## EPITOME OF THE DISPATCHES

Happenings Both at Home and Abroad.

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED

Interesting Collection of Items From Many Places Culled From the Press Reports of the Current Week.

The war excitement sent December wheat up to \$1.711/2 in San Francisco Monday.

Monte Cristo island, 700 feet square, situated 18 miles above Dawson is the latest Klondike discovery. It was found by two woodchoppers, and is very

A Berlin correspondent says that Germany will take no steps prejudicial to the United States nor probably will she join in any intervention on Spain's

The state department has information that the governor of Hong Kong had issued a neutrality proclamation pertaining to the war between the United States and Spain. It is similar to that proclaimed by Japan and Newtound-

The devastation of Cuba has been commenced by Spanish soldiers. They have received orders declaring the armistice at an end, and are laying waste the interior, burning towns and plantations, and concentrating their forces on the sea coast.

The St. Petersburg Vidomosti, speaking of Russia's attitude towards the United States, says: "The friendship which has existed for many years between the two states excludes every idea of unfriendly attitude on the part of Russia at the present juncture.'

According to the policy announced in a decree gazetted in Madrid, Spain will fit out a fleet to prey on American commerce on the high seas, and in our waters. The decree begins by saying that diplomatic relations are broken off between Spain and the United States, and a state of war has begun between the two countries.

Hawaiian annexation, which would not be accomplished in time of peace, is more than a probability now that war is on, says the Washington correspondent of the Herald. It is learned that a great effort is to be made in congress soon to procure the ratification of the treaty annexing the Hawaiian islands to the United States.

Montana's quota of volunteers is one regiment of infantry; Oregon, one regiment of infantry; Washington, one regiment of infantry; Wvoming, one battalion and one troop of cavalry; Idaho, two troops of cavalry; Utah, one troop of cavalry, two light batteries; California, two regiments of infantry, two battalion and four heavy batteries.

A Seattle Alaskan company has wired Secretary of the Navy Long for six Gatling guns, to be placed on one of their steamers as a protection against any Spanish warship or privateer that may be in the North Pacific ocean when the first steamers start on their return trip from St. Michaels with passengers and gold from the Klon-

The United States has out the Havana cable. The cut was made about 10 miles out of Havana, and the southern end of the cable is now on the Mangrove, which was recently converted into an auxiliary cruiser. This gives the government exclusive use of the cable and entirely cuts Captain-General Blanco off from communication with Spain, as the insurgents are between him and the other cable ports.

George Parsons Lathrop, poet and author, died at Roosevelt hospital, New

Professor Jules Marcou, famous throughout the world as a geologist, is dead at his home at Cambridge, Mass.

It took the Republicans of the 10th Ohio district 1,877 ballots to nominate J. Morgan for congress, to succeed Rep-

resentative Fenton. A hundred colonists have offered their services to the American consul,

George W. Bell, at Sidney, N. S. W., in the event of war between the United States and Spain. Naval and military preparations con-

tinue with unabated vigor. Seven fleet steam yachts, suitable for navigation in Cuban waters, were procured and several bids for steam colliers were made in Washington Wednesday.

The police commissioners of San Francisco have adopted a resolution declaring that in case of war police officers who enlist will not lose their places, which will be filled during their absence by men whose appointment shall be merely temporary.

The departure of the First battalion of the Nineteenth infantry from Fort Wayne for Mobile was marked by a serious accident. During the firing of a salute in honor of the departing troops by those left in charge of the fort, Private George Engman had his right arm nearly blown off by the premature explosion of a cannon, and Sergeant John W. Annis, who was in charge of the firing party had his right hand severely injured. Engman's arm

### LATER NEWS.

The state department sent notice to all foreign nations of congress having declared war, and that war has existed since April 21. Reponses have already begun to flow in. A neutrality proclamation was issued by the British government. Among the first to take cognizance of the existence of a state of war were the British colonies. This in a measure supports the contention of this government that war actually existed before the declaration by congress.

The conference report on the army reorganization bill was passed by both houses of congress and signed by the president. No progress was made on other pending war measures.

Secretary Day's nomination was sent to and confirmed by the senate.

The cabinet has decided that no Spanish prize ship shall be released previous to the passing upon of their respective cases by the courts.

A Hong Kong dispatch says the Philippine islands insurgents are massing around Manila, and a massacre of the Spanish is feared.

The Mangrove took in the big steamer Panama, of the Ceballos line, a Spanish auxiliary cruiser, off the Cuban coast, and brought her prize to Key West. The Panama is a steamer of 2,800 tons, and carried a valuable cargo, including stores for the Spanish army in Cuba. She sailed from New York April 20. The capture of so large a steamer by so small a vessel as the Mangrove is regarded as a notable achievement, and there was unusual rejoicing at Key West over the capture.

