 for threatening to stab the German and \$4,500 for the expense of collecting the money with a gunboat.

President Coleman refused to pay, whereupon the commander of the gunboat told him that Germany would waive the claim for indemnity if a treaty was entered into placing Liberia under Germany's protectorate. This was also declined and President Coleman commissioned Bishop Hartzell to endeavor to move England and the United States to back Liberia in its effort to remain independent of German and French interference.

The bishop says he has laid the matter before the British government and now intends taking it to the government at Washington.

Beach's Advice to the Cubans.

Washington, April 2.—Representative C. B. Beach, of Ohio, sent the following telegram to President Palma, of the Cuban junta:

"Having maintained the war for three years by their own bravery, resources and sacrifices, unprecedented in all history, will the Cubans accept compromise when they can overhear in the throat of their brutal enemy a 'death rattle' God forbid! Will compromise give you back your son? Will it unrape your daughter? Will it revive the mother who urged them on with the breath which starvation allowed? Fight it out. Uncle Sam is dusting off his uniform."

For Relief of Cubans.

Washington, April 2.—Representative Wheeler introduced a bill today appropriating \$500,000 to purchase provisions for the use of Cuban non-combatants, and directing the president to cause them to be conveyed at once to the starving people, and to use as much of the military and naval forces as necessary to attain this purpose. It also directs the president to notify the Spanish government that this proceeding is an act of humanity, and not intended as an act of war.

Freight Trains Collide.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 1.—Two heavy freight trains on the Western & Atlantic railroad collided today near Adairsville, Ga. Engineer Elliot was instantly killed and Engineer McArdee fatally injured. The trains were completely demolished and a score of cars smashed into kindling wood. Several brakemen were badly injured.

To Buy Danish West Indies.

Washington, April 2.—Senator Lodge has reported from the committee on foreign relations a bill directing the president to purchase the Danish West India islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, or any of them, for a coaling station. Five million dollars is appropriated.

A lighthouse of bamboo has been built in Japan. It is said to have great power of resisting the waves, and does not rot like ordinary wood.

Will Illuminate Hampton Roads.

Port Monroe, Va., April 2.—The big searchlight that graced the top of the manufacturers' building at the world's fair has been brought here from Sandy Hook, and will be in running order in a day or so. It is 35,000 candle-power and will illuminate Hampton roads from shore line to shore line.

Salt Lake, April 2.—A special to the Tribune from Fort Duchesne says order have been received by the post commander that the Hotchkiss cannon and ammunition shall be sent as soon as possible to Mobile, Ala.

BLANCO'S LAST ORDER

Liberates All Suffering Reconcentrados.

SPAIN IS VISIBLY WEAKENING

The Decree Directed to the Four Western Provinces, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara.

Havana, April 2.—Captain-General Blanco has issued an important decree, dated March 30, and published this morning, in which he directs the end of reconcentration in the four western provinces, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara.

The preamble sets forth that the pacification of the eastern provinces having been considerably advanced by the combined action of arms and the natural effect of the establishment of autonomy in giving security to the country, making possible the advancement of the sugar, tobacco and food crops; it also being near the time when the minor plantings give the means of living to the laboring classes and peasants; also believing the time has come to resume the normal conditions in the towns and villages, to do away with the cause of suffering among the people, to remove so far as possible all the effects of the reconcentrados and further to give complete liberty to all the country people to return to such places as they desire to do such labor as they may select, this order is issued.

The preamble further says that for the reconcentrados who are without resources or instruments with which to labor remaining in towns or centers previously set apart for their use, the colonial government proposes to the governor-general a plan of relief. In this plan, the mayors and alcaldes are expected to take part, establishing soap kitchens, etc., and doing all in their power to terminate the existing misery.

After the preamble, the order continues: "Article 1. After the publication of this order, the reconcentrados and their families will be allowed to return home in the four provinces given above."

"Article 2. Orders all relief committees and military authorities to facilitate the workings of the decree and also to aid the reconcentrados in securing new houses."

"Article 3. Directs the colonial government, through its secretary and ministerial officers, to prepare to execute all necessary orders to secure for the country people work on public improvements and also to give food by economical kitchens to all suffering, attention being called to those on the small country estates."

