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THE WAR'S DEVELOPMENT

Hunger Already Appears in Havana and Veterans Join the Insurgent Forces.

Exciting Report That the Spanish Fleet Is Making for the Pacific.

United States Proclaims Its Rules of War--The British Neutrality Provisions.

U. S. RULES OF WAR.

Washington, April 26.—Conditions in Washington are rapidly settling down to those of actual war. Notices came to the state department from the four quarters of the globe to-day showing that the nations as a rule are prepared to assume an attitude of strict neutrality as between the United States and Spain in the present struggle. In most cases they were in answer to the identical note sent out yesterday by the state department to all United States embassies and legations instructing them to inform the government to which they were accredited that war has existed since April 25.

Great Britain has always taken an advanced stand in the principles of neutrality, so that great interest was taken here in the terms of the proclamation issued in London. On the whole, the officials are disposed to take the view that strict adherence by Great Britain to these rules will be most advantageous to the United States than Spain, particularly as the United States now is operating in the naval sense so close to her own base of supplies and in all probability soon will cut Spain off from the two bases she now has in the neighborhood of Cuba.

The President issued a proclamation during the day laying down rules as to the seizure of prizes and the result it is believed will result in the capture of the Spanish fleet. The proclamation already captured, though it will be the prize court to determine in each case whether the conditions under which the ships were captured are subject to release.

An opinion prevails that the Buena Ventura, the first prize, will be declared no prize. The case of the Panama, whose seizure was reported to-day, is more complicated, owing to the fact that while the vessel was under way she was reported to have been captured by the Spanish army in Cuba, which are contraband. However, it may be said that while the articles of these questions will be left to the courts, the administration believes the greatest liberality should be shown in the application of the laws which prohibit the sale of contraband or attempting to run the blockade.

HUNGER IN HAVANA.

New York, April 26.—A correspondent of the World sends the following Cuban advices via Key West: "Havana is completely out of beef, although the fishermen are expected from Mexico. All necessities of life have gone up to prices never heard of, and if something is not done at once many will perish of hunger. Examples of means have stored supplies in their houses. All Cuban families leaving are urged to stay, the offer being that they will be supplied with necessities."

THE SPANISH FLEET.

London, April 25.—A mail dispatch from St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, dated Monday, says: "Visiting the Spanish fleet has been forbidden and no manœuvring, target practice or exercising whatever is proceeding. All the ships have been painted black. No shore leave is granted. The cruisers have been all day coaling. All the stores and supplies in St. Vincent have been purchased to supply the squadron and the passing vessels are laid under contribution. The bay is busy with launches and boats carrying stores and the port is brilliantly illuminated all night with electric search lights and signals. Two Portuguese men-of-war are here and Governor Lacerda is staying until the Spanish depart. The Portuguese consul considers the Spanish fleet very strong and believes that Spain will be victorious at the commencement, but that America's money will eventually triumph."

The Spanish torpedo boat Temeraire, according to a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Buenos Ayres is still there awaiting orders.

St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, April 25 (4 p.m.)—The Spanish fleet is still here, but it is reported that the vessels will sail to-morrow.

Washington, April 26.—The Post says: "The Spanish fleet which mobilized at Cape Verde Islands yesterday, notified by Portugal to leave St. Vincent."

HAWAII EXPECTING SEIZURE.

Honolulu, April 19.—(Via San Francisco, April 26.)—The Hawaiian "Star" has this to say regarding the flag raising story: "While the United States flag is flying from the United States as a coaling station, which was referred to in the 'Star,' has not taken place, there are those who believe that it will take place and that at no distant date. It was expected that those high in authority would scout the idea, for it is not usual to confide to such state secrets, but that the flag has not been raised to-day does not signify anything. There may be some significant, however, in the fact that the United States ship Bennington went through the city a few days ago and tried to buy a number of American flags. He succeeded in getting one large one from a dealer and said he would take him half dozen more if he could get them. When told that an order could be filled quickly at San Francisco he replied that he must have the flags at once and could not wait for a

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL

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Engineer Coste Made No Report on Routes—A Dawson Bank Incorporated.

CONCESSIONS IN CHINA.

British Diplomacy Secures Control of Exhaustless Coal and Iron Fields.

Protest Against Dominion Charters for Railway Lines Wholly in British Columbia.

Liberal Members Alleged Breach of the Independence of Parliament Act.

AN AWKWARD CRAFT.

Operations on Change.

Westminster Notes.

General Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

Seghers Council Y.M.I. Last Evening.

Victoria Intermediate Lacrosse Club.

Mr. Williams during the course of the morning debate in the legislature yesterday.

Refiners at Montreal have advanced the price of granulated sugar one-sixteenth of a cent a pound.

Land slide occurred on Main street, Quebec, yesterday, not far from the slide of September, 1888, in which several lives were lost and destroyed a two-story brick out-house.

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