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Best value for the Least money.

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400,000 Star A Star Cedar Shingles!

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Large seasoned dry body fir, 83 a cord, sawed and delivered. Small seasoned dry fir \$2.75 a cord, sawed and delivered. 4 foot cord wood in proportion. Also large invoice cements, lime, plaster, hair, fire brick, etc., just received.

We also contract for and lay sewers at lowest rates. We respectfully solicit a consideration of our rates before purchasing elsewhere.

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Successors to Salem Improvement Co., 319 Front and Chemeketa streets Salem.

Reply Unsatisfactory.

Spain Refuses to Comply to the Demands.

Makes Proposals Which Are Only to Gain Time.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The president in his message to congress, which in all probability will be sent in next Monday, and certainly early next week, it is understood 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 yesterday 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 subject of what shall be the particular form of our policy in bringing to an end the horrors in secure the independence of the islands. Proposals, ranging from a simple recognition of Cuban independence to a straight out declaration of war have been urged at the capitol, but there is hardly a doubt that the majority await the executive lead before taking action, and disposed to adopt Mr. McKinley's suggestions on this point. It is thought that any of the resolutions, except possibly the 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.

One member of the cabinet, in speaking of the cabinet meeting, spoke substantially as follows: "It was apparent to all of that, having exhausted all diplomatic efforts to bring about a better condition of affairs in Cuba, and they having failed, 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 views submitted to him under consideration, preparatory to his message to congress, which will be sent early next 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 on his 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 the promises made by Spain, and this makes me hesitate about accepting with any confidence her latest proposals.

The reply of Spain is said in effect to be a representation that the independence of Cuba means the parting 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. Then 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. Senators who know the nature of the reply, say it is a very shrewd piece of diplomacy, and made for its effect upon the world at large. It is said the reply is unsatisfactory to the president, and he does not believe it will be satisfactory to congress.

The administration officers feel that after Monday congress is likely to take matters into its own hands, and the fear is expressed that there will be a disagreement between the branches of the government which would be serious at this critical point. No one at the capitol has undertaken to speak for the president, although those who have seen him, say his hopes of a peaceful solution of the difficulty have been disappointed by the reply of Spain.

Assistant Secretary of State Day was in conference with the president early this morning. Upon his departure Day said the administration would give out a statement later in the day.

Congressional callers began arriving at the white house early. Senator Davis had an extended conference with the president and Pritchard, of North Carolina, Grosvenor, of Ohio, and ex-Representative Thompson, of Ohio, were among the visitors. At the conclusion of the conference Senator Davis jumped into a carriage hurriedly and drove off, with statement that he could not reveal what had taken place.

In view of the significance of the dispatch a reply to Spain will not be called until after the cabinet meeting. The president, to several of his closest friends, expressed less confidence in the peaceful ultimate outcome. Captain Crowninshield, chief of the navigation bureau, whose duty it is to order of all the governments naval vessels and keep track of all matters bearing on our comparative naval strength, was summoned to the cabinet meeting during its deliberations. Assistant Secretary Day, Captain Clover, chief of the naval intelligence bureau, and Captain Barker, naval aid and member of the strategy board, also were called into consultation. The members of the cabinet regard the situation so far the gravest and most critical character possible.

In connection with the official statement it can be stated on authority that the case now made up by the negotiations between Spain and the United States will constitute the case as will be submitted to congress in the president's message. There is no present intention of pursuing further negotiations which will open the Cuban question as now presented in the correspondence between Spain and the United States.

The following is the abstract of a telegram received from General Woodford on the evening of March 31, on the general situation in Cuba. He informs the government of the United States that Blanco has revoked the decree relating to the reconcentrados in the western provinces of Cuba; that the Spanish government has placed at the disposal of the governor a general credit of \$600,000 to the end that the country people may at once and resume their labors. The Spanish government will accept whatever assistance to feed and succor the starving people that may be sent from the United States in accordance with a plan now in operation. He proposed to confide the preparations for an honorable and stable peace to the insular parliament, without whose concurrence the Spanish government would not be able to arrive at a final result, it being understood that the powers reserved by the constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban chambers will not meet until May 4, the Spanish government will not on its part object to a suspension of hostilities if asked for by the insurgents from the general in chief, to whom it will belong to determine the duration and condition of the suspension. The president will communicate with congress as soon as he can prepare a message.