"Article 4. All the expenses over and above the funds now in the hands of the committee are to be provided for under the head of an extraordinary war credit."

"Article 5. All former orders of reconcentration are abrogated."

QUEEN REGENT'S APPEAL.

Wrote for Help to the Sovereigns of Europe.

London, April 2.—The Vienna correspondent of the Standard says: The queen regent of Spain, I learn, wrote personally last week to Emperor Francis Joseph and other sovereigns, requesting not precisely intervention, but the exercise of such influence at Washington as might conduce to a settlement of the injury to Spain's dignity and vital interests.

To her relatives in Austria her majesty wrote that she regards herself as more fettered than a real sovereign, because she is only a trustee who has undertaken to hand over to a son an inheritance from his father unimpaired and uninjured.

"I am in a difficult position," she said, "having to act as a guardian of the dynasty which I must not expose to any danger. To surrender Cuba in any form will unquestionably be injurious to the dynasty under which such surrender occurred, whereas to fight it would keep these interests intact, together with my country's honor. But the disadvantages Spain would have to fight under are obvious, and a peaceful solution would best serve my purpose."

I do not pretend to give the text of the queen regent's letter, but only the general sense. The recipients have been deeply impressed by the seriousness of such communication from a woman of remarkable energy and sense of duty, confronted by such a momentous crisis.

A Cuban's Revenge.

Havana, April 2.—It is announced that Lieutenant-Colonel Benedicto, who commanded the Spanish forces which killed the insurgent leader Aranguren, while visiting the house of Dr. Francisco Vidal, at Guanabacoa, has been wounded by a revolver shot in the neck. The colored man who fired the shot escaped.

La Lucha's Threats.

Havana, April 2.—La Lucha, in an editorial, says: "We are at the end of the farce which has held the stage until now. Heaven should apprise Senor Sagasta that he is near the end, not only of his political career, but also of his life."

The Exploring Expeditions.

San Francisco, April 2.—The steamer Valencia, which will sail next Sunday for Copper river, will take away three government expeditions. One expedition is going north to survey the mouth of Copper river, another is going to Cook inlet and the third is to survey an all-American route via Valdez pass to the head of Copper river.

In Berlin and Leipzig cyclometers are attached to cabs so that the occupant may know his legal fare.

General Blanco's Report.

Washington, April 2.—The Spanish legation has received the full report from General Blanco and from the governors of all the provinces of Cuba and alcaldes and chiefs of police of the principal cities as to the condition of the reconcentrados. It is an elaborate treatment of this subject by the officers directly in charge. It is noteworthy that they do not seek to minimize the dreadful condition of these people, but endeavor to show they are doing their utmost to alleviate the misery and misfortune which exists.

SPAIN GIVES IN.

Reconcentrado Order Is Partially Rescinded.

Washington, April 1.—The Spanish legation here late tonight received a cablegram from the governor-general of Cuba, saying the pacification of the eastern provinces is so far advanced that it has been decided to rescind the reconcentrado order in three provinces and allow all subjects of this decree to return to their homes in the country.

To aid in the re-establishment of the reconcentrados upon their farms, the cablegram states the government will grant them the protection of the Spanish military forces, augmented by local relief committees to look after their immediate needs.

Economic kitchens, it says, are to be established to support the reconcentrados while waiting for their first crops to mature, and they are to be furnished farming implements and seeds by the government.

To supply them with ready money, such of them as are able will be given employment on public works, and it is asserted by the authorities that these measures will result in the speedy rehabilitation of rural communities in the western provinces.

This cablegram was not made public till more than an hour after midnight, and no official comment upon its significance could be secured.

SPAIN REALIZES HER POSITION.

Knows That There Is but One Thing to Do, and That Is to Give In.

