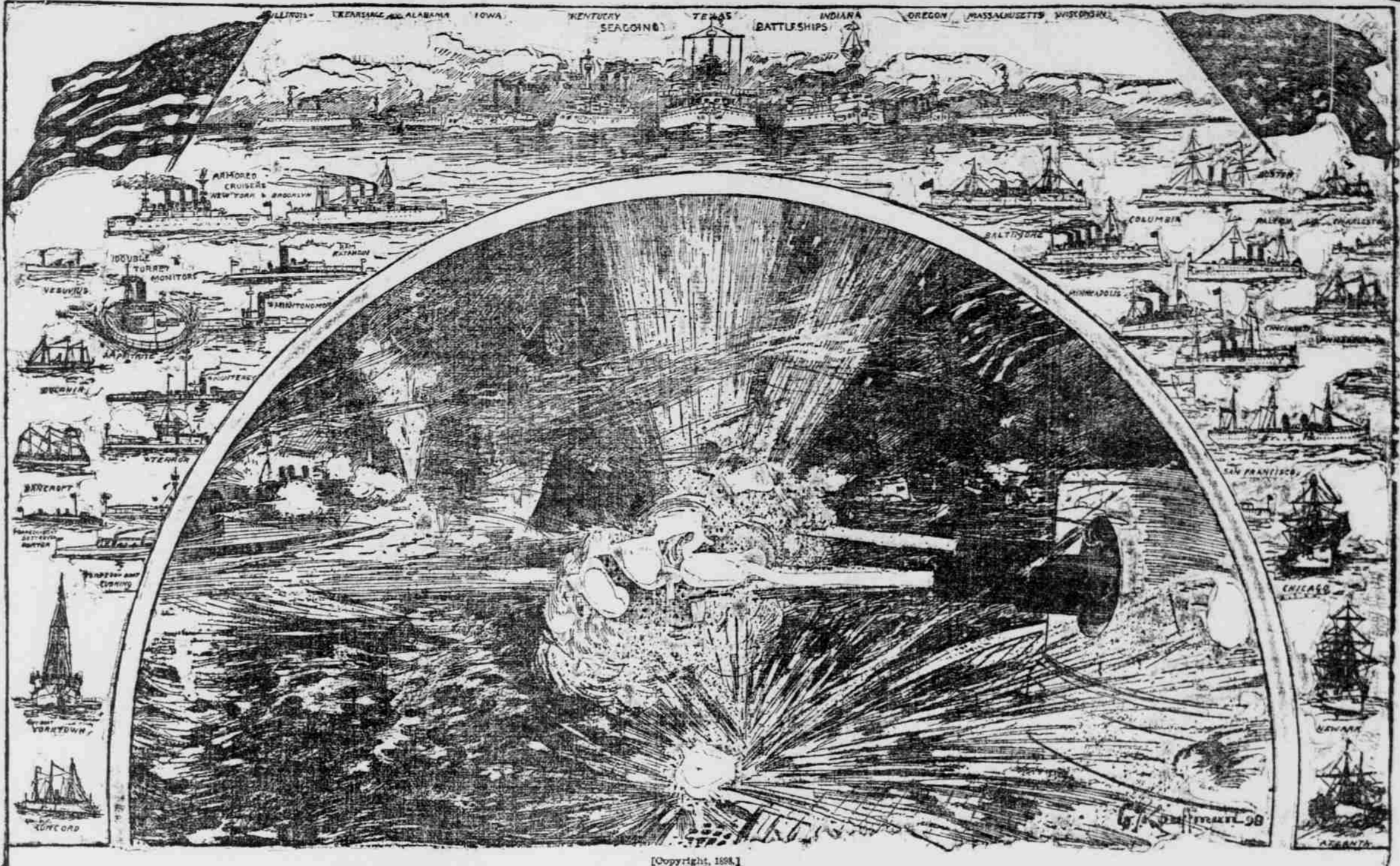
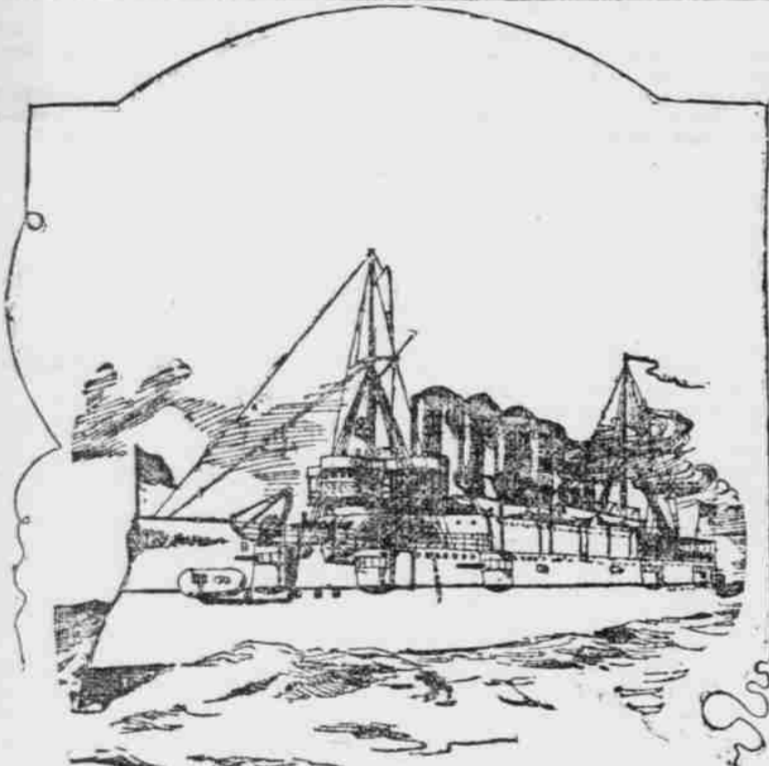


# A Modern Naval Battle at Its Height



[Copyright, 1898.]



United States Armored Cruiser Columbia.

## Flying Squadron is Ready for Orders

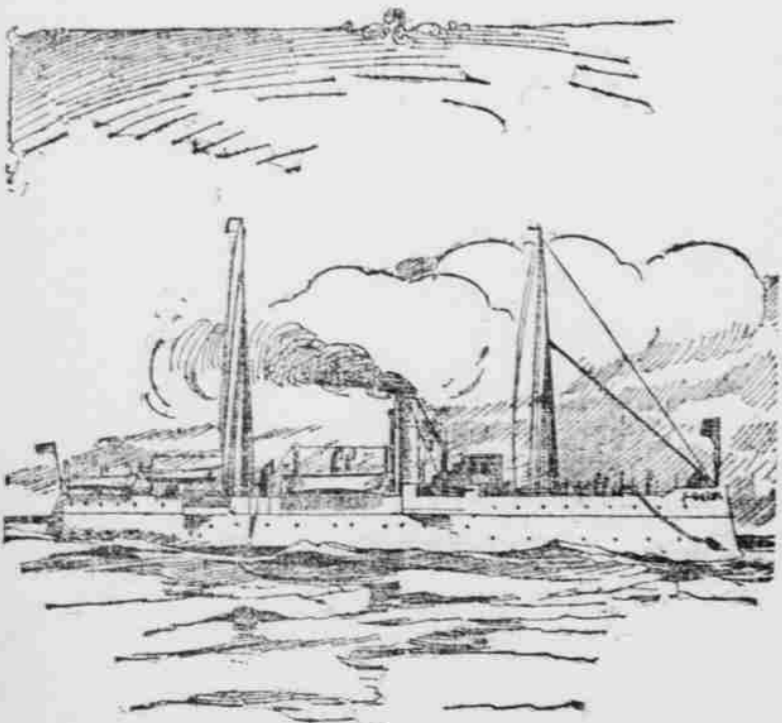
Fort Monroe, Va., April 3.—Commodore W. S. Schley will tomorrow notify the authorities at Washington that with the arrival of the Texas he will be ready to move at an hour's notice. The most formidable squadron of fast fighters ever got together is complete, with the exception of the Texas. The cruiser Minneapolis began at noon today to change her coat and the painting will be finished by tomorrow afternoon. Her bunkers are filled with coal, and, like the other vessels of the fleet, she is fully ammunitioned. Commodore Schley expects the battleship Texas within the next forty-eight hours.

