Albert Robinson

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WAR NOW EXISTS

Sampson's Fleet Ordered to Blockade Havana.

SPAIN REJECTS ULTIMATUM

Minister Woodford Is Given His Passports and Diplomatic Relations Between the United States and Spain Are Declared to Be Severed.

Washington, April 23.—War between the United States and Spain is a fact, though not officially declared so by congress.

The stirring events of yesterday were succeeded today with rapidity by others of more importance, culminating in the afternoon in orders for the departure of the North Atlantic squadron for Havana. This practically is an act of war, so that the war between this country and Spain may fairly be said to date from today.

Two minutes after the opening of the state department this morning, came word from Minister Woodford that the Spanish government, having anticipated and prevented his intentions to present the president's ultimatum, he had asked for his passports. The administration, in a public statement, announced that it regarded the action of the Spanish government as rendering unnecessary further diplomatic action on the part of the United States, and further stated that it regarded the course adopted by Spain as one placing upon that country the responsibility for the breach of friendly relations.

Mr. Woodford's telegram resulted in the calling of a special cabinet meeting to arrange an outline for a plan of campaign, or rather to determine how to begin the execution of the plan of campaign already prepared by the strategic boards of the army and navy departments.

The Blockade of Havana.

The result was the immediate order for the Atlantic squadron to begin the blockade of Havana.

How much further than this the cabinet progressed in its deliberations it is not possible to say, for the obvious reason that the time has now come when the interests of the government requrie that the movements of the ships and troops should be guarded with the greatest care from undue publicity, in order to prevent the enemy from taking advantage of information.

The North Atlantic squadron, under Captain Sampson's command, is a splendid array of fine vessels, and this force is quite competent to blockade all the ports in Cuba, or at least all of the ports connecting by rail with Havana, and so likely to be used to supply that place in the event of seige with food and munitions of war.

This statement is to be taken with the understanding that it does not contemplate the coming to Cuban waters of the Spanish fleet. In such case, however, the probable policy would be to abandon the blockade and endeavor to force the Spanish fleet to battle.

Minister Woodford's action during the day, as reported to the state department in a late telegram, indicated that he was following a carefully prepared programme. A significant feature of his message was the statement that the Spanish government notified him that it regarded the withdrawal of Minister Polo yesterday as terminating diplomatic negotiations, showing that it was not disposed to accept the expressed intention of our government to continue Minister Woodford as a medium of communication any longer.

Mr. Woodford also announced that he had instructed Consul-General Bowen, at Barcelona, to call upon all American consuls to withdraw.

He further stated that he had informed the Spanish government, after asking for his passports, that he had placed the American legation in Madrid and American interests in Spain generally in the hands of the British ambassador. The ambassador, Right Hon. Sir H. Fry-Drummond Wolf, is not at present in Madrid, so American interests will be confided to the British charge, Sir George E. Bonham.

To all intents and purposes, this relieves the state department from further negotiatins as to Cuba, save those relating to privateering, neutrality observances and the like.

Sending of Troops to Cuba.

Captain Sampson's fleet, which has been ordered to Cuba, later on will be supported by troops which will be dispatched to Cuba as soon as in the opinion of the president it is possible to use them advantageously in the occupation of the island. Meanwhile, as rapidly as troops can be rushed to Key West and other points on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, they will be hurried forward. It is estimated that it will take 10 days to concentrate an army sufficient in size with supplies to make the campaign.

It is the purpose to gather these troops and make a sharp, decisive movement. Immediately upon the passage of an army volunteer bill by congress, the president will call for 100,000 men. Of this force, it is intended to use 80,000 men in Cuba, in conjunction with the regular army, now already assembled or assembling at points of concentration. The remaining 20,000 men will aid the artillery departments in guarding the sea coast and in manning the heavy guns of the coast defense.

The Ultimatum to Spain.

