

# VIRGINIA NAVY IN HAMPTON HARBOR

If Trouble Arises Base of  
The Commission Will  
Be Here.

## TWO HUNDRED YORK TONGERS READY TO GO

While Everything Was Quiet on the  
James Yesterday the Horizon is  
Threatening—Commodore Lee, His  
Staff and Fleet Now on the Scene—  
Oystermen Are Aroused.

It would appear that if there is "war" in James river over the oyster situation, the commission will operate from Hampton as a base. Hampton creek resembles Hampton Roads (in miniature) when the Atlantic fleet anchored here preparatory for the Spanish-American war. Yesterday morning the flagship Commodore Maury, in command of Commodore Lee, steamed into the creek and out again. The first police boat to arrive here was the Saxis in command of Capt. John R. Drewer, with four men aboard. The Saxis made the trip across the bay from Saxis Island, the home of Capt. Drewer, yesterday with the wind blowing a gale. She made into Yorktown and this morning came into Hampton creek and is here now awaiting orders from Commodore Lee, who had just gone out of the harbor for James river. Capt. Drewer came in response to a telegram from Commodore Lee.

### Saxis First Here.

The next to arrive was the latest vessel acquired by the commission, the Blanche, in command of Capt. James H. Coston, with three men beside himself aboard. Capt. Coston came from Irvington, the home of Mr. Lee, but Mr. Lee had arrived Wednesday night on the Maury, which left Hampton Tuesday night for him and returned here, leaving Irvington Wednesday morning at 1 o'clock.

This war vessel was followed by the Viola which came down from James river yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock. The purpose of the Viola coming here was to place her commander, Capt. Alexander Hunt, ashore and under the care of a physician. Capt. Hunt was very ill and had to be taken ashore. The Viola, however, is ready for orders and will go into battle, if battle there be, in command of the first-mate.

The Commodore Maury left yesterday morning and had not returned at a late hour last evening, but was expected at any time. This would just about complete the Virginia navy. Other vessels are the Greyhound, Pocomoke, James River, Great Wicomico, Chincoteague, Northampton, and many tenders. It may be possible that all of these vessels will gather here. It is stated that they have orders to come here, but this could not be confirmed last night.

### York Tongers Aroused.

An ugