

New York, April 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: Spain's answer to President McKinley's ultimatum may take the form of shot and shell.

Her formidable fleet, which has been mobilizing at the Cape Verde islands for some days past, sailed on Wednesday from that point for an unknown destination. The fleet is composed of the armored cruisers Oquendo, Cristóbal Colon, Infanta Maria Teresa and Vizcaya, the torpedo boat destroyers Furor, Terror and Pluton, and the torpedo boats Ariete, Azor and Rayo, and perhaps the battleship Polayo.

Information of the sailing of the fleet has been received by the attaches of the Spanish legation.

It is conceded to be highly probable that the fleet will hasten across the ocean to Porto Rico and Cuba to prevent by force the ousting from the islands of the naval and military forces of the Spanish government now there. On the other hand it is possible that the ships have gone to the Canary Islands but this is considered improbable.

As a result of information which the Spanish attaches have received, the officials are confident that the battleship Polayo, which was officially reported to have sailed from Cadiz on Sunday last joined it, and that furthermore, arrangements have been made for the reinforcement of the squadron by the armored cruiser Carlos V.

Spain's action in collecting such a formidable fleet at St. Vincent has been a subject of considerable and anxious speculation at the navy department and it will receive considerable consideration at a meeting of the strategic board.

The Carlos V is perhaps the most effective of Spain's men of war. She is an armored cruiser of 9,000 tons and a speed of 20 knots. Her batteries consist of 26 guns. The Polayo, the only battleship in the Spanish navy of any value, was originally built twelve years ago, but the changes which have been made in her battery in France have increased her efficiency to a great extent.

Such a fleet might be able to dispose of Commodore Schley's flying squadron.

In consequence of the collection of such a force at St. Vincent, one thing is certain—the flying squadron will not be sent to operate against it until reinforced by the battleships and cruisers of Captain Sampson's fleet; and it is not at all certain that this government will be hasty in dispatching its vessels to eastern waters.

The United States navy would naturally prefer that the Spanish ships should seek a battle by sailing to Porto Rico or Cuba, because at either point they would be far from their base, and it is in anticipation of their coming that Spain has been gathering coal at Havana and San Juan.

Information which has reached the authorities shows that she now has at Havana 100,000 tons of coal and at San Juan 25,000. She is making desperate efforts to increase her coal piles and dealers in Norfolk have been selling coal to Spanish agents at a dollar per ton less than the price they have charged the United States.

If Spain should use the Cape Verde Islands as a base of operations in time of war, Portugal will be called to account by the United States. The Cape Verde Islands belong to the Lisbon government which recently informed the United States that it had rejected propositions made by Spain to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance, and proposed to remain strictly neutral.

Portugal will be expected to carry out her intention in this respect. Her neutrality obligations will permit her to give to the Spanish vessels only suffi-

cient coal to enable them to reach the next Spanish port, which in this case would be the Canary Islands, and once they have left that port they cannot return for coal or provisions.

"I expect that the Spanish fleet will leave St. Vincent immediately after war is declared," said a well known naval expert, "and its destination will be unknown. There will be a great scare in the United States, as it will be believed they are en route for Porto Rican or Cuban waters or possibly for one of the coast cities, but in four or five days they will turn up at the Canaries and there, I believe, they will remain to give the American fleet a warm reception upon its arrival.

"It will be to the interest of the United States forces to occupy one of the Canary Islands and establish a coal supply there.

"It looks to me as though Spain is gathering her forces in order to give the United States a good stand-up fight, and if she is defeated she will rely on the squadron at Cadiz as her second line of defense. I do not think her men-of-war will come westward, for, being far from their case they would be at a disadvantage.

"Although Spain's second torpedo boat flotilla was reported to be preparing to sail some days ago, no report of its departure from Cadiz has been announced. This flotilla consists of the converted yacht Girald, torpedo boat destroyers Destructor, Prosperin and Osado and five torpedo boats.

