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WHERE IS THE SQUADRON BOUND?

Persistent Rumors That It Is Ordered to the Bermudas.

Secretary of State Olney Demands an Explanation from Salisbury.

He Replies That England Has Not the Remotest Idea of Threatening the United States.

GREAT BRITAIN READY TO SETTLE.

Wishes the Venezuelan Question Arranged Satisfactorily to This Country Provided She Is Not Represented as "Backing Down."

London, Jan. 18.—The sending of the flying squadron to the West Indies will not strengthen public confidence in Lord Salisbury. The report that the squadron will go either to Barbadoes or Trinidad seems so contrary to prudence that outside of naval circles it is received with incredulity. The service papers make no mention of the destination of the fleet.

The Army and Navy Gazette cautiously explains that the flying squadron is not intended for the Cape of Good Hope nor the far East. Nor is it, whatever danger threatens, to be sent around the world to act as a reinforcement to the squadrons already in the Mediterranean or elsewhere. The latest report from Portsmouth is that the squadron will leave Spithead on Tuesday next for Beroheaven, and will probably proceed thence to Gibraltar, where it will await further orders.

It is questioned by some whether the Government has yet decided upon the squadron's objective point, and the opinion is held in some quarters that, having rushed its concentration to soothe the country during the anti-German fever, the main purpose has been served, and the squadron can now patrol the seas waiting for events that may transpire anywhere.

All of the vessels comprising the squadron have arrived at Spithead.

GOING TO THE WEST INDIES. Although the destination of the squadron cannot be definitely known until it is nearing the point fixed by the sealed orders under which it sails, it is an accepted fact among the officers of the squadron that its course will be toward the West Indies.

Some talking of Rear Admiral Dale's instructions has certainly transpired. Report says that the fleet will proceed to either Bridgetown, Barbadoes or Port of Spain, island of Trinidad, which lies directly north of Venezuela.

The officials at the Admiralty when questioned on the subject protest that they are in entire ignorance of where the squadron will be sent, but it can be stated that within the Admiralty circles it is taken that, as it has been decided to send the vessels to the southwest, their course will be somewhere near Venezuela.

The squadron is commissioned for three years, and it is not intended it shall be stationed long at any one point.

As the trouble over Emperor William's attitude on the Transvaal question appears to have been placated, the Conservative party no longer associate the flying squadron with a demonstration against Germany, and they carefully avoid using the word "demonstration" in connection with the dispute with the United States, which dispute has again become the leading anxiety.

IF CONGRESS INDORSSES MONROEISM. The speaker says: "If Congress indorses the new Monroeism and the United States Government demands Great Britain's acceptance thereof, it would be equivalent to declaring war, for Great Britain could never submit to make a virtue of the surrender of her possessions in America until she had exhausted all her resources of resistance."

The St. James's Gazette says: "If the Americans insist upon the new Monroe doctrine, rendering the United States the absolute and irresponsible arbiter of affairs on a continent one third of which is British, what can be done? Great Britain cannot avert the consequences by yielding. The issue of peace or war lies with the Americans, not us. It is misleading optimism to pretend anything else."

Sir Augustus Hemming, the new Governor of British Guiana, will sail for Georgetown on February 26. He will be authorized to negotiate with Venezuela for a settlement of the boundary dispute if the latter assents to treat with him. There is good reason for stating that prior to his arrival at Georgetown overtures will be made through the Brazilian Government to the Government at Caracas, which it is expected will bring Sir Augustus in direct communication with the Venezuelan Government.

The Foreign Office ignores the Venezuelan Consulate here in matters of diplomacy, so the consulate, of course, knows nothing officially of what is going on.

WOLSELEY WITH THE MINISTERS. The Cabinet met this afternoon. Prior to the meeting Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain and the Duke of Devonshire, president of the Council, conferred with Commander-in-Chief Lord Wolseley and several other high military and naval officials.

It is surmised that the conference had reference to schemes of the National Defence Committee, of which the Duke of Devonshire is president.

The Cabinet will not meet again until early in February, when the Queen's speech, to be read at the opening of Parliament, will be prepared.

vision, which, despite their mechanical majority, will shake the position of the Government.

NO THREAT IS INTENDED.

Salisbury Says the Flying Squadron Will Not Be Used as a Menace to This Country.

