

FIRST WAR GUN HAS BEEN FIRED

GEN. MILES NOT SATISFIED

WITH ADMINISTRATION'S INADEQUATE CAMPAIGN PLAN

Proclamation for 100,000 Volunteers to Be Made Today. Commodore Schley's Squadron for Porto Rico. Last News From Capt. Sampson

WASHINGTON, April 22.—(Special to The Herald.)—The differences between the administration military plan of campaign and that of General Miles are not settled. It is likely to result in the appointment of a joint committee on military direction by congress, as occurred in the civil war.

Miles, on the contrary, will insist that the adequate policy is always the best in war, and that we should assert our military domination in Cuba at the initial stage of the campaign by landing an army of 50,000 men, including a full complement of cavalry and artillery, thus enabling us to take the offensive by seizing and holding all the lines of railway leading to Havana and with the co-operation of our navy cutting off all supplies from the Spanish army in that city.

As the Spanish army in Cuba is known to be not less than 80,000, including regulars and volunteers, the president's plan, in the opinion of General Miles, involves the danger of forcing us to act on the defensive should our army take the field, as it would be invited to do if we landed a force less than one-sixth the Spanish strength. We would then become the besieged instead of the besiegers, and our military prestige would be badly shaken.

The president is inclined to defer serious invasion of Cuba until October or November, because of the climatic conditions.

Miles believes an advance should be made at once, bringing expert testimony to show that the danger of disease is not greater during May and June than during the autumn.

Senator Proctor spent considerable time today with the president, afterward going to Miles. It is believed he is trying to reconcile the plans of the administration with those of the general in command.

It devolves upon Spain to make the war an active one. If Captain Sampson's fleet is attacked he will retaliate. If he is not, the ports on the northern coast of Cuba will be blockaded until the troops in Havana are starved out and our landing forces establish a foothold on the island. Commodore Schley is expected to sail from Hampton Roads at any moment. He is to blockade Porto Rico with the flying squadron.

War plans are subject to hourly change in the very nature of things, and the administration's plans are no exception to this rule. This is the program as it stands tonight:

Tomorrow McKinley will issue a call for 100,000 volunteers. In this proclamation will be found a paragraph declaring that a state of war exists, and that the mandate of congress makes the calling of volunteers necessary.

Schley's squadron will convoy the transport carrying 1000 men of the Sampson fleet, when the Panther will be dropped and Schley's squadron will proceed to Porto Rico.

The first landing will be made at Cabanas, which is slightly to the west of Havana. A detachment of marines on board the Panther will be utilized for this purpose.

THE BLOCKADE NOW EFFECTIVE

KEY WEST, Fla., April 22.—(Special to The Herald.)—Sampson's fleet is now before Havana and blockading the whole northern coast of Cuba. None of the vessels went within cannon shot of the Spanish fortifications, the orders of the president to blockade and not to fire unless attacked being strictly adhered to. The warships are practically doing patrol duty along the Cuban coast, and every vessel is constantly under steam. There is not the slightest danger during the day time. When the yacht which bore this information left, darkness was just coming on, and the vessels were all preparing their searchlights, for the officers feel the only source of danger may be the sneaking up of a torpedo boat during the darkness. This is not likely, as the vessels are widely spread out, and will move up and down the coast with their searchlights all night.



SPANISH FLEET AT CANARY ISLANDS

THE FIRST REAL ACT OF WAR

IS THE CAPTURE OF A LUMBER-LADEN VESSEL BELONGING TO SPAIN

No Lives Lost in the Engagement, and the Astonished Captain Takes Matters Philosophically as He Yields Himself a Prisoner of War—Navy Department Officials Pleased

KEY WEST, Fla., April 22.—(By Associated Press.) The United States fleet was about twelve miles off Sand Key light this morning at 7 o'clock, when the Spanish merchantman Buena Ventura was sighted, bound north. The gunboat Nashville ran her down and put a shot across her bows from the four-inch gun on the port side, aft, manned by Lieut. Killingham. The Spaniard ignored the shot, but another closer to her bows brought her to. A prize crew, under Ensign Magruder, was put aboard. Capt. Lucarraga, 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 relieved by Ensign Carleton of the Snow. A body of marines is pacing the deck of the Spaniard, and her crew of twenty-eight are lounging about the decks in nonchalant fashion. Not a man is in irons. According to prize laws, Capt. Maynard will turn the prisoners of war over to the United States district attorney, who will decide the question of their disposition. The monitor Furitan is taking on coal and water and will sail to join the fleet tonight. On excellent authority it is reported that the destination of the fleet is Matanzas. He will pilot the fleet to Matanzas. The Cuban pilots went on board last night after 12 o'clock. The Detroit sailed to join the fleet this afternoon. It is believed, one or two ships will be left here, at least temporarily.

OFFICIALS EXPRESS SATISFACTION

WASHINGTON, April 22.—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 excitement and was eagerly discussed as an outward sign of existing 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 accomplished fact. It is 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 one million pesetas on board, representing the subscriptions of Vera Cruz to the Spanish in Cuba.

WAS HEADED FOR HOLLAND

GALVESTON, Tex., April 22.—The Spanish steamer Buena Ventura, which has been captured by the United States gunboat Nashville, is a tramp steamer, hailing from Bilbao, Spain. She belonged to the Sarrinigi line. March 29th she arrived at Pascagoula, Miss., from Havana, and was on her way to Pensacola, Fla., to load for Holland when captured.

