

# CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN THE NAVY

## WILL BUILD THE LARGEST OF WARSHIPS

### Uncle Sam to Construct the George Washington in One Year.

### In Addition to This the Senate Passes the Bill Providing for Two More Regiments to Man Coast Defenses.

Call Office, Riggs House, Washington, Feb. 22.—As soon as the reading of the historic farewell address of Washington was concluded by Lodge of Massachusetts in the Senate to-day, Hawley of Connecticut, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, called up the bill providing for the enlistment of two additional regiments of artillery for service in manning the heavy coast defense batteries which Congress has provided during the past two years.

Bate of Tennessee objected to the bill, because it tended to an increase of the army, to which he said he was unalterably opposed. He thought that there were enough troops already under enlistment to man all the guns now being provided for by the Government. He argued that it would be better to assign infantry regiments to the manning of these guns than to put them in charge of raw recruits.

In reply Hawley pointed out that the strength of the army was really decreasing in proportion to the inhabitants of the country. In addition, he said, Congress had made large appropriations in recent years for great guns for forts and coast defense stations. Of these guns 139 were of large caliber and delicate mechanism. To these must be added 232 rifled steel mortars already placed, or soon to be placed, in the coast defense stations. In order that these guns may be properly handled a body of trained men is necessary. Each of these great war engines requires to handle it as much skill as it requires to run a locomotive or an ordinary river steamer. The War Department estimates that the 1600 men which this bill calls for will be necessary to properly man these guns.

Cockrell of Missouri said he was opposed to an increase in the infantry or cavalry arms of the service, but in this case the country was confronted by a serious condition. He regarded it as necessary that the guns provided by the Government should be properly cared for and manned. For that reason he had consented as a member of the committee to have the bill favorably reported.

The bill was then passed, 62 to 4. The negative votes were cast by Bate of Tennessee, Clay of Georgia, Chilton of Texas and Vest of Missouri.

Morgan of Alabama secured the adoption of the following resolution: "That the Committee on Naval Affairs is instructed to inquire and report whether a man-of-war equal, at least, to the George Washington, to be named the George Washington, can be built, armed and commissioned within a period of twelve months by the use of the facilities of the ship yards, machine shops, mines and forests of the United States, wherever the same are found, and that the committee have leave to report at any time by bill or otherwise."

The resolution was adopted without debate. At 1:30 the Senate went into executive session, and at 4 p. m. adjourned.

### SENTIMENTS OF SOME OF THE STATESMEN.

Senator Morgan and Others Speak of the Necessities of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—In an interview Senator Morgan said to-night: "In view of the foreign complications that now threaten us, I assumed that Congress was willing to be more liberal with appropriations for the navy and it occurred to me that this might be a good time to provide for a new naval ship to take the place of the Maine. The new vessel might properly be named the George Washington and this national memorial day was a very proper time to introduce such a resolution. It is singular that none of our war vessels have been named in honor of the father of our country. The Navy Department has very properly named most of our vessels after the several States, but it seems to me that there should be a departure in naval nomenclature and we should honor the memory, not only of our military and naval heroes, but of our illustrious statesmen as well. The introduction of my resolution on this national holiday was therefore deemed an appropriate sentiment by my colleagues."

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leagues. They passed the resolution, and I have strong hopes that the George Washington will within a year be added to our navy."

Senator Morgan was asked whether, in his opinion, the destruction of the Maine would have a tendency to make Congress more liberal or more economical in its appropriations for war vessels. He replied: "It all depends on the report of the naval court at Havana. If the court finds that the Maine was blown up by the Spanish, the tendency, of course, will be toward a great increase in our navy, for in that event war can scarcely be avoided. But if it appears that the ship was destroyed by reason of carelessness of our naval officers, many members of Congress (remembering the disasters that have overtaken other American naval vessels) will naturally say 'What is the use of spending more money into the sea?'"