In spite of the enforcement of the Sunday insurance law in Newport News, which has had the effect of stopping Sunday

work on the battleships Keavage and Kenrick, the divers, three in number, continued work on the bottom of the battleship Massachusetts today, and made such progress that Captain Higginson believes they will be able to finish by night-fall tomorrow.

The work on the Brooklyn has been fully completed and her eight-inch turret guns will now throw a much greater distance. The Columbia has finished painting and caulking and it is in splendid condition. Commodore Schley understands that the Texas is thoroughly completed. Improvement is pointed the prevailing error, and is all ready for sea as soon as she arrives here.

In addition to the active naval preparations here Fort Monroe is being improved



United States Cruiser Bancroft.

rapidly. The dynamo for the big electric searchlight was adopted last night and the light is now in operation. The emplacements for rapid-fire and disappearing guns will be finished this week, and this important point will then be in modern condition from a war-standing point.

### SPOILING FOR A FIGHT

**Spirit of the Men Who Man the Flying Squadron is High.**  
(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)  
Hampton Roads, April 3.—The practical completion of a flying squadron of the American navy by the assignment of Commodore W. S. Schley to take charge, and his acceptance, as marked by his active operation on Monday last, is an epoch-making event in the history of the present difficulty. No other action of this government since the Maine disaster so actively determines the fact that actual warfare has been expected. The North Atlantic squadron is always organized, and the appointment of Captain Sampson to its command is but the natural sequel of the retirement of Rear Admiral Sigbee from active duty. So, too, the assignment of ships of war to that squadron or to the Pacific squadron, are but

come. The small-calibre gun that fired the commodore's salute with blank cartridges sang out a high-pitched pean of welcome and peace. About the land-locked water of Hampton Roads, where thirty-five years ago the Monitor and Merrimack fought their terrible battle, sunshine touched the hills, assuming their emerald garb, and nature, awake after her hibernation, caressing the hills, spoke only of peace. But as the smoke blew by, in every eye was the kindling spark of vengeance for fellow-seaman hurled to death and the hope that the cannon's roar might be changed to the dreadful one of war.

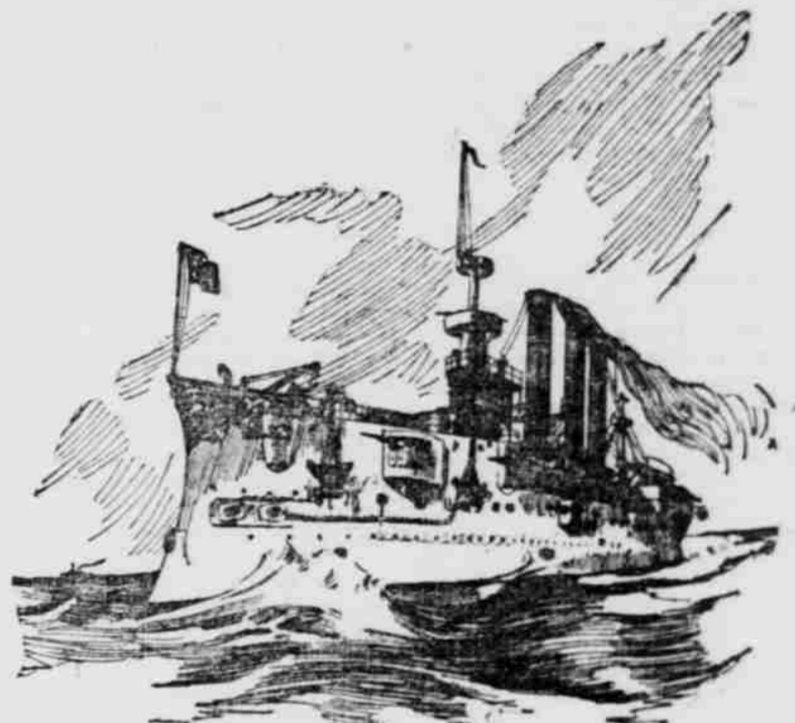
And if war comes, what of this squadron? W. S. Schley, commodore commanding the fleet, is a well built man of about 42 years of age, with a general appearance denoting thoughtfulness and diplomacy, coupled with certain characteristics which indicate force of character and quickness of action, when developments point to these features, large-headed and kindly-faced, a smiling eye, evidently not given to temper, quick of answer, searching inquiry, this man as he treads the captain's bridge of the Brooklyn in a naval uniform or shakes hands with you in the