By Julius Chambers.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—Secretary Olney, by special direction of the President, made a direct demand upon Lord Salisbury for an explanation as to the report that England designed to send a fleet of picked war vessels into American waters. The dispatch of Secretary Olney was sent to Ambassador Bayard, but it was couched in the most vigorous language of which Mr. Olney is capable. The dispatch called for an immediate reply, and it produced the desired result.

Late last night, or, to be more exact, early this morning, the cable brought the information to Mr. Olney that the Government of England had not the remotest idea of sending a fleet to any point that might be construed as a threat against the United States.

The Administration has received positive assurance that England is entirely willing to settle the Venezuelan question upon a basis satisfactory to this country, provided it shall not put England in the attitude of "backing down."

Your correspondent has learned from the best authority connected with the State Department that the solving of the Venezuelan question per se is a matter of small importance in the estimation of the English Government.

The information conveyed to the State Department is to the effect that England is willing to make all reasonable concessions in order to terminate all ill-feeling between the people of this country and England growing out of the Venezuelan question. But, the question of greater importance with the English Government is the interpretation which its concessions to the United States might invite from her European rivals. For instance, Germany might conclude that if England would, for the sake of peace, abandon her attitude on the Venezuelan dispute, she might, under pressure, abdicate her claim to suzerainty over the Transvaal republic.

Lord Salisbury does not want to have his willingness to remain on friendly terms of the United States construed to mean that he would make any concessions to Germany or any other European power.

The first intimation that the possible destination of the fleet might be the West Indies came more than a week ago in the shape of information that the British were placing large supplies of coal and other stores in their fortified naval station at St. Lucia, near the Venezuelan coast.

While the Navy Department seemingly paid little attention to the story, it is significant that steps were taken about the same time by the department to ascertain how quickly the coast defence monitors Miantonomah, Terror and Monadnock could be made ready for service. This was followed by orders directing that these vessels be fitted for being placed in commission without delay.

It is expected that the last of them, the unfinished Terror, will be equipped in about two months.

There is some talk around the Navy Department of the necessity for calling back to America the commerce destroyer Minneapolis and the cruiser San Francisco, leaving the cruiser Marblehead to attend to the interests of American missionaries in the Sultan's possession. Nothing official on this matter can be obtained. Meanwhile the North American squadron of evolution, under Rear-Admiral Bance, is lying at Hampton Roads, Va., awaiting orders to practice some evolutions.

The squadron is growing to quite a formidable size, and in addition to the New York, Columbia, Raleigh and Maine, may be said to contain the battle ship Indiana, which, while not formally attached to it, is lying in Hampton Roads, and the battleship Texas, which will be repaired at Norfolk without delay if it be within the power of repairs to set that unlucky ship on its sea legs.

DEATH IN A BONFIRE.

Curious Mishap by Which a Three-Year-Old Brooklyn Boy Met a Horrible Fate.

Henry G. King, a three-year-old boy, was literally roasted in a bonfire opposite his home, No. 2087 Bergen street, Brooklyn, yesterday. He was burned so badly that he died two hours later.

The boy, who was bright and pretty and a great favorite in the neighborhood, went out to play in a lot bounding on Rockaway avenue, about 100 feet from his house. The edge of the lot sloped gently to the sidewalk. Down this slope Henry amused himself by rolling. While he was going up a red rolling down his playmates started a bonfire in the gutter. They piled on wood and rubbish until they had a good-sized blaze.

What follows seems inexplicable, but Henry came rolling down the hill and across the sidewalk right into the fire. His clothing caught fire and burned like paper. His companions, becoming alarmed, scampered off.

The flames roared furiously around the helpless child, blistering and roasting her flesh. His agonizing cries did not reach the ears of anybody but his father, who had just returned from work. He ran from the house and over to the fire. He saw the naked and writhing frame of a child in the flames and he caught it up. The clothes had been burned from his body.

Not until he had raised the little fellow up did he realize that it was his own child.

Mr. King fairly flew across to the house and placed the boy on a couch. An ambulance surgeon was summoned, and every effort was made to save him, but he died about two hours.

ADJOURNS COURT TO FIGHT A MAN.

Judge Murphy Descends from the Bench and Calls His Maligner a Liar.

He Grants a Change of Venue Because He Could Not Give the Accused a Fair Trial.