A leading member of the House Appropriations Committee expressed this view of the matter to-night when he said to The Call correspondent: "Up to date the modern steel-clad battleship has only been a peril to herself and a holy terror to those on board and inside of her. Except for the one naval battle between a Japanese and a Chinese cruiser and the little scrimmage in front of Alexandria, Egypt, when the English fleet silenced the Egyptian shore batteries, the present type of steel-clad battle-ship has never done anything but blow up or run on many a beautiful sea. It has had some caper dangerous to her crew and costly to her owner. Moreover, just as soon as millions are invested in these metal monsters, the type is changed and the great advantage we had as a nation over all others in our isolation which has exempted us from maintaining either an army or a navy of any size."

Congressman Hillborn of California, a member of the Naval Affairs Committee, believes that the monitor is the best type of naval ship for harbor defense, although, of course, a monitor cannot carry coal enough for a long cruise. He said: "The modern battleship is purely the emanation of the human brain. Theoretically this great steel battleship, weighing 11,000 tons, protected by heavy armor, a floating fortress, is a powerful engine of naval warfare. But what she would do in action no one knows. She has cost millions of dollars and carries within her sides hundreds of human beings, but a little torpedo of insignificant cost, touching her sides would send her to the bottom with all her precious freight of human life."

It must not be inferred from this, however, that Mr. Hillborn does not advocate liberal appropriations to put our army and navy on a respectable and safe war footing, but he believes in another style of battleship, constructed on the monitor plan and besides he is in favor of a Government factory for the production of our ammunition.

A Congressman who is a strong advocate of the seamen's bill said: "We can have no assurance of safety for our naval vessels as long as they are manned by crews composed largely of foreigners. Any vessel who can reach a list of the dead and of the saved crew of the Maine could not but be impressed with the preponderance of foreigners who composed the crew of the unfortunate vessel. American vessels should be manned by loyal Americans. They should be educated in the apprentice schools, but must have years of hard and practical experience, but under our existing laws the sea offers no temptation to our youth. The hard conditions that shipmasters are now allowed to impose on sailors must be removed by Congress before we will be able to enlist American seamen for our naval vessels."

A seaman is a slave and can be imprisoned for failing to carry out a civil contract. All of this must be remedied by Congress. If not foreign sailors will continue to compose the crews of merchant vessels and therefore our naval vessels will also have to enlist foreigners, for our naval apprentice schools do not and will not accomplish the purpose intended and must continue to employ for our naval vessels practical seamen who are under existing conditions will also have to enlist foreigners to guard against explosions from internal cause we must have good, loyal Americans for a crew. I think that the seamen's bill advocated by Andrew Furuseth of San Francisco and the Seaman's Union, and introduced by Senator Frye, will be passed by Congress. At any rate its chance of success is greatly improved on account of the Maine disaster."

### Advertisements.

## WILL ENTERTAIN THE NEW MINISTER.

Woodford to Give a Dinner to Barnabe, Who Soon After Leaves Spain.

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MADRID, Feb. 22.—Minister Woodford gives a dinner Thursday in honor of the new Minister to Washington, Barnabe, and Saturday his guest sails for New York, carrying with him the latest instructions of his Government, the first of which is the necessity of pushing affairs to an immediate, satisfactory conclusion.



COMMODORE PHILIP HICHBORN, U. S. N., Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, Who Will Have Charge of the building of the Proposed Battleship George Washington.

## REGULARS ARE READY FOR WAR

### Brave Boys in Blue Want a Brush With the Spaniards.

### Work of Strengthening the Harbor Defenses Goes Steadily On.

### There is a Prospect That Angel Island May Be Abandoned as a Military Station.

Officers and enlisted men stationed at the Presidio received with delight yesterday the news that the Senate had voted unanimously to authorize an increase of the army by the addition of two more regiments of artillery. More soldiers of this branch of the service are needed. The force of artillerymen at the Presidio is not sufficient to properly man the high power guns already in position. When additional guns arrive to fill the emplacements now ready the need of more troops will be urgent.