Madrid, April 1.—While the situation here is outwardly of the calmest description, the actual position of affairs is regarded as critical by both the United States legation and the Spanish government. The United States minister, General Stewart Woodford, is working and will continue to work energetically for peace until the first gun is fired. It is known the Spanish admits the desirability or necessity of complying with the demands of the United States, and it is only in the disinclination of the ministers to put this willingness in concrete form where the danger lies. If a conference were to be held with the German or French diplomats, the matter would be settled without question. The point which General Woodford is now pressing is that in the interest of humanity, hostilities in Cuba must cease immediately. No date was fixed either in the first or in the present note, but the United States is now dwelling upon the "immediacy," and insisting that Spain accept its general interpretation.

The public generally is taking little apparent interest in the situation, but there is a general disinclination to believe that war is likely.

A dispatch from Barcelona says that the armed steam yacht Giralda, purchased by the Spanish government from Harry McAlmont, the English racehorse owner, after the vessel had been rejected by the United States, is now being fitted up as a dispatch boat.

El Pais says four warships have been obtained by Spain in France, and that negotiations are pending for the purchase of several torpedo-boats in Great Britain. El Pais also says that orders have been issued to mobilize all the Spanish war ships, and that the torpedo-boat Halcon is to sail immediately from Cartagena for Cadiz, where a second torpedo squadron is being prepared. Military engineers are starting for the Canary islands, and the Baleares islands are being fortified.

Italy, it is said by El Pais, has decided to sell the armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi, of 6,840 tons, well armed, a sister ship of the Varese, to Spain.

Two regiments, according to El Pais, are going to the Canary islands to strengthen the Spanish garrison there.

El Pais sees in the meeting between General Woodford and the Spanish minister yesterday an indication that the United States is "gaining time and waiting for the rainy season, so as to take Spain at a disadvantage in Cuba."

The Armstrongs' Spanish agent, a Spaniard who is in touch with the government and commercial people in Spain, has expressed the belief that unless the powers intercede, there will be war.

Maine Relief Bill a Law.

Washington, April 1.—The act for the relief of the sufferers by the Maine disaster was today approved by the president.

The most significant of the naval orders issued by the navy department recently was the detachment of Commander Horace M. Elmer, from Gramps' ship yard, and ordering him to duty "in the mosquito fleet." This auxiliary organization of the navy, which is to be called into service in time of war, is to be composed of small craft of all kinds that may be obtainable by the department upon which a gun may be mounted, and other defensive devices placed. As far as practicable, it is the intention of the department that there shall be a separate set of ships for the defense of the seacoast cities, the whole to be composed of the "mosquito fleet." In the event of necessity for a rendezvous of several of these local fleets it can be arranged, as the primary idea is for each local fleet to form the "mobile defense" of the particular city where it will be called into service to assist in furnishing armament for vessels, and in the event of war, naval officers will be assigned to the command of each of the several local fleets.

At Brooklyn Navy Yard.

New York, April 1.—At present over 2,000 men are at work in the Brooklyn navy yards, and work goes on day and night. Work on the Dolphin has been completed, and stores and ammunition have been put upon her. There are nearly 20 vessels in the yard including the Chicago, Atlanta, Texas and Mayflower.

Kerosene from Sumatra Is Entering

the markets of the far East in competition with the Russian oil.

In Readiness to Move.

Missoula, Mont., April 1.—Colonel Burt, commanding the Twenty-fifth infantry, United States army, headquarters at Fort Missoula, has been notified by the department commander that the regiment was ordered to Florida, and to hold the troops in readiness to move at once.

Bought a Foreign Yacht.

Palermo, April 1.—The Journal de Sicilia announces that the United States has bought the steam yacht Aquas, belonging to the Florio Rubinato Company, for a dispatch-boat. The price paid is \$300,000.

ULTIMATUM TO SPAIN

President McKinley Demands Independence of Cuba.

HOSTILITIES MUST CEASE AT ONCE

Spain, After All Her Bravado, Maintains the Proposition—Not a Doubt That She Is Weakening.

Washington, April 1.—The point in the Cuban situation, viz., independence, has shifted itself from Washington to Madrid, where the Spanish government is now giving grave and earnest consideration to the propositions presented by the government of the United States. The answer to these propositions depends upon the future course of the relations between Spain and the United States.

It is believed that it is now before an inevitable crisis must come. The Spanish ministry will hold a council tomorrow,