Following is the text of the president's ultimatum to Spain, as given out this morning:

"April 22, 1898.—Woodford, Minister of the United States, Madrid: You have been furnished with the text of the joint resolution voted by the congress of the United States on the 19th inst., and approved today, in relation to the pacification of the island of Cuba. In obedience to that act, the president directs you to immediately communicate to the government of Spain said resolution, with a formal demand upon the government of Spain to at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters. ng this step, the United States disclaims any disposition or in to exercise sovereignty, jurisdict control over the island, except f pacification thereof, and asserts termination when that is accomp to leave the government and co the island to its people under su and independent government as they may establish.

"If by the hour of noon on Saturday next, the 23d day of April, instant, there be not communicated to this government by the government of Spain full and satisfactory responses to this demand and resolution, whereby the ends of peace in Cuba shall be assured, the president will proceed without further notice to use the power and authority enjoyed and conferred upon him by said joint resolution to such extent as may be necessary to carry the same into effect. SHERMAN."

The following statement regarding the sending of the ultimatum to Spain was issued today:

Yesterday, April 22, 1898, at about 11 o'clock, the department of state served notice of the purpose of this government by delivering to Minister Polo a copy of the instructions to Minister Woodford, and also a copy of the resolution passed by the congress of the United States on the 19th. Immediately after the receipt of this notice the Spanish minister forwarded to the state department a request for his passports, which were furnished him yesterday afternoon. The United States minister at Madrid was at the same time instructed to make a like communication to the government of Spain.

This morning the department received from Minister Woodford the following telegram, stating that the Spanish government had broken off diplomatic relations with this government. This course on the part of Spain renders unnecessary any further diplomatic action on the part of the United States:

"Madrid, April 22.—Early this morning, immediately after the receipt of your telegram, and before I had communicated the same to the Spanish government, the Spanish minister of foreign affairs notified me that diplomatic relations had been broken between the two countries, and that all official communications between their respective representatives have ceased. I accordingly asked for safe passports. I shall turn the legation over to the British embassy and leave for Paris this afternoon. I have notified the consuls. "WOODFORD."

THE OREGON IN DANGER.

Feared That the Spanish Squadron Will Head Off the Battle-Ship.

Washington, April 23.—It was suggested at the navy department that it is possible the Spanish squadron, which sailed from Cape Verde islands today, is heading to cut off the fine battleship Oregon, now on its way from the Pacific coast to join Captain Sampson's command. There is also some fear that the Oregon may be taken at an unfair advantage, without knowledge of the existence of war, by the Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer Temerief, which is now at Buenos Ayres. Possibly, with a view of avoiding a conflict in the straits of Magellan, where she would be at a disadvantage, the Oregon has been ordered to go around Cape Horn. The Oregon sailed from Callao the 9th inst., since which time nothing has been heard from her. It is believed she is now nearing the port of Montevideo, Uruguay.

The formidable Spanish torpedo-boat is supposed to be somewhere in that vicinity awaiting the arrival of the Oregon, and some fear is expressed that she may creep on her unawares and, consequently, considerable relief will be felt when the arrival of the Oregon at some South American port is reported. It is probable that when the Oregon reaches Rio de Janeiro or Bahia, she may be joined by the Brazilian cruiser Nictheroy, recently purchased for the United States navy, and the two vessels will come to the United States together.

Weyler Will Take a Hand.

London, April 23.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: Bullfights have been arranged in all of the large towns, the proceeds to be devoted to the national defense fund. It is still asserted that General Weyler will command an army corps.

Run on a Barcelona Bank.

London, April 23.—A dispatch from Barcelona says the act of the Bank of Barcelona, in withdrawing a large sum from the local branch of the Bank of Spain, caused a run on the latter institution, but all demands were met.

Malaga Correspondent Leaves.

Malaga, April 23.—The United States consul, R. M. Bartleben, has started for Gibraltar. The American flag over the consulate has been removed, and the archives transferred to the British consulate.

Spain Calls Out Her Reserves.