The impression that there is a regiment of artillery at the Presidio is wide of the true mark. There are only four batteries of artillery at this garrison and two of these are light batteries. The only troops available to handle the modern guns are Batteries A and H of the Third Artillery. Battery D of this regiment is at San Diego; K Battery is at Alcatraz; E is at Fort Mason; L is at Lime Point (Fort Baker); M is at Fort Canby; B is at Fort Monroe and Batteries G and I are at Angel Island.

Yesterday Battery H was on duty at the works near Fort Point, where the modern high-power guns are placed. Since the recent order from Gen. Miles directing that extra caution be observed at the forts, the men of the Third Artillery have not been able to perform all the duties enjoined. Details for guard duty have been made from the First Infantry. The Fourth Cavalry has supplied mounted patrolmen.

It may be necessary to bring from Angel Island the two batteries of the regiment stationed at that post and to transfer the battery at Fort Mason to a point near the main works of defense. No provision has been made for barracks at the places where the

troops are most needed. The comfortable barracks at the Presidio are distant one mile and a half from the ten and twelve inch batteries of Fort Point. Tents could be pitched at the front, and this may become necessary.

It is surmised that the increase of the artillery force will bring more troops of this branch of the service to San Francisco. It is probable that Angel Island as a military station may be wholly abandoned. The fight to protect the harbor and the city must be made at the head, and as a final resort in the narrow channel between Lime Point and Fort Point. A hostile fleet powerful enough to defeat Uncle Sam's ironclads and battle-ships in an engagement outside and then run the gauntlet of the forts on either side of the Golden Gate channel would soon silence the Angel Island batteries.

An admiral with the courage and skill of a Farragut or Nelson might attempt with a powerful fleet of armored ships to pass the batteries defending the entrance to the harbor. A few fleet commanders would venture upon a movement so full of peril and with such remote chance of success. As the works of defense now stand the fire of six 12-inch guns, five 10-inch guns, sixteen heavy mortars and three dynamite guns could be concentrated on a hostile fleet. The 12-inch rifles have a range of ten miles. The mortars and pneumatic dynamite guns have a range of four miles.

Apart from these modern guns there are many effective 15-inch smooth bore and 8-inch rifles of the old pattern. The 10-inch smooth bore, which were converted into 8-inch rifles, shoot with remarkable accuracy. Artillerymen of the United States service have a great admiration for the converted 8-inch rifles. A soldier of the Third Artillery at the Presidio yesterday remarked: "We used to keep a tug busy setting up targets for these guns. The projectile goes to the mark with the directness of a bullet from a small rifle. The six or eight rifles of this pattern now lying on the ground near Fort Point ought to be sent over to Lime Point and placed near the water line."

The enlisted men of the Third Artillery believe that a war with Spain would be the country good. They figure that the regular army could easily absorb 25,000 men, and this force together with volunteer regiments would make an army sufficient to whip the Spaniards in Cuba. It is admitted that the regiments of the regular army have not, as organizations, ever engaged in battle, although many of them have been tried under fire during Indian campaigns.

"If the Spanish troops ever encounter American soldiers they will quickly understand what fighting means. They have been bushwhacking in Cuba for several years, but if American troops go there they will have to fight in the open or leave the island. We have the men and the money to win if we go to war, and it is now time that foreign nations understood that Americans would fight. If we do not have war over this Maine affair the Spaniards will think we are a nation of cowards and offer some other provocation. Whether war is declared or not the present war talk will do good. It will show the country the need of preparing to fight. We will get more men, more guns and more ships. This regiment,

the Third Artillery, is ready at any time for a fight with Spain."

The dynamite guns at the Presidio are carefully guarded, and no one is allowed to enter the compressed air plant without a permit from headquarters. The immense guns are covered as a weather protection. Each gun is capable of throwing 50 pounds of dynamite a distance of four miles. Three shots from each can be fired in quick succession.

