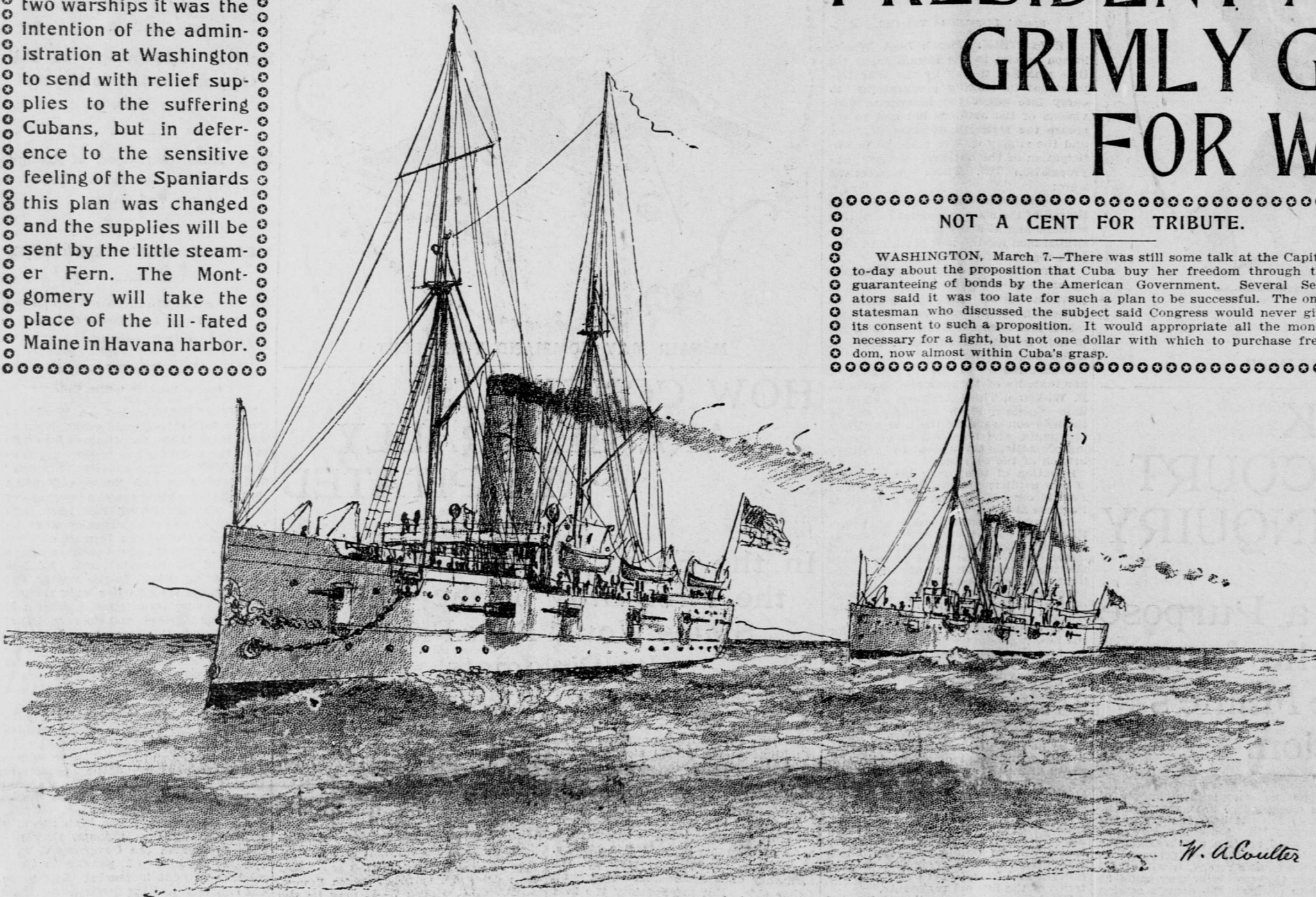


MILLIONS TO BE GIVEN FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS GRIMLY GETTING READY FOR WAR WITH SPAIN

The Montgomery leading the Nashville. These two warships it was the intention of the administration at Washington to send with relief supplies to the suffering Cubans, but in deference to the sensitive feeling of the Spaniards this plan was changed and the supplies will be sent by the little steamer Fern. The Montgomery will take the place of the ill-fated Maine in Havana harbor.



W. A. Coulter

NOT A CENT FOR TRIBUTE.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—There was still some talk at the Capitol to-day about the proposition that Cuba buy her freedom through the guaranteeing of bonds by the American Government. Several Senators said it was too late for such a plan to be successful. The only statesman who discussed the subject said Congress would never give its consent to such a proposition. It would appropriate all the money necessary for a fight, but not one dollar with which to purchase freedom, now almost within Cuba's grasp.