London, April 23.—A dispatch from Madrid says War Minister Correa authorized the call of 80,000 reserves. Three vessels loaded with troops left Cadiz; destination unknown.

CAPTURED A PRIZE

The Nashville Takes a Spanish Merchant Steamer.

BROUGHT HER TO KEY WEST

The Buena Ventura Was Bound for Havana.

ventura was signted bound north. The gunboat Nashville ran her down and put a shot across her bows from the 4-inch gun on the port side aft, manned by Lieutenant Dillingham.

The Spaniard ignored the shot, but another closer to her bows brought her to. A prize crew, under Ensign Magruder, was put aboard.

Captain Luzarraga, in command of her, was astounded. He said he did not know that war had been declared, but when he was informed of the state of affairs, he shrugged his shoulders and accepted the situation philosophically.

The Nashville has taken on stores and will return to the fleet, carrying Ensign Magruder, who will be received by Ensign Carleton, of the Snow. A body of marines is pacing the deck of the Spaniard, and her crew of 28 are lounging about the decks in nonchalant fashion. Not a man is in irons.

According to prize laws, Captain Maynard will turn the prisoners of war over to the United States district attorney, who will decide the question of their disposition.

The Buena Ventura is a tramp steamer of 1,155 tons, and hails from Bilboa, Spain. She has a cargo of lumber, loaded at Pascagoula, Miss., and was bound for Rotterdam.

The news of the capture of the Spaniard set the people of Key West frantic with enthusiasm. All work was suspended, and the docks were crowded with people.

Commodore Lyons, of the Dolphin, has delivered to United States District Attorney Stripling the papers of the Buena Ventura. He will libel the ship in the United States admiralty court.

Satisfaction at the Department.

Washington, April 25.—The report that the gunboat Nashville had captured a Spanish merchant ship gained rapid circulation throughout the navy department shortly after noon today. It caused much excitement, and was eagerly discussed as an outward evidence of the actual existence of war. Secretary Long, however, had not received word of the capture, except through newspaper sources. Notwithstanding this, naval officers credited the report and discussed it as though it was an accepted fact. It was said that a part of the crew had been placed on board, and the captured vessel had a valuable cargo, including considerable coal.

Among the officials, the report caused much satisfaction, although it was said the capture of a Spanish warship would have been more acceptable. There is said to be no question as to the right of taking Spanish merchant ships at this time. Two of these ships left Galveston within the last day or so with considerable cargoes of cotton on board. Another Spanish ship is said to be en route from Vera Cruz, Mexico, with 1,000,000 pesetas on board, representing the subscription of Vera Cruz to the Spanish in Cuba.

Volunteer Army Bill Signed.

Washington, April 25.—The volunteer army bill was signed by the president at 3:06 P. M. The bill, as agreed to, reduces the time of enlistment from there years to two. The amendment authorizing the president to organize independent troops was retained, but limits the number to 3,000. The bill leaves it optional for regiment and company militia officers to receive commissions from governors. The senate receded from the amendment attaching an engineer officer to the staff of each brigade commander.

Topeka Reported Lost.

London, April 25.—The Daily Mail says that it is stated in Falmouth shipping circles that the American cruiser Topeka, which left Falmouth the evening of Tuesday, April 19, was in collision with the bark Albatross, at midnight, Thursday. According to the Mail, the captain of the Albatross asserts that after the collision the steamer, whose name he did not ascertain, flashed a light and suddenly disappeared. He believed she foundered.

United States Censorship.

Key West, April 25.—The United States government has established a censorship of telegrams, forbidding the transmission of code messages to or from Havana. This begins at once.

Monadnock Goes North.

Vallejo, Cal., April 25.—The United States steamship Monadnock has left for sea, en route to Puget sound. In her coat of gray paint the Monadnock is not visible at sea 1,000 yards distant.

Woodford in Paris.