Pelaya ..... 5,500 8,000 16.  
Oquendo ..... 7,000 12,000 20.

The total displacement tonnage of the United States flying squadron is 43,378, and of the Spanish only 20,774. The average horsepower of the United States vessels is 12,500, and that of the Spaniards 11,750. The average rate of speed of the four United States ships is 21½ knots per hour, while the Spanish fleet has to content itself with 19 knots.

It is possible that the battleship Massachusetts, being somewhat slower than the rest of the fleet, will be supplanted in the squadron by the New York, and the average of speed and fighting capabilities of the squadron will be increased. It must be remembered that the Brooklyn and New York are two of the finest types of fighting machines in the world, having their main batteries supplied with rapid-fire guns, with which very few warships are equipped, except in a secondary battery.

The great point of vantage of the fleet, however, is in thickness of armor, caliber of guns and the fighting qualities of the men. There are five thirteen-inch guns on the proposed American flying squadron, while the whole Spanish navy has not one, and only two twelve-inch guns.



United States Cruiser Brooklyn.



COMMODORE SCHLEY.  
Who Will Command Our Flying Squadron in Case of War.

moves toward the mobilization that might occur at any time. But flying squadrons are the direct outcome of dangerous conditions, are necessities of standing navies in times of peace and are expedients of an extraordinary nature, created only when the government fully decides that the time is ripe for an attack from her. It is therefore not only possible, but highly probable, that the new American flying squadron has worked out for it.

The fleet practically gathered and altogether proposed that will bear this stupendous title is one of the most formidable that can be gathered together by any nation. Especially in favor of the United States as that statement may be, the facts bear it out. In average rate of speed, in armored protection, in caliber and number of guns, and in fighting quality and discipline of men it can be proven that the composition of this flying squadron is superior to that of others being equal, to any organization of a like nature that can be formed by a foreign power.

When on Monday morning Commodore Schley raised his flag on the Brooklyn evidence of an unmistakable character was apparent that every man from stoker to commandant was not only fearless of battle, but courted it and hoped it would

look of about in civilian clothes impresses you as the firm, unyielding warrior. Just the man to take "partial" orders for a flying squadron and complete them himself with credit to his country. In the atmosphere which days surround him there is a spirit akin to that German song which says: "We have all had more than enough of love and now for a song of hatred," yet when the summons comes the songs of those who cry loudly now may weaken enough to be overtopped by the commands of this intrepid leader of a fleet.

In the makeup of the flying squadron, speed and fighting qualities have been considered. A summary of the points, in comparison with those of the best force that Spain can offer in making up a similar squadron, follows:

| Name          | Tons  | Power  | Knots |
|---------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Brooklyn      | 8,275 | 14,000 | 21    |
| Columbia      | 8,275 | 12,000 | 21    |
| Massachusetts | 8,288 | 9,000  | 17    |
| Minneapolis   | 1,523 | 31,000 | 23    |

Spain has compared with the fleet of Suez would be as follows:

| Name          | Tons  | Power  | Knots |
|---------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Vizcaya       | 7,000 | 12,000 | 20    |
| Infanta Maria | 7,000 | 12,000 | 20    |

of twelve-inch guns our squadron has four, and of eight-inch guns fourteen. Spain's four selected vessels have five eleven-inch guns and the rest are mainly five-inch. These are the points of advantage that Commodore Schley's fleet would like to demonstrate in actual fighting.