Challenges Him for Attacking Him in a Paper of Which He Was City Editor.

THE INVITATION IS DECLINED.

Then the late Judge Calls Upon Any One to Knock the Chip Off His Shoulder. A Very Strange Scene in a St. Louis Courtroom.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 18.—Charles E. Chapin, the city editor of the Post-Dispatch, was arraigned to-day in Judge David Murphy's Court, on a charge of criminal libel, preferred by the president of the St. Louis School Board.

The defendant applied for a change of venue on the affidavit of two reporters, to the effect that Judge Murphy was prejudiced because of the attacks which had been made upon him by the paper.

Chapin was placed on the stand and interrogated by counsel. He answered some questions, but others he refused to answer on the ground, presumably, that he could not reply to them without incriminating himself.

Judge Murphy then took a hand in the examination, and propounded a number of questions, but still the witness refused to answer.

THE JUDGE LOSES HIS TEMPER. Finally Judge Murphy lost his temper and announced vehemently that the petition for a change of venue would be granted, as he confessed that Chapin, being the man who had attacked him through the newspaper, was such a malicious liar that he could not give him a fair trial.

"You see, sir," said Judge Murphy, excitedly, addressing Mr. Chapin, "I am personally responsible for everything I say, and if you have any manhood in you you will take it up."

Chapin's lawyer objected to the character of the proceedings, whereupon the Judge arose from his seat and announced a ten-minute recess. Then, descending from the bench in a threatening manner, he approached Mr. Chapin and said:

"Now, sir, I am a private citizen and personally responsible for everything I say. I consider you a malicious, characterless liar and a coward."

Mr. Chapin made no response and remained motionless, sizing up the Judge's intrenched position.

Judge Murphy then faced the astonished auditors and cried out:

WITH A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER. "If this fellow does not want to take up what I have said, anybody else is welcome to take it up for him. He and his dirty, lying, scoundrelly pack dare to attack me on the bench, when I have no chance to fight back, but they cringe like curs when I meet them on an equal footing as a private citizen."

"I don't know whether I am a fighter or not," shouted the Governor, "but you jump on me and see whether I will fight!" Still there was no answer, whereupon Judge Murphy will, in a contemptuous manner, resumed his seat and the business of the court went on as usual.

It is reported that Chapin has asked a friend to wait on the Judge.

MORTON ON HIS CHANCE.

In a Figure of Speech the Governor Gives Recognition of His Presidential Prospects.

Albany, Jan. 18.—Governor Morton, in a figure of speech, avowed his candidacy for the Presidential nomination for the first time to-day. Hitherto he had allowed others to do the talking. He was asked about a statement from Chicago to the effect that the Reed managers there had said that the Morton boom was only a complimentary affair for an old man and that all the votes cast for him at St. Louis on the first ballot would go to Reed on the second.

"That's good enough until after the nomination," said the Governor, laughing. "Of course the managers of the opposition have to keep saying something, and they can't be expected to leave the other fellow alone."

The "other fellow" being construed to mean himself, this can be read without doing much violence to the language into an avowal of candidacy. It is as nearly a direct statement as the Governor ever makes for publication.

A great many letters from the South are received at the Executive Chamber, and they are nearly all from "colored men of influence," who tell him how much it will cost to deliver so many votes at St. Louis. Some of these "strikes" are in manifold, showing that copies have been sent to other Presidential candidates. With the writers it is a case of first come first served.

HE'S A STRONG CANDIDATE.

State Comptroller Roberts Says the Governor's Chances Are Increasing. Buffalo, Jan. 18.—State Comptroller Roberts is in Buffalo to-day for a brief visit. To a reporter who asked his opinion of Governor Morton's prospects for the Presidential nomination, Mr. Roberts said:

"I think they are steadily improving. I talked last week with Congressman Hooker, who told me he was greatly astonished to find the cordial support Governor Morton was receiving among Senators and Congressmen at Washington, outside of New York State. I fully believe he will go into the convention with a far greater support than most people imagine—in short, after other favorites have received proper support, Governor Morton will be decided on and nominated."

"Things are constantly coming to my notice which tend to indicate that his candidacy is taking on a much greater strength than many people imagined it would at the commencement."