MADRID, April 2.—The latest phase of the situation is the report that the pope is urging Spain to offer an armistice and also that his holiness urges the insurgents to accept it. The note which was transmitted to Washington, in addition to the proposition in regard to the armistice and reconcentrados, expresses regret "at the accident to the Maine in Spanish waters," and offers to arbitrate the matter. The display of patriotic fervor at the Royal opera house was really thrilling. The whole assemblage, numbering about 3000 persons, was profoundly impressed. The queen regent, who was accompanied by Princess Asturias and the Infanta Isabel, was the object of repeated ovations. When the orchestra played the national hymn a wave of enthusiasm swept over the assemblage. The queen, princess and ministers, grandees, everyone, in fact, rose spontaneously and gave vent to a great shout of "Vive Espana," followed by shouts of "Long Live the Queen." The receipts are estimated at over 1,000,000 puestas.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The president has washed his hands of all responsibility. The sub-committee of the senate committee on foreign relations has forced him to ask. He will turn the whole Cuban matter over to congress on Monday.

The president wanted another week's delay. He told Senator Fairbanks and other peace patriots that it was absolutely necessary for the safety of this government. Large numbers of guns and quantities of shells and smokeless powder had been purchased abroad, and were now ready to be shipped. Until these munitions of war were on board ship and started for this country, war could not be declared. Otherwise, they would be contraband of war, and the country permitting their shipment would commit an act hostile to Spain. This argument worked. Senator Fairbanks was in favor of giving the president a month's time, if necessary, but it was thought best to consult leaders in the two houses of congress.

Senator Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, was sent for in haste. The situation was explained to him, and he was urged to present it to his committee on his return to the senate. This he did. He returned to the White House soon and delivered the ultimatum of the senate. "We will not wait one minute beyond Monday." His judgment was also based on other ground. Since last Monday this sub-committee has been busy examining the report of the court of inquiry into the disaster to the Maine.

It has been found the Maine has been blown up through carelessness and gross negligence on the part of the Spanish government. From the witnesses it was learned that the state department had been in possession of most damaging testimony for weeks. This testimony had simply been pigeon-holed, and but few people knew of its existence.

One piece of evidence was a copy of a cablegram from London, when the first information was made to the Spanish government that an American war vessel was to be sent to Havana, ordering specially prepared wire cables, which are used to connect submarine mines with land electric batteries. The date of the telegram was so far prior to the arrival of the Maine that the order could be filed.

A second piece of evidence was a copy of a cablegram sent by General Weyler, directing that his letter to Senor Guzman, a copy of which Honore Laine had published in the Journal two days before, be instantly destroyed. In his letter Weyler admitted that as far back as 1896 he had prepared a submarine mine in the harbor of Havana.

It was this testimony, in addition to that sent to congress by the president, that the sub-committee reached its conclusion that the Maine was blown up through carelessness and gross negligence on the part of the Spanish government. Knowing that the president himself has been acquainted with the facts for weeks, this sub-committee determined that he can no longer trust his guidance, so sent its answer of "No further delay!" The committee will report the senate on Monday, whether the president sends a message or not. The sub-committee has reached its final conclusions. It will report to the full committee tomorrow. The conclusions of the committee were reached by virtually a unanimous vote.

Stripped of some of its verbiage, the resolution to be reported today will read: "That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be free and independent."

HAVANA, April 1.—Spanish cruiser Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo sailed to meet the torpedo flotilla now enroute from Spain, and act as escorts to the Italian vessels until they are safe in the harbor. The Cuban cabinet has sent a dispatch to McKinley protesting against the aspersions cast upon autonomy, which, the cabinet declares, is a success.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Cuban freedom has been assured by Spain's reply to McKinley's demand. That reply was a surprise in tone and contents, and apparently leaves nothing to be done but turn the whole Cuban question over to congress, where it will be settled with little delay. Whether Cuba's freedom is to be accomplished through peace or war, rests with Spain alone. If she maintains her present attitude, war will follow as surely as night follows the day. There is only one way war can be averted now, and that is, by the evacuation of Havana.

HAVANA, April 2.—The city has been in a state of uproar, caused by Madrid dispatches to the effect that negotiations had been broken off and peace is now out of the question.

Blanco ordered all citizens between 19 and 45 to be enlisted in the volunteer battalion.

The hatred against Americans increases but Blanco has promised to protect Americans and the consulate. The situation is so serious that Blanco has summoned to the palace a junta of all authorities.

Blanco says the war is inevitable, if McKinley does not back down.