Official information has been received that the iron battleship Victoria, now at Cadiz, was fully put in condition for active service on April 13. The iron battleship Numancia, which has been altered at Toulon, is reported to be "nearly ready" for sea. It has also been learned that the merchant steamers Normannia and Columbia, purchased from the Hamburg-American Packet company, arrived at Cadiz last Saturday and that the work of converting them into auxiliary cruisers is being pushed forward rapidly.

Much to the relief of officials, their latest reports concerning the condition of the Spanish gun vessels under construction in Spain show that but one, the Dona Maria de Molina, will be able to participate in the coming war.

London, April 21.—A dispatch published this afternoon says: "The Spanish fleet was still at Cape Verde islands, at noon today."

Berlin, April 21.—Prof. Brumentritt, a leading Viennese scholar and politician, said to the New York World correspondent: "The sympathies of Europe with Spain do not express admiration of her colonial administration, but are rather the instinctive expression of a presentiment that the victory of America will be the beginning of Americanizing European institutions.

"Pan-Americanism is not a sentiment entertained by scholars and enthusiasts as Pan-Slavism is, but a carefully calculated affair, resting on self-interest, having for its object business and business alone. Already the republics of America have fallen under the influence of United States capital.

"I cannot account for the friendly attitude of England. If England would only join the rest of the powers in sympathy with Spain something might be done to check the American project."

In conversation with an eminent and widely known German publicist the World correspondent asked him what he thought of the situation and did he think that England and the United States would be drawn closer together.

"Yes, most emphatically so," he replied, "that will be a combination which will be invincible.

"Europe is settling down under Russian rule or under Russian influence in her methods of government. Free-

dom will be represented by England and the United States and autocracy and militarism, by the rest of Europe.

The Spanish-American trouble, I believe will draw England and the United States nearer, and will help to divide the world into the two great camps which I have mentioned."

New York, April 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

Henry White, secretary of the American embassy in London, is here on an important diplomatic mission in connection with the relations of this government with that of Great Britain and with the particular relations growing out of the present situation between this country and Spain.

One of the high in administration circles said that Mr. White is here in connection with the preparation of a new treaty between the United States and Great Britain, something on the line, he believed, of the arbitration treaty which failed last year. On this point, however, he was uncertain. He only knew that some kind of negotiations were in progress and that Mr. White is here in connection with them.

The only information vouchsafed for in response to inquiry at the state department is that Mr. White is here in connection with certain affairs pending in the embassy in London.

In spite of all this mystery, there is good reason to believe that he is here with perhaps a proposition—a "sounding"—is the exact diplomatic word—for this government from Great Britain as to a new treaty so wide in its scope as to include not only arbitration but alliance under certain circumstances; certainly with nothing less than positive assurances of the friendship of the British government in the present crisis and its willingness to go to any extent to prove this good feeling.

Washington, April 21.—Minister Woodford left Madrid at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

G. H. Barclay the British charge d'affaires and the secretary of the German embassy Count Von Castell Ruedenhausen saw the United States minister off.

Madrid, April 21, 11:16 a. m.—The ultimatum of the United States was received early this morning in English. The Spanish government immediately broke diplomatic relations with the United States, notifying the United States minister before he was able to present any note. Minister Woodford leaves Madrid, accompanied by his acting private secretary and two servants.

Washington, April 21.—The Republican members of the ways and means committee expect to complete the war revenue measure and have it ready for submission to the full committee tomorrow or Saturday at the latest. The proposition to place ten cents tax on tea and 3 cents on coffee had met considerable opposition and various suggestions have been made as to subjects for taxation in lieu of tea and coffee.

Among them is a proposition to place 50 cents tax per barrel on petroleum, but it now seems probable that this will be abandoned.

There is also a proposition to add mineral waters, wines, etc. The proposition which now meets with more favor is to tax railroad tickets and sleeping car tickets 10 cents for each trip of over 100 miles.

It is estimated between \$20,000,000 and \$25,000,000 could be raised from this source.

Rush Springs, I. T., April 21.—Rumors of an Indian uprising by Geronimo and his Apache band caused the return of one troop of cavalry, which had reached Rush Springs on its way to New Orleans. It is said that the Indians have fallen out among themselves also, and trouble is feared.