When asked as to whether or not he would be a possible candidate in the next gubernatorial contest, Mr. Roberts said that very few New Yorkers would decline such an honor. He considered the gubernatorial office of the United States, but he added, to launch a boom at this time on the part of any probable candidate would mean a sure frost bite.

We heard a mechanic say that he would not be without Salvation Oil. It kills pain.

WHY CUBA SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED.

Gen. Palma Explains the Reasons Which Entitle the Patriots to a Place Among the Free Nations of the Earth.

Delegacion de La Republica de Cuba. Washington, Jan. 18.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I am happy indeed to place through your paper, which champions the cause of the oppressed before the world, and especially before the American people, the grounds upon which the Cubans ask that they cease to be considered as pirates on the seas and outlaws on land. They now desire that they be recognized as honest and patriotic men, fighting for the greatest of privileges--for what the heroes of this continent bled and died.

We ask the United States to recognize our belligerent rights because the Cubans, asserting their intention to obtain their independence, have fought for nearly a year against the established government of Spain, which has not tried to suppress the war by the ordinary civil machinery of arrests and judicial tribunals, but by means of armed force, both naval and land, and whose futile endeavors have proved to an impartial judge the impotency of the Spanish and the unanimous resolution of the Cubans.

The courses which impelled us to have recourse to arms are the same rehearsed in your Declaration of Independence; more still, laws have been framed to disfranchise our people; taxes have been levied on everything; there is no freedom of speech, of the press or of religion; facilities for education are unknown, and blackmail is universal. We fight for principle, and at the same time we fight for existence, for we must either win or be crushed forever.

The above are incontrovertible statements, and the following facts, capable of proof, are enough to warrant our demands:

The Cuban revolution, initiated on February 24 last, was confined at first to one province. It has successively extended to all of the six provinces of the island, which have been declared in a state of siege by the Spanish authorities. The Cuban arms have even threatened the capital, and the Spanish are only in real possession of the ports and fortified towns.

The Cuban army, at first numbering a few thousand, has grown to more than 50,000, properly officered and organized, and more or less well armed.

The campaigns of the Cuban Generals have been uniformly successful, the Spaniards having, as a proof of their defeat, recalled their best general. He, in whom all confidence had been placed, all possible means given to terminate the war in a short time, and provided with 123,000 soldiers, nearly fifty vessels of war and many millions of dollars obtained by loans. The Cubans have shown that they can capture ports as Baitiquiri, Cabanas and Cojimar, but have been unable to hold them, as the Spanish men-of-war have shelled them, and so forced abandonment for want of vessels, which they cannot have until their flag is recognized. The Cubans have established a provisional government with a Republican constitution, adopted on September 18, 1895, at Jimaguayu, by the twenty representatives who were elected by the Cubans in arms. This Government is composed of a President, Vice-President and four Secretaries of State, in the Department of War, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Treasury. The war is conducted by the Cubans in a civilized manner, as we pardoned the prisoners, whether they were officers or privates, while Spain has in return executed five Cuban leaders according to General Campos's decree. Laws have been passed in the different branches of the Civil Government which are obeyed by the people in arms as well as by the inhabitants of the Republic of Cuba, who live under a civil organization in the districts under the control of our Government, and which have been organized into prefectures. We have legislated as to taxes, and these are properly collected by the officers of the Treasury Department, whose authority is respected by owners of property.

For all these reasons and on account of the strength shown by the revolution, which has destroyed all the means of communication of the Spanish forces, the fountains of wealth with which Spain expected to again subjugate the island, and because it is the determination of the Cubans never to lay down their arms until they have secured their independence--in the name of justice, in the name of humanity to avoid unnecessary bloodshed and destruction of property, and in the name of liberty, the Cuban people in arms, who have fought singly and alone for so many months, appeal to the Great Republic to recognize in them the same spirit that animated their forefathers.

Should the United States not recognize the belligerency of the Cubans at the present time, it would be a proof that their sympathies or interests are on the side of Spain, the oppressor, and not on the side of the Cubans, the oppressed.

T. ESTRADA PALMA, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary from the Republic of Cuba.

MADRID BLAMES GENERAL CAMPOS.

Protecting Rural Property the Chief Cause of the Revolt Spreading.

Believed in Havana That Polavieja Will Be Sent from Spain to Take His Place.