### SHORT ON MACHINISTS

**Spanish Navy Has to Draw on France for a Supply.**  
Madrid, April 3.—The armored cruiser Empress Charles V has been ordered to leave for Ferrol.

Washington, April 3.—The navy department has received a dispatch saying that the Spanish warship Carlos V has been delayed from sailing for Ferrol up to this time because she was waiting for the arrival of twenty French machinists. Seven of these machinists were selected and taken on board and the vessel departed for Ferrol.

This confirms information which the navy department has received frequently that the Spanish navy is very poorly supplied with machinists for war vessels, and has been seeking experienced men in France.

**Prayers for Spain's Success.**  
Madrid, April 3.—From all the pulpits in Madrid today, the priests read a letter from the bishop of the diocese announcing that he considered it to be imminent and ordering prayers for the success of the Spanish arms.

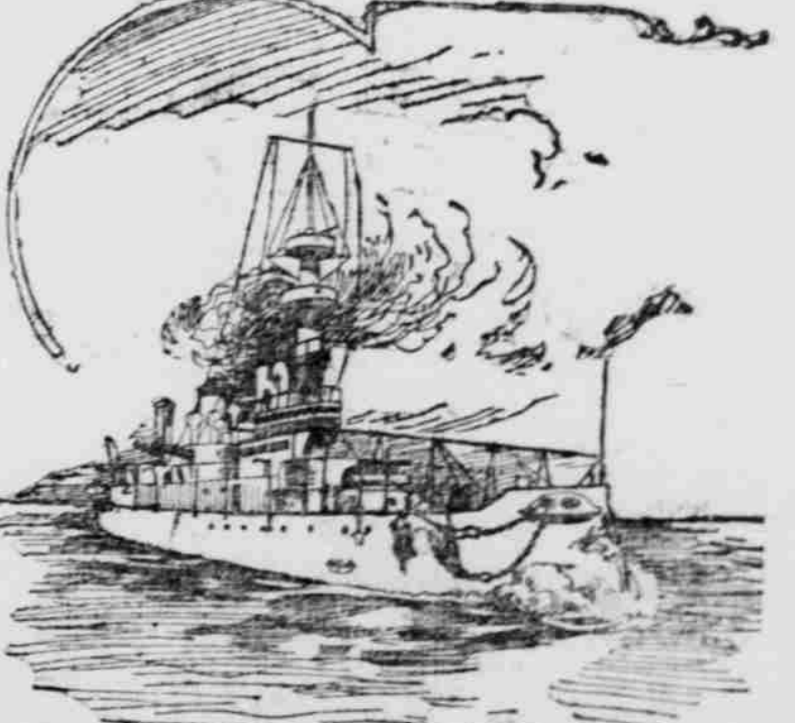
**More Spanish Financiering.**  
Madrid, April 3.—A decree has been gazetted creating 25,000,000 pesetas of new treasury notes on the guarantee of the receipts from the tobacco stamps and octroi duties.

**Fleet Preparing at Cadiz.**  
Madrid, April 3.—A flotilla of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers is being prepared for active service at Cadiz.

**GOLD FROM AUSTRALIA**  
Last Shipment Completes a Grand Total of \$18,500,000.  
San Francisco, April 3.—The steamship Alameda, from Sidney, via Auckland and Honolulu, which is due here next Wednesday, carries £2,000,000 in English sovereigns in her strong box. This is the eighth shipment of gold received from Madrid today, the priests read a letter from the same source since last fall, bringing the total amount received up to the enormous sum of \$18,500,000. This money is in payment of the balance of trade in favor of the United States for wheat, flour, lumber, canned goods, raisins and other staples shipped abroad, in excess of our imports of merchandise.

**Dr. Hall is Convinced.**  
New York, April 3.—Rev. Dr. John Hall, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, is convinced... In his past through any danger period that may have existed, and at his residence today it was said he contemplated participating in communion service next Sunday. Dr. Hall also caused it to be announced from the pulpit of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church that he would participate in some of the church meetings this week.

Berlin, April 3.—Ambassador White hopes to be soon so far removed from his indignation as to be able to go to Washington.



United States Battleship Indiana.