Recent orders issued by General Shafter prescribe that on the 20th of each month post commanders submit a schedule for the approval of the department commander for such drills and exercises, including practical instruction contemplated by orders from the adjutant-general's office at Washington, as they may deem most necessary for their commands for the month following. These drills must embrace athletic instruction, preferably such as may be joined in the entire organization, as the department commander deems this more important than athletic instruction to a few who show special aptitude. In this connection attention is directed to the "Manual of Physical Drill," prepared by Lieutenant E. L. Butts, U. S. A., and authorized for the use of the troops by the Secretary of War. It is contemplated to have practice marches for all arms of the service in this command early in the year. The concentration of the heavy artillery troops at the Presidio for practical artillery instruction and target practice will take place in the months of May and June. The practice season for smallarms for the cavalry in the department of California is announced as follows for the current year: Revolver practice, March; carbine practice, April and May.

The cordons of precaution is being drawn tighter and tighter about the defenses of San Francisco and the bay, as the prospect of war grows nearer, and each day brings some new regulation to prevent the possibility of Spanish agents ascertaining the real strength of the forces stationed here. The latest order went into effect yesterday when mounted soldiers were sent to guard all the means of entering the Presidio except the one where the Union street railway terminates.

All of those who tried to enter without permits were quietly but firmly told that such passports were necessary and that they must be procured to enter the reservation. Those who entered the Presidio by the Union street line were under constant surveillance and were not permitted to get beyond the range of vision of the vigilant guards.

### ORDERED FROM GALVESTON TO KEY WEST.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—A Galveston (Texas) special to the Herald says. Tomorrow will end the visit of the battleship Texas and gunboat Nashville to this port. The Nashville will proceed to sea directly after breakfast. She will be followed between 11 and 4 o'clock by the Texas. The destination of both vessels is Key West, where they will rendezvous with Admiral Sigsbee. Beyond that they have received no orders, or if they have they have been careful not to disclose them. Commander Maynard of the Nashville, when asked how he fancied the idea of being ordered to Havana to replace the unfortunate Maine, evaded the question, answering it in saying his orders took him from Galveston to Key West.

### San Diego's Fortifications.

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 22.—The third 10-inch rifle for the Ballast Point fortifications arrived to-day and will be transferred to the lighter and towed across the bay to be mounted. A large portion of the members of Battery D, Third Artillery, are now at the works preparing to mount the guns and get the battery into working condition at the earliest possible date.

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## HOW SPAIN BUTCHERED AMERICANS

### Story of the Revolting Massacre in Cuba Retold.

### Alex Matheson Describes the "Virginus Affair" and the Popular Clamor at That Time for War Against Spain.

The present state of national excitement over the destruction of the Maine and the death of more than half of her brave crew recalls to my mind most vividly certain events which took place on the Atlantic shore a quarter of a century ago.

To most of the young men of the present a reference to "the Virginus affair" means very little. It was, as events proved, merely an incident in our history, and has been given very little space in the printed records of our past. To the American men, young and old, however, who were alive in 1873, that "incident" meant much, and for a time it seemed as if the country, just recovering as it was from the effects of an internecine war, was to be forced by her excited and righteously angered people into a sudden and retributive conflict with the same kingdom against which our hearts are now up in arms.

The story can be briefly told: The Cuban insurrection, begun October 10, 1895, by 128 men under the leadership of Charles M. de Cespedes, had endured for just five years of varying fortunes for the opposing forces, when the steamer Virginus, a regularly documented American vessel under command of Captain Frey of New Orleans, was captured by the Spaniards outside Jamaica in neutral waters and the 133 men who comprised her officers, crew and passengers were made prisoners of war. Of these unfortunates fifty-three were executed, or rather, butchered, almost immediately in the city of Santiago de Cuba; they were shot down by a detachment of soldiers, and their still palpitating bodies trampled on by cavalry and run over by military wagons, after which their heads were hacked off and carried through the town on spikes.

Such revoltingly cruel acts were in themselves sufficient to arouse the indignation of a civilized country, but when it was known that 35 of the victims—some of them beardless boys whose love of adventure alone had lured them from home—were bona fide citizens of the United States, a tidal wave of outraged feeling swept over the entire land. Though every section of the country was roused by the news of the dreadful tragedy the real storm center was the city of New York. The headquarters of the Cuban Junta were there, which insured direct and constant communication with the unhappy island, and the fact that a number of the butchered men were former residents of New York and Brooklyn made the horror of the affair felt there with special keenness.