CHICAGO, April 2.—A Chronicle special from Washington says: It is reported that sealed orders have been sent to Commodore Schley, at Hampton Roads. The destination of the flying squadron is thought to be the vicinity of Porto Rico, to intercept the Spanish torpedo fleet that the Canary islands several days ago.

TAMPA, Fla., April 1.—Rear Admiral Walker, of the Nicaragua canal commission, has arrived here on the gunboat Newport, from Greytown, Nicaragua. He left that port on March 26 and was in the dark so far as rumors were concerned. He had nothing to say regarding the work of the commission. He left for Washington while the Newport under the command of Lieutenant-Commander Tilley, will remain awaiting further orders from the navy department.

NEW YORK, April 2.—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.

NEW YORK, April 2.—Orders were received by the commander of the New York naval reserves to send 100 men to League island to bring to this port one of the monitors now there.

PHILADELPHIA, April 2.—Orders were received at League island yard directing that the monitor Mianomoh to sail this morning. Her destination is not known.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Secretary Long has sent to congress 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.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., April 2.—The cruiser Minneapolis sailed from League island navy-yard bound for Hampton Roads, where she will join the flying squadron. The bunkers of the Minneapolis are overflowing with coal, and during the past few days all her ammunition has been placed aboard, so that she is ready for action.

DES MOINES, Ia., April 2.—Both houses of the general assembly passed a bill appropriating \$500,000 to be used in case of war, the money to be placed at the disposal of the government.

COLUMBUS, O., April 2.—Senator Riley has introduced a bill appropriating \$1,000,000 to put Ohio on a war footing.

Not True. WASHINGTON, April 2.—The dispatch announcing the arrival of the Spanish flotilla at Porto Rico was not true. It was sent out by Spain for a purpose. The flotilla is now at Cape Devoted island.

SPANISH VIEW. Believe Their Policy Will Lead to Peace.

NEW YORK, April 2.—A dispatch to the Herald from Madrid says: After a conference of three Spanish ministers and General Woodford, war correspondent saw one of the members of the cabinet. He said:

"I believe that peace is assured. Spain in a note drawn up personally by Senor Sagasta has made concessions in the hope of assuring peace. She has given way in every possible manner, only drawing the line where her dignity as a nation has been violated. We are sure the president of the United States will see how anxious we are for peace. On all points we agree with the propositions of the United States, but it is a question of how they should be applied. I fully believe that General Woodford fully appreciates our attitude."

"If the president of the United States is strong enough, what we suggested means peace. It jingo ehaw their way, it simply means war, and we have got to accept it. But I am firmly convinced that we are going to have peace."

Minister Woodford after the conference retired to the legation and wrote a lengthy cipher cable to the president.

Most remarkable during the whole day has been the entire absence of excitement. Nobody here believes in war. The ministers, above all, believe in peace. All appreciate the situation as serious, however, and press and people treat it as such. General Woodford was most cordial with the Spanish ministers, and they expressed themselves as thinking highly of him.

Rushing to a New Camp. SPOKANE, April 2.—Mining men down from the north half of the Colville reservation report a lively rush to the new camp of Republic. Four stages run daily, and men are rushing in by the hundreds in wagons, on horseback and afoot. Capitalists are going 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 were put on the market two days ago, and men stood in line for two hours to buy lots. Mining men predict that the town will have a population of 10,000 before next winter.

Congressional News.

The President Informed That Action Must Be Taken.

Foreign Relations Committee Are for War.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The senators and members of congress who saw the president last evening told him it was not possible for congress to delay the Cuban question beyond Monday. It was their opinion that neither Spain nor the administration would be granted further time.

The senate foreign relations committee again today was slow in getting to work. The apparent lethargy was due to the fact that the committee is for the present inclined to wait entirely upon the executive. A strong sentiment has developed in the committee for an absolute declaration of war when the time comes to act. The advocates of this course think the proof of Spanish instrumentality in the explosion of the Maine is so strong it could be made to justify the most radical declaration.

After adjournment of the committee on Monday, Chairman Davis went to the White House. All the members were noncommittal regarding the proceedings of the session, but said the committee could report within 30 minutes after being called upon to do so.

Speaker Reed has been called to the White House to consult the president on the Cuban situation.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—On motion of Allison, and without objection, the senate agreed that when it adjourned it be until Monday. The senate went into executive session on motion of Lodge, a member of the committee on foreign relations. The purpose of the secret sessions is consideration of the resolution reported yesterday for the acquisition of the Danish West India Islands. The reason for considering the matter behind closed doors is the belief that our relations with Spain will necessarily be discussed and that information might be divulged that would be of advantage to that country.