A MODERATELY VALUABLE PRIZE

MOBILE, Ala., April 22.—The Buena Ventura, from Pascagoula, Miss., which was captured by the Nashville, was loaded by Mobile parties for Rotterdam with 875,000 feet of lumber, which was valued at \$10,900.

THE LATEST—THE ALPHONSO XII CAPTURED BY THE NEW YORK. SEE FIFTH PAGE

A DAY'S HISTORIC EVENTS

ANXIETY IS SUCCEEDED BY GRIM DETERMINATION

The Plan of Campaign and the Sinews of War—The Atlantic Squadron That Is Blockading Havana. Formal Declaration of War

WASHINGTON, April 22.—(Special to The Herald.)—The intense excitement preceding the rapid course of events that led up to the commencement of the American-Spanish war has given way to a feeling of relief, now that the die is cast and the gage of battle is thrown down. An enormous burden has been lifted off the administration's shoulders, although the responsibility has now become twofold. But the intricacies of diplomacy are at an end. The long drawn-out battle of wits has given place to one of arms. It is, then, with a sense of relief that the administration and congress realize that the vital step has been taken. Now it remains to direct the campaign and provide the sinews of war.

The actual events of today, while watched with the keenest interest, have not been attended with the same anxiety, nor have they been of such portent as to disturb the sense of security and confidence that has settled upon the people.

The North Atlantic squadron, under Acting Rear Admiral Sampson, sailed, as my dispatch last night foretold, at daylight this morning. It was 5:45 before the squadron put out to sea, consisting of the following vessels:

Table listing battleships (New York, Iowa, Indiana), cruisers (Cincinnati, Detroit), monitors (Amphitrite, Mangrove, Mayflower), gunboats (Castine, Machias, Nashville, Newport, Wilmington), and torpedo boats (Cushing, Dupont, Ericsson, Porter, Winslow).

The first event of the cruise, although in itself comparatively insignificant, was nevertheless momentous, in that it was the first definite act of war, in which the first gun was fired. It was the capture of a Spanish lumber ship of 1000 tons, the Buena Ventura, by the gunboat Nashville. The Nashville fired a six-pounder in front of the merchantman's bows and the Spaniard surrendered.

It is the intention of Capt. Sampson to lie off from Havana about ten miles, from which distance its blockade will be even more effective than if nearer. The squadron reached its destination, steaming only ten knots an hour, at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The flying squadron under Commodore Schley is still off Fort Monroe and indulged in target practice yesterday.

The Asiatic squadron, under Rear Admiral Dewey, left Hong Kong today for the Philippine islands, which it will endeavor to seize.

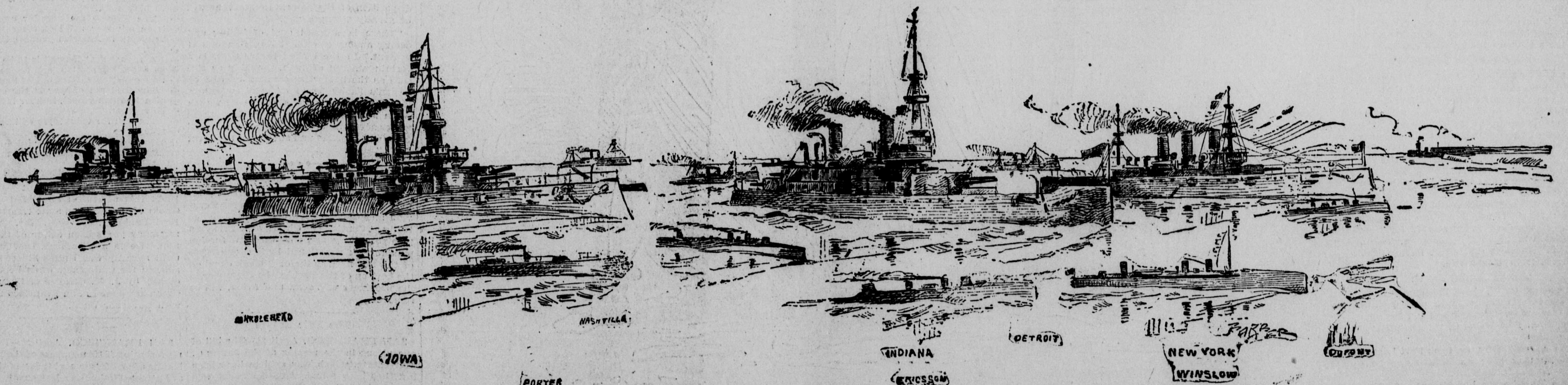
There is positive proof that the Spanish squadron is still at Cape Verde. Minister Woodford reached French soil in safety after an exciting experience, in which he showed his pluck in stoutly preventing the arrest of a member of the legation.

The state department today considered the recommendation of congress to declare war. This is thought to be, under the circumstances, an unnecessary step, but a definite announcement may be made tomorrow at noon, at which hour the limit for Spain's answer to the United States' ultimatum expires.

The blockade of Havana was formally proclaimed by the president, and an identical note was dispatched to the powers of a similar effect.

The rumors of Secretary Long's intended resignation are strenuously denied. Today he issued a hard and fast rule absolutely forbidding the giving out of any information concerning the fleet's movement. A strict censorship of all telegrams from Havana was also inaugurated yesterday.

The passage of the bill providing for the utilization of the volunteer forces in war and the resignation of Postmaster General Gary complete the record of the day's events here.



THE NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON NOW BLOCKADING HAVANA