Recognition of the Insurgents as Belligerents Hangs Fire in the Senate and House at Washington.

SPEAKER REED NOT ENTHUSIASTIC.

His Lieutenants, Mr. Hitt, Chairman of the Foreign Committee, and Mr. Cousins, Also a Member of the Committee, Are Both Lukewarm.

Havana, Jan. 18.—A large number of residents of the City of Havana called upon General Martinez Campos to-day to pay their respects.

The retiring Captain-General received his visitors to-day in the capacity of a private citizen.

It is believed that he will sail for Spain on Monday.

Lieutenant-General Marin is now in charge of the Captain-General's palace.

A great many changes are expected in the Military Department.

There is considerable talk that General Polavieja will be sent from Spain to act as Governor-General.

Dispatches from Madrid say that the consensus of opinion there is that the superseding of General Campos will greatly improve the situation in Cuba. The military journals of Madrid censure General Campos and declare that his splitting up his 100,000 followers into small sections to protect rural property has been the chief cause of the extension of the Cuban revolt.

THE SPEAKER IN THE WAY.

Mr. Reed and His Lieutenants Are the Principal Obstacles to the Recognition of the Insurgents.

Washington, Jan. 18.—While the retirement of Campos from the Cuban command is held by Congressmen as proving much of the vigor of the revolution, nothing definite in the way of a House or Senate action is promised by the speaker.

This passivity toward Cuba on the part of Congress is all the more strange when one reverts to the fact that the great majority of sentiment in both branches is in favor of Cuban recognition.

"Why, then, is recognition delayed?"

Livingston, of Georgia—a giant physically, and by no means a dwarf in intellect—asserts that a Spanish lobby exists in Washington, busy with Spanish argument and Spanish gold, beating back and holding in check the Cuban sentiment. When asked to name the lobby in his membership, Mr. Livingston declined. Nor would he say how far it was potent in preserving Congress with its cold shoulder Cubanward.

With emphasis, however, Mr. Livingston reiterated his first claim that a Spanish lobby, fully equipped with all the Hes and money needed in its work was extant about Congress, doing its best to defeat every attempt to recognize Cuban independence.

It might be added that the Spanish lobby story has very general credit, albeit no one so far has traced the lobby to its lair.

The truth is, however, as a mere matter of house topography, the barrier to Cuban recognition is Speaker Reed. This comes not so much from his control of the gavel as from his position at the head of the Rules Committee.

To those not familiar with House machinery it might be stated that the Rules Committee bears the same relation to the House that the Judges do to a horse race. The Rules quietly arrange the pro-Committee, holds House action in the hot-bills and resolutions shall come up, how much time discussion may consume, and set the hours for votes.

The committee dominates and directs House action, so far as cutting out the work goes, and the House can take up nothing which the committee does not consent to, save tariff and a handful of specified affairs.

CONTROLS HOUSE ACTION.

Mr. Reed, as chairman of the Rules Committee, holds house action in the hollow of his hand. He controls every rein of House government, and with his foot on the brake can start it, stop it, drive it when and where he will.

It comes frankly then to this: That the one great force which withholds House recognition of Cuba is Mr. Reed, and yet no one need infer that any Spanish lobby owns one half of Mr. Reed's head. It is to the Maine man's credit, he said, that no lobby can use him to even a slight degree. His warmest enemies never had the hardihood to even intimate as much.

For some reason, whether of the prejudice or the mind, Mr. Reed is not favorable to Cuba or America's recognition of her. He has never told why, but such is the fact.

Mr. Reed's Cuban coolness extends also to his near lieutenants in the House, and Mr. Hitt, chief of the Foreign Committee, as well as Mr. Cousins, of Iowa, member of the committee on the Cuba question.

And it is coolness in these important quarters of House management that stunts and checks action favorable to Cuba.

When Mr. Sulzer came down to the House for this, his first term, he went earnestly, almost pleadingly, to Mr. Reed, and said he had but one position to solicit and one favor to ask. The position was to be at the head of the list of Democrats on the Foreign Committee, and the favor was to be allowed to draft the resolution recognizing Cuba, and dilate on it in the House.

Mr. Reed laughed at Mr. Sulzer, and didn't even give him a place on the Foreign Affairs Committee. And Mr. Reed's reason was of the double kind. He didn't