Lodge, Pettus, Morgan and Frye spoke in favor of the resolution, and Gray, Caffery, Cockrell and Pettigrew opposed it.

The galleries were packed almost to suffocation when the house convened. At the opening, Boutelle, desired to go ahead with the naval bill, despite the fact that this was private bill day. It was finally agreed to postpone private bill day till Tuesday, provided the foreign affairs committee had no report to make to the house on that day, and the naval bill was then taken up. The house adopted an amendment of Pearce (Rep. Mo.) to increase the number of torpedo-boats and torpedo-boat destroyers to 12 each, and to increase the appropriation for them from \$2,300,000 to \$4,600,000. The house rejected the amendment to add two armored cruisers.

The Chickering bill, desiring that the enlistment in either the army or navy will not deprive the veterans of pensions for previous service, has been

Offer Their Services. SOUX FALLS, S. D., April 2.—Six hundred SOUX Indians, under the leadership of a chief named from Pine Ridge agency, have tendered their services to Governor Lee to reinforce the state militia.

Hanged. ROCKINGHAM, N. C., April 2.—John Evans, colored, was executed for assaulting Lillie Cole, October 22 last.

Properly used "Perfection" dyes are superior. Insist on having "Perfection" Dyes, for sale by all drug stores. It is a great leap from the old fashioned dyes of blue-moss and nauseous physics to the pleasant little pills known as De Witt's Little Early Risers. They cure constipation, sick headache and biliousness. Stone's drug store.

To Cure a Cold in one day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. 10-14-6m

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Our Dress Goods!

Are always a representative of the best styles and correct fabrics. Our dress goods specials are always remarkable values and are honestly conducted, but our

Special Sale of Dress Goods!

Now being held in several notches more attractive than ever before—all at astonishing prices. Beautiful new plaids just received.

Corded Zephyr Gingham. A strictly high novelty of Scotch origin in Bourette and Barre effects—very correct for waists and summer suits. 30c.

Petticoats. The newest of the new, fancy stripes Moire Moreen. \$1.25.

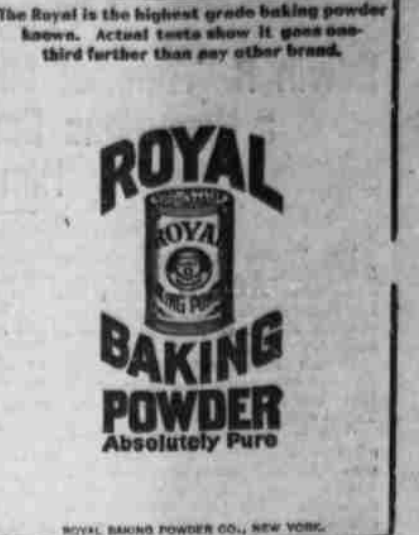
Beautiful Black Moreen. \$1.50 to \$4.

Scintillate Silk, very swell. \$5.00.

Changeant Taffeta just right. \$6.50 and \$8.50. Cerise and Corn Flower Blue plain colors. The very latest. \$10.00.

Jeweled Girdles, 75c to \$3. Jeweled Buckles, 25c to 75c. Beautiful new designs just received in the latest fad.

Thursday Surprise Sale—White Marseilles Crochet Quilts. Regular \$2 quality, \$1.48.



The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes one-third further than any other brand.

arranged to in the house committee on invalid pensions, with the following amendments: "And all persons who served in the Confederate army during the late civil war, who shall hereafter serve in the army or navy of the United States, ninety days, shall be entitled to the benefit of the act of June 27, 1890, and be pensionable thereunder, if shown to be unable to perform manual labor and dependent thereon for support."

The bill was favorably reported to the house.

Charge Dismissed. VANCOUVER, Wn., April 2.—Charles Curtis, the 14-year-old boy who was held in jail here a week on a charge of killing his younger brother, at Battle Ground, was given his liberty, and the criminal charge was dismissed. This action was taken as a result of the investigation of the case by Prosecuting Attorney McDonald, Sheriff Miller and Coroner Burt, who visited the scene of the shooting a few days ago.

The circumstances, from the best information obtainable, indicate that the older boy pointed the gun at the younger one in play or for the purpose of frightening him, and thinking it was not loaded, pulled the trigger. The charge of shot entered the little fellow's face and neck, killing him instantly. The parents of the boy are thoroughly convinced of his innocence of the crime, and the officers yielded to their plea for his liberation.

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