Paris, April 25.—General Stewart L. Woodford, the United States minister to Spain, accompanied by the party with which he left Madrid, arrived in this city at 7:45 o'clock this evening.

PACIFIC COAST SAFE.

Warships in These Waters More Than a Match for Spain.

Mare Island Navy Yard, April 25.—"We are prepared today to capture or destroy any force that Spain could possibly send against the Pacific coast," said Rear Admiral Kirkland. "In the first place, the Spanish government has no vessels in Pacific waters nearer than the Philippines. We have a greater force than Spain, and can easily take care of the opposing fleet. The next possibility lies in sending a fleet through the Straits of Magellan. Even if Spain had the ships, they would be ...ally useless after they got into ... the lack of coal. ...onitors, the Monadnock and ...erey, that are more ... any vessel in the ... sides these two we ...gton and Mohican, ... route from the Hawaiian islands. The Charleston will be in commission by May 1, and if it were necessary we could have the Yorktown and Philadelphia in fighting trim by the 1st of June.

"What I rely upon largely to complete our coast defenses are the ten vessels recently acquired. Another valuable adjunct to our Pacific coast defenses is the two torpedo-boats now nearing completion at Portland and one on the Sound. This number can be increased materially if the necessity presents, since each requires only 60 days for building."

A MASTERLY STROKE.

United States Acted Wisely in Declaring Against Privateering.

New York, April 25.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The announcement that the United States, in the event of hostilities, will not resort to privateering and will be governed by the four rules of the declaration of Paris, is considered a masterly stroke in diplomatic circles While England's sympathy has been with America from first to last, Spain has gained some tactful advantages as negotiations have proceeded. The point has been scored, not by many, but by a few English journals, that while Spain has made a series of concessions to America, congress in the end has compelled her to fight. All the continental journals have agreed in describing the negotiations as one-sided, with Spain in the position of offering one sacrifice after another, without pleasing American opinion.

It was important that the state department, while justifying war on humane principles, should restrict the area of disturbance as much as possible and guarantee security for neutral commercial interests. This has been done by the official announcement from Washington that the government will adhere to the principles of the declaration of Paris. Nothing could be more satisfactory to England, France and Germany. It is pledged that the United States will respect the four rules of the declaration of Paris, discountenance privateering, protect neutral goods under any flag and the enemy sailing under a neutal flag, with the single exception of contraband of war, and recognize the necessity of making a blockade effective in order to render it binding. These four pledges will be the safeguards of European commerce in the pending war.

So far as the American practice is concerned, Spain will be placed on the defensive. She will be compelled to repeat these assurances or else alienate European sympathy.

The judgment in diplomatic circles is that America has adopted a course which will embarrass Spain, conciliate the commercial and mercantile classes of England and the continent and strengthen the position of the United States. Every one of the four rules of the declaration of Paris is in favor of America in the event of hostilities. Diplomats perceive at once that America has nothing to lose and much to gain from the abolition of privateering and the protection of neutral commerce and private property under any flag, and the establishment of the principle that a blockade in order to be binding must be effective.

It would be to the manifest advantage of the United States if both belligerents were under obligations to respect the declaration of Paris. The state department, by taking high grounds in the interest of civilization, may force Spain to follow it. If Spain draws back, owing to a wanton desire to capture and destroy private property at sea, it will be an offense against the commercial interests and moral opinion of Europe.

This is the judgment of diplomatists, members of parliament and representatives of mercantile England, and they sincerely hope that the announcement of the American intention in today's papers will be followed by similar assurances from Spain. It cannot be doubted that the adherence of the United States to the declaration of Paris will strengthen English feeling in favor of America and greatly impair the anti-American sentiment on the continent. It will be an appeal to self-interest all around, yet will have a moral justification in the high aims of civilization.

Old Glory Burned.

Madrid, April 25.—This evening a crowd 6,000 strong carrying flags and shouting "Viva Espana!" "We want war!" and "Down with the Yankees!" burned the Stars and Stripes in front of the residence of Senor Sagasta, who was accorded an ovation.