A rebellion is again imminent in Spain. Towns are in the hands of rioters at frequent intervals daily. The authorities are totally unable to control the mob. All revolutionary parties are active and the stability of the present monarchy is threatened.

A royal decree proclaiming neutrality has been issued by the government of Great Britain and printed in the London Gazette. This was followed by the issuance of proclamations of similar import by a majority of the British colonies in all parts of the world. As a result of the issuance of this decree, the international laws respecting vessels sailing under the flags of belligerent powers will be strictly enforced in the ports of the British

Two more Spanish prizes have been captured by the gunboat Newport. The Newport brought in to Key West the Spanish sloop Paquette and the Spanish schooner Pireno, Cuban coasting vessels, captured off Havana.

Cuban advices are to the effect that the insurgents are forcing the fighting. The Spanish, fearing assault by land and sea, are hurrying their troops into the cities. Insurgents have appeared in force within 30 miles of Havana. There was a raid by them just before Bocade Jaruco early in the morning, and the combatants must have had a full view of the blockading squadron.

The house committee on naval affairs has decided to report a disagreement with the senate amendments to the naval bill, and ask for a conference, Boutelle, Hillborn and Cumminng will be the house conferees.

It has been announced by the Richany of their employes desire to go to war, his salary will be continued during his absence, his position will be retained until his return, and if he is killed \$2,500 will be given by the firm to his family.

There was a meeting on Trafalgar Square, London, Sunday afternoon to protest against Spanish barbarities in Cuba and the Philippines. "Tom" Mann, Louise Michael and Lathrop Tathington, an American, who was greeted with cries of "Good old Yan kee," made speeches. Resolutions favoring free Cuba were adopted amid

### CONTRABAND OF WAR.

Character of Merchandise That Is Liable to Selzure.

Inasmuch as there exists a great amount of misapprehension, not only among foreign countries, but also among American shippers, as to the character of merchandise that is contraband and liable to seizure during tne progress of war, the following unofficial but authentic statement has been obtained from a high official of

the government: In determining, according to the law of nations, whether merchandise is contraband of war, it is classified:

1-Absolute contraband. 2-Occasional or conditional contra-

8-Goods not contraband. The first class includes all goods of an essentially warlike character.

The second cless includes provisions, naval stores, coal, horses, certain kinds of machinery, certain forms of steel, iron, etc., that are destined for the use of the enemy. They are contraband or not, according to occasion and condltions as to their character, shipment and destined use. Every such caes de-

pends upon its own facts. The third class includes articles not suited to warlike use, such as church service and musical instruments, household wares and goods of such like, and including many that are purely of a mercantile character.

# Passed Congress Without Dissenting Vote.

THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED IT

The Measure Went Through Without a Dissenting Vote - Naval Appropria-Bill Passed-Secretary Sherman Re Signs-Judge Day Appointed.

Washington, April 27 .- A formal declaration that war exists between the United States and Spain passed both branches of congress today. The declaration was made in accordance with the recommendation of the president, engrafted in a message sent to congress this morning. The measure was first adopted by the house, and later agreed to by the senate.

The senate passed the naval appropriation bill, carrying large amounts of money for the improvement of our sea-fighting arm of the federal service. The Hull army reorganization bill was passed by the senate, and now goes to conference; Secretary Sherman resigned, as chief of the state department, to be succeeded by Assistant Secretary Day, and the latter by John B. Moore, of New York, an acknowledged authority on international law, and the war department called on the several states for their quota to the volunteer army of the United States.

These make up the important events of the day.

It was not announced when Secretary Sherman's resignation would take effect, the secretary abandoned his original idea of leaving at once, and it is thought he will remain until Judge Day qualifies as his successor. The selection of Judge Moore, who is now professor of law at Columbia university, New York, to succeed the latter, was warmly welcomed by all of the state department employes.

A prize commissioner was appointed this afternoon in the person of Commander John A. Wynne, a retired navalofficer. He will be stationed at Key West, where he now resides, and it will be his duty in conjunction with two other members, to be selected as a part of the commission, to make appraise-ments of the value of prizes and to assist the prize courts in their work.

A few telegrams came from Key

West, announcing the arrival there of the prizes whose capture has been reported through the Nothing could be obtained as to the intentions of Commodore Schley in so hastily rushing away the flyers Columbia and Minneapolis from Hampton Roads, but it is believed that their purpose is to shelter the Paris or some of the liners from attack of some Spanish cruisers. There was talk of establishing a supply depot in the Philippines to meet the conditions in Asiatic waters. Our fleet ard Silk Company, of Chicago, that if there now has no home, and under neutrality laws, the stay of the ships at any port is limited to a few hours. This is unpleasant, besides involving the expenditure of a great deal of coal, so that it may become necessary for the Philippines and fortify it as a base of supplies.

The department today purchased two tugs, the Hortense, of New Orleans, and the Mary Willick, of Galveston.