When the news first came it seemed as if every man in the vicinity of New York harbor went wild. Business of all kinds was neglected and the streets were full of excited men in groups and crowds, talking together, reading the bulletins, or listening to the impromptu speakers reviewing the situation and urging the remedy. And the only remedy that was suggested during those days of furious and unreasoning indignation was war. That we could "whip Spain with one hand tied behind us" was the universal opinion publicly and loudly expressed. Printing House Square was packed with people feverishly waiting for additional details from Cuba and news from Washington, and the vicinity of the Herald office, then situated at the corner of Broadway and Ann street, was so densely crowded that it was almost impossible for the omnibuses to make their way up and down.

Anonymous posters and handbills speedily made their appearance summoning all citizens to a mass meeting at Cooper Institute, and on the night appointed that immense hall was jammed and at least a score of "overflow meetings" were held elsewhere, half a dozen being organized in the immediate vicinity of the hall. To facilitate matters all foreigners in attendance were segregated and asked to go to different localities, where they were addressed by orators speaking their special language, and messengers were constantly sent from the main body in the institute to these meetings to keep them informed of all that took place there.

The outcome of this immense gathering was a message to the President from the citizens of New York and vicinity offering to furnish both men and money to begin and carry on an aggressive campaign against Spain on sea and shore, and asking only the Government's sanction.

As soon as this message was sent preparations for war began in earnest among us. Recruiting offices were opened in various parts of the city and provisional enlistment was general. All classes were represented in the enrollment lists, war veterans, professional and business men, and mechanics and laborers. All were eager to help wipe out the insult offered to their country and avenge the undesired deaths suffered by their countrymen.

I was a young fellow then, with a wide acquaintance in the sister cities. It took me just two days to raise a

company of 100 men, not one of whom was over 25 or was unable to pass a strict military medical examination.

Captain Thompson, who had commanded a New York company in the civil war, was to be colonel of our regiment, and he wished me to take the captaincy of my company, but I felt that I was neither old enough nor wise enough in military matters to fill such a position and we compromised by my taking the office of first lieutenant.

Just previous to the Virginus affair one of Spain's finest cruisers, the Arapahoe, lay up in the Brooklyn navy-yard for cleaning and overhauling. As soon as there was a rumor of war the captain was naturally anxious to get away, and hurried the workmen up, fearing that he might be made a prisoner. The workmen were strangely slow, but at last even they were unwillingly obliged to pronounce the ship ready for sea. Then three days were spent in looking for a pilot, but every one of those useful persons was found unaccountably busy. At last one was secured, one of the best on the bay, and the captain's troubles seemed at an end. Unfortunately, however, this most excellent pilot who had never before met with an accident, awkwardly ran his charge on a hidden rock, and back she had to go to the navy-yard for additional repairs, which it required a whole week to finish.

During this time the captain, who seemed to have been of a singularly suspicious turn of mind, and was moreover noted as being the most volatile and accomplished swearer to whom New York had ever listened, familiarized himself with the channel sufficiently to take his ship out and proceeded to do so as soon as she was afloat again. The New Yorkers saw him slipping through their fingers without expressing the least regret and much friendly sympathy was shown, when misfortune again overtook him. Just as he was entering East River after loudly declaring that he never wanted to see America nor anything American again, fate or Yankee ingenuity interfered once more. A tugboat with several barges loaded with coal for the Williamsburg sugar refineries steamed across his path and three of the barges, afterward ascertained to have been bored full of auger holes, sunk directly before him. It took days to raise them, for all manner of small accidents happened to the hoisting machinery, much to the loudly expressed wonder and regret of the American workmen employed, and all that time the Spanish captain simply raved and roared, to the silent delight of his unofficial but very determined jailers.

Not until the uncertainty was over and war was no longer threatening was that cleverly caged cruiser, which would have been, as we all know, a rich prize in case of conflict between her nation and our own, allowed right of way out to the broad Atlantic.

ALEX. MATHESON.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

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