New York, April 25.—A dispatch to the Herald from Saint Thomas, says a revolution has broken out in the Ponce district of Porto Rico, and there is rioting all through the island.

A CALL TO ARMS

The President Asks the Country to Furnish Volunteers.

FIRST TIME IN THIRTY YEARS

The Call Is for 125,000 Men to Fight the Spaniards—Apportionment of the Volunteers by States—National Guard Will Have Preference.

Washington, April 26.—The president t... called upon the people of the United States, for the first time in 30 years, to manifest their martial strength, the call this time being to a united people to go forth to battle with a foreign country. The call is for 125,000 volunteers. The secretary of war created a new army corps. The two, taken together, with regular army soon will move on Cuba, and that meanhile the volunteers will be equipped and drilled.

The president's proclamation, while actually issued, was not certified to the governors of the states and territories, and will not be until Wednesday. The reason is twofold. In the first place, the war department wishes to avoid destroying the present organization of the National Guard, which is to be called into service first. The Guard regiments are composed of 12 companies, and being officered more numerously that the regular army, would have to be changed to correspond to the army organization in order to comply with the order as it exists. The pending Gull bill, however, provides for meeting just such an emergency, and permits the use of the National Guard, as organized. This is more impotant than would appear at first, inasmuch as many of the National Guard have volunteered only on condition that they may serve as now organized.

The second consideration which influenced the department in postponing the certification of the call until Wednesday is a desire to make sure that adequate arrangements can be completed by quartermasters and the commissary departments for feeding and transporting the number of men called for. This is no light task, as the volunteers must be taken by the government at a certain point in each state where they are to be collected by the governors.

The Proclamation.

The president's proclamation follows:

"By the President of the United States—A Proclamation:

"Whereas, By act of congress, entitled an act to provide for the increasing of the military establishment of the United States in time of war, and for other purposes, approved April 22, 1898, the president was authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the army of the United States.

"Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, president of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution and by-laws, and deeming sufficient occasion to exist, have thought fit to call, and hereby do call, for volunteers to the aggregate number of 125,000 to carry into effect the purpose of said resolution, the same to be apportioned as far as practicable among the several states and territories and the District of Columbia, according to population, and to serve for two years, unless sooner discharged. The details of this order will be immediately communicated to the proper authorities through the war department.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at Washington, this 23d day of April, 1898, and of the independence of the United States the 122d.

"WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

"By the President,
"JOHN SHERMAN,
"Secretary of State."

Telegrams have been coming from every section to Secretary Alger from governors and militia officers conveying information as to the length of time, surprisingly short, in many cases, that would be required by them to gather their forces ready for muster.

Points of Mobilization.

The men, as fast as mustered in by regular army officers in the various states, will be brought to one of three great depots, viz., Washington, Richmond or Atlanta, where they will be organized to meet the requirements of ordinary army tactics.

The fact that Richmond is named as one of these points is taken in some quarters as an evidence that General Fitzhugh Lee is to receive a volunteer commission, either as one of the four major-generals or as one of the nine brigadier-generals provided for. It is believed to have been largely at his instance that Richmond was selected as one of the points of concentration.

In anticipation of the president's call, vast numbers of letters and telegrams have begun to flow in on Secretary Alger, offering service as volunteers in the army. So numerous are those communications that the secretary has asked the press to notify the people that such communications should be directed to the governors of states and territories.

FIRED ON THE FLEET.

Morro Castle Opened on the North Atlantic Squadron.

On Board the Flagship New York, off Havana, April 26.—During the early morning, the Morro castle batteries again opened fire on the fleet, but without the slightest effect. There have been no casualties among our forces up to this hour, and not a single shot has been fired against the batteries.

At 3 o'clock this morning the Detroit mdae a rich haul, capturing the Spanish merchant steamer Catalina, bound for Cadiz. She carried a large quantity of provisions, which she intended to land in Havana.

