

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

WASHINGTON.

August 2, 1915.

My dear Mr. President:

You have doubtless noted in the press that after conferences with Secretary Lansing, I wired Admiral Caperton at Port au Prince to permit a small number of French troops to land at the French legation. I am in receipt of the following telegram from Admiral Caperton showing that the French authorities appreciate this action:

"At 7 a.m. today (August 2nd) DES CARTES landed legation guard. The French Minister called this morning to thank me and the United States Government for protection by our landing force to his legation."

In addition to sending the CONNECTICUT down with 500 marines, so that our sailors and marines will not have to be on duty too long in that climate, the SOLACE, our hospital ship, was ordered down and is now on the way. The CONNECTICUT will reach there Wednesday.

Admiral Caperton reports food is very scarce and suffering among the poor is probable. I wired him to get in touch with the Haitiens, advise that they organize a relief committee and let them have such supplies as they may desire at Navy prices. It is very dangerous to begin to supply provisions because many Haitiens are like the negroes in the South after the war and would quit work entirely, deserting

plantations if our Government undertakes to feed them.

Admiral Caperton has sent a commission on the JASON to Cape Haitien and seems to have the matter in Hayti as well in hand as possible.

In all these matters with reference to Hayti, I have had daily conferences with Secretary Lansing and we are taking action after agreement.

News from Naval commanders both in the East and West of Mexico report no change in conditions.

Faithfully yours,

Josephus Daniels

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
Cornish,
N. H.