STATESMEN BELIEVE

WAR IS INEVITABLE.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The situation to-night is more feverish than it has been at any time. The most conservative men in Congress, who have heretofore believed war impossible, say that a chain of events is drawing steadily to hostilities between the two countries. President McKinley has no critics in Congress.

Senator Cullom, who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has for several days entertained the opinion that Spain and the United States were rapidly drifting into war. He was more outspoken to-day. "This latest move of Spain is conclusive proof that the two governments are going to fight," said he.

There was an understanding to-day that the President will no longer attempt to conceal the facts, but that every diplomatic move made between Spain and the United States will be promptly bulletined, and that Congress will be informed of the developments as rapidly as they occur. It is understood that the President is considering the advisability of sending to Congress this week the correspondence from American Consuls in Cuba relating to the war, the progress of autonomy plans and all other facts that have been called for by the resolutions adopted by the two houses. The President probably realizes that if he does not send a speedy response to this request of Congress he may provoke a quarrel, and possibly an introduction of the resolution threatened by Senator Morgan a few days ago.

There is no doubt that while inflammatory speeches may be made, Congress is more inclined now than ever before to wait upon the judgment of the President. The Senators and members are fully alive to the President's vigorous policy and are willing to trust the matter in his hands since he made known his reply to Spain in the Lee matter. But as Congress has the power of declaring war, it will probably insist on being fully advised of every step taken, not for the purpose of condemning, but as a matter of right. The talk of both Republicans and Democrats indicates that all ideas of economy have vanished and that Congress will be practically a unit in voting appropriations for national defense.

THE NAVY NOW BEING PUT IN TRIM FOR WAR

It Is Apparent That the President Feels the Country Is Facing a Very Grave Crisis at This Moment.

NEW YORK, March 7.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Stupendous preparations were inaugurated to-day by Secretary Long to place the navy in a condition to defend the United States in case of war. The preparations are due to the confident belief of the President and the Secretary of the Navy that Congress will appropriate the \$50,000,000 "for national defense," as provided in the Cannon resolution. In brief, the plans include the practical completion of negotiations for buying foreign-built warships subject to their inspection by naval officers, who will proceed abroad immediately, and the determination to close the deals on this condition at a conference to be held to-morrow; the issuance of orders to contractors to furnish enough munitions of war to replenish the magazines of the men-of-war now in commission in case they should suddenly become exhausted; the execution of agreements with coal-dealers for a large supply of coal to be shipped at once to Key West, and the commencement of arrangements to make further and larger contracts; the dispatch of instructions to recruiting rendezvous at New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk, and to the commanding officer of the United States ship Michigan at Erie, Pa., to enlist as many seamen, machinists and petty officers, with a few landmen, as it is possible to obtain; orders to Commander E. C. Pendleton, the inspector of ordnance at the Washington Navy-yard to place three shifts of men on duty at the Washington gun foundry and to keep them working every hour in the twenty-four to assemble and finish the guns building there; the formation of crews and details of officers for the commerce-destroyer Columbia, and the proposition to form a flying squadron composed of this vessel and the armored cruisers Brooklyn and New York, under the command of Commo-

dore W. S. Schley; expedition of the work of making repairs to vessels now out of commission in order that they may be available for service at the earliest possible moment, and efforts made to hasten the completion of ships under construction. Preliminary arrangements are being made to form details of officers for the auxiliary steamers and the issuance of orders to Assistant Naval Constructor J. G. Tawresy to report to Lieutenant-Commander J. D. J. Kelly at New York, to assist him in the preparation of plans for transforming merchant steamers into auxiliary cruisers. The purchase of nautical instruments and equipments for vessels to take the place of those which may be destroyed in the event of hostilities and to be placed on board the new ships which the department has in view is also provided for. That the administration is preparing to face a grave situation and that it intends to be ready when the emergency comes is apparent from the preparations. Preparations take time, and now that the official sanction of the President, with that of Congress to follow to-morrow, has been given to their making, the officials of the Navy Department are not delaying a moment in their accomplishment. This has been a busy day for officials and for contractors. Secretary Long, Captain O'Neill and Commander Bradford, the two last named gentlemen Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Chief of the Bureau of Equipment, have been frequently in consultation with contractors during the day, and have been sending telegraphic and mail instructions to dealers whose representatives were not on the ground to execute additional contracts and to hasten the work now in their shops. The most significant development of the day at the Navy Department was that resulting from the conference held by Secretary and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt with Thomas F. Lane, repre-

INSPECT SHIPS ACROSS THE SEA.