Ensign Christy, from the Detroit, and four marines and six bluejackets were put on board of her and she steamed off for Key West.

The Wilmington and Porter, when dawn broke, were both seen towing prizes in the shape of small schooners. The Wilmington's capture was laden with charcoal, and the Porter's, the Sophia, had rum and sugar aboard. They were both towed to Key West.

The torpedo-boat Porter, commanded by Lieutenant Fremont, is doing great work, and if she keeps on at this rate, her crew will have no end of prize money to divide.

About 9 o'clock this morning, the New York proceeded several miles closer inshore. Not a breath of wind stirred; the sea and the heat was terrible.

An Effective Blockade.

On Board the Flagship New York, off Havana, April 25.—Morro castle opened fire on the fighting squadron of the United States, at 11 o'clock last night. About 10 shots were sent in the direction of our ships. Not one of them took effect, and no shots were fired in return.

The Spaniards evidently had seen the lights of the New York while the latter was signaling to a ship of the squadron. The fire was reported by the officer of the deck, Ensign J. R. Edito, to Captain Chadwick, who was asleep at the time. The young officer asked the captain in command whether the New York had not better discontinue signaling.

"No," muttered Captain Chadwick, with the utmost coolness. "There is no necessity for stopping the signals. Go ahead."

A little later, Captain Chadwick was on the forward bridge, whence he watched the tongues of flame shoot out from Morro castle. He glanced in the direction of the Spanish fortifications for a few seconds, and then turned his back on them in silent contempt, and went back to his bed, perfectly certain the Spaniards could do no damage at five miles, which was then the approximate distance of the flagship from Morro castle.

Another officer said:

"The Spaniards probably became nervous and decided they could not sleep without some fireworks. They can't hit anything anyway."

There was no excitement on board the flagship during Morro castle's futile attempt at gunnery. The discipline was really splendid. In fact, at this hour many people on board the flagship do not know that Spain's first guns of war have been fired, and that the New York was their target.

Morro castle light, which was burning brightly all the evening, was put out at midnight. The Spaniards evidently realized, though rather late, that the sole use of Morro lights at that time had been to serve as a guide for the fleet of the United States.

No Fears for the Oregon.

Washington, April 26.—The most important development today in regard to the movements of the various ships of the navy was an official statement issued by Secretary Long to the effect that the department is fully aware of the whereabouts of the battle-ship Oregon and the gunboat Marietta, but for prudent reasons positively declines to say where the vessels are, whether or not they have been ordered to return to San Francisco, or, in fact, to make any statement respecting them further than that it has no apprehension for their safety.

It is known that the department has taken steps to have the commander of the Oregon met by friends and warned of the outbreak of hostilities and of the presence of a Spanish torpedo gunboat at Buenos Ayres in the path of the wahsrip on her way to the North Atlantic squadron.

Three More Prizes.

New York, April 26.—A dispatch to the Press from Key West says: The gunboat Wilmington captured the Spanish schooner Candiga, with a deckload of charcoal for Havana, where it is extremely valuable for fuel. At this writing, the Cushing is bearing down on a schooner to the southeast. The breeze is slow and while she has on all sail, the Cushing will overhaul her shortly. She has the start, but the Cushing has the steam. The torpedo boat Porter today captured the Spanish schooner Antonio, laden with sugar for Havana. The Antonio was sent to Key West with a prize crew of four men, under Cadet Dubers.

Key West, April 26.—The government has taken control and all press matter will be handled subject to the decision of the censor. Telegraphic communication with Havana has been abandoned.

They Call It Piracy.

Madrid April 26.—The capture of the Spanish steamer Buena Ventura by a United States gunboat off Key West has aroused great indignation, the Spaniards claiming that hostilities are not yet supposed to have begun. The citizens of the city characterize the seizure as an act of piracy, being in defiance of international law, and "characteristic of the Yankees."