The feature of interest at the war department was the dispatch to the governors of the states and territories. of circulars, notifying them how many men they would be expected to furnish as volunteers, how they should be apportioned among the three arms of the service, and where they should rendezvous as a United States army. A good many details to be arranged in order to carry out the project for the mobilization of the volunteers, but these are rapidly being disposed of.

The rendezvous for the troops to be mustered in the service of the volunteer army in the Pacific states and ter ritories has been designated by Secretary Alger as follows: California-San Francisco

Colorado-Denver. Idaho-Boise. Montana-Helena. Oregon-Portland. Utah-Ogden. Wyoming-Cheyenne.

THE BLOCKADE PERFECT

Vigorous Chasing of Every Moving Light That Appears,

On Board the Flagship New York, off Havana, April 27. - The early morning hours today were taken up by a vigorous chasing of moving lights. The only vessels spoken were the British schooner Iolanthe, of Windsor, N. S. She was allowed to proceed. She was just out of Matanzas. No shots have been fired since yesterday morning on either side. The Dolphin and the vacht Eagle arrived from Key West this morning. The Dolphin carried the officers and prize crews who had been placed on the steamer Pedro and the schooner Antonio.

THE WAR RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the Fennte and Agreed to

Washington, April 27.-Following is the text of the report of the house foreign affairs committee, formally declaring that war exists between the United States and Spain, as adopted by the house and agreed to by the senate today:

"Be it enacted by the senate and the house of representatives of the United States, in congress assembled:

'First, That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist, and that war has existed since the 21st of April, including Sunday, between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain.

"Second, That the president of the United States is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into actual service the United States militia of the several states to such extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Full Text of Document Recommending Passage of War Resolution.

Washington, April 27 .- The president today sent to congress the following bill recommending the passage of a declaration of war against Spain:

To the Senate and House of Repre-sentatives of the United States of America: I transmit to congress for its consideration and appropriate action copies of correspondence recently had with the representative of Spain in the United States, with the United States minister at Madrid, and through the latter with the government of Spain, showing the action taken under joint recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters and directing the president of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect.

Upon communicating to the Spanish minister in Washington the demand which it became the duty of the executive to address to the government of Spain in obedience to said resolution, said minister asked for his passports and withdrew. The United States minister at Madrid was in turn notified by the Spanish representative that the United States had terminated diplomatic relations between the two countries, and all official communications between their respective representatives

ceased therewith. I recommend to your attention the note directed to the United States minister at Madrid by the Spanish minister of foreign affairs on the 21st inst., whereby the foregoing notification was communicated. It will be perceived hat the Spanish government, having cognizance of the resolutions, and in view of the things which the president is hereby required and authorized to do, responds by treating the representative demands of this government as measures of hostility, following with that instant and complete severance of relations by its action.

The position of Spain being thus made known and the demands of the United States being denied with a comolete rupture in the intercourse with Spain, I have been constrained in the exercise of the power and authority conferred upon me by the joint resorution aforesaid to proclaim under date Commodore Dewey to seize a port in of April 22, 1898, a blockade of certain ports on the north coast of Cuba, lying between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba, and further in the exercise of my constitutional powers and using the powers conferred on me by act of congress, approved April 22, 1898, to issue my proclamation dated April 23, 1898, calling for volunteers in order to carry into effect said resolution of April 20, 1898. Copies of this proclamation are hereunto appended.

In view of the measures so taken and with the view to the adoption of such war measures as may be necessary to enable me to carry out the expressed will of the congress to the United States in the premises, I now recommend to your honorable body the adoption of a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain, and I urge speedy action thereon to the end that a definition of the international status of the United States as a belligerent power may be made known and the assertion of all its duties in the conduct of the public war may be assured. (Signed) WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

Executive Mansion, Washington.

WITHOUT A ROLL-CALL. Impressive Manner in Which the House

Passed the War Bill. Washington, April 27.-The house today passed the bill declaring the exist-

tence of a state of war between the United States and the kingdom of Spain in a manner which cannot fail to impress the world. The representatives of 70,000,000 people voted for it without a word of debate, without a dissenting vote, and without a roll-call, but with a solemn appreciation of the gravity of their momentous action. It required put one minute and 41 seconds to accomplish this.

## The President Issues His Proclamation.

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 today 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 charcoal, and the Porter's, the 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 her crew will have no end of prize meanbile the volunteers will be equipped and drilled.

The president's proclamation, while ctually 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 organ-

The second consideration which in fluenced 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 fol-

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

"Whereas, By act of congress, entitled an act to provide for the increas-ing 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 Mc-Kinley, 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 hererby 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 here unto 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 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. decision of the censor.

FIRED ON THE FLEET.

forro Castle Opened on the North At-

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 8 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 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,

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 ter-

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 sig-

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

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