NEW YORK, March 7.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Secretary Long gave orders this afternoon to Commander W. H. Brownson, now on duty as a member of the Board of Inspection and Survey, to leave at once for England and France to inspect the vessels which have been offered to this Government, and to report without delay if they are suitable for service in the United States navy. Commander Brownson will not only look at vessels which have been offered, but will examine other warships under construction for foreign nations, and should he report that any are desirable and ready for sea this Government will undoubtedly enter into negotiations with the nations which ordered the ships, looking to their sale to the United States.

RIFLES SOLD TO UNITED STATES FIRMS.

NEW YORK, March 7.—A special to the Herald from Ottawa says: All Snider, Enfield, Peabody and other rifles now in store here have been sold to firms in the United States. The Sniders still in the possession of the rural corps will not be called in until some system is devised for the storing the Lee-Enfields in proper armories. The Snider rifle was taken out of the hands of the city battalions last year when they were equipped with the new Lee-Enfield magazine rifle. There are also in store at Quebec and Montreal stands of Martini-Henry rifles sufficient to arm 50,000 men, which have never been in use. This rifle was supplied in the British army two years ago by the Lee-Metford rifle.

MONTGOMERY TO BE SENT TO CUBA'S CAPITAL

Once More a Yankee Warship Will Lie Grimly Under the Guns of Morro Castle.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—There were no less than five important events to-day having a bearing more or less direct upon the troubled relations between the United States and Spain, viz.: The introduction in Congress by Cannon of a resolution carrying \$50,000,000 for the purpose of defense; the withdrawal by the Spanish Government of its intimated objection to the continuation of office of Consul-General Lee; the order of the cruiser Montgomery to proceed to Havana in place of the Fern; the passage through the House of the bill increasing the artillery arm by two regiments, and the institution of negotiations looking to the purchase of warships for our navy. Cannon's resolution probably led all other topics of interest, particularly when it became known that it was the result of a conference between the author, the President, Senator Hale and other leading spirits in Congress. The decision of the Navy Department concerning the sending of ships to Cuba was made known at 2 o'clock this afternoon, when the following statement was posted by the Bureau of Navigation: "Montgomery will relieve the Fern at Havana. Fern will carry provisions to Matanzas and Sagua la Grande." This conclusion was reached after conferences between the officials of the State and Navy departments, and is understood to be such an adjustment as will not lead to further objection by the Spanish Government. The Fern is a dispatch boat without heavy armament or guns, although she belongs to the navy and is technically a naval vessel. As she comes as near being a transport as anything in our naval service, her selection will accord with the Span-

SPANISH DIVERS FIND PROOF OF OUTSIDE EXPLOSION

Have So Reported Very Much to the Consternation of the Captain-General and His Advisers.

BOSTON, Mass., March 7.—A Havana special says: The Spanish divers supposed to be investigating the causes of the Maine disaster for the information of the Spanish Court of Inquiry have been proceeding in such a leisurely fashion as to excite comment. It was supposed at first that the divers were simply following the usual Spanish methods of doing nothing to-day which could be postponed until to-morrow, and of doing no more work than was absolutely forced upon them. Whereas, our divers stay under water for three hours, the Spaniards, after being down twenty minutes or half an hour come to the surface and rest for an hour or so. Apparently they do more talking and cigarette smoking than diving. I have it on unimpeachable authority that there is considerable method in this easy-go-lucky fashion of the Spaniards. They are all good men and understand their business. Their first day's investigations showed them that the Maine must have been blown up from the outside, and they so reported to their superior officers. The divers were then ordered to continue their research in the hope that a more careful study of the forward portion of the vessel might reveal something on which to base an opinion that the explosion was due to internal causes. This further in-

vestigation, instead of altering their previous opinion, only tended to confirm it. These reports have thoroughly alarmed the palace, although the farce of the divers' investigation is still to be kept up to satisfy public opinion and enable Spain to controvert the report of the Sampson Court of Inquiry by being able to present a report of their own experts to substantiate the Spanish claim that the explosion was due to a lack of discipline and negligence on the part of the officers of the Maine. The Spanish divers have been ordered to work as slowly as possible to demonstrate the thoroughness of their work compared with that of our court so as to create the impression in the minds of the Spanish populace that the American court's verdict exonerating Captain Sigbee and his officers of all blame is made simply to shield them and cover up the facts. The Spaniards in their dense ignorance will be more than ever certain American navy officers do not know how to handle their ships and they will feel sure the Vizecaya and Almirante Oquendo, now in this harbor, are more than a match for the entire United States navy. 'This is not mere boasting; it comes from the profound conviction of the Spanish that the Americans are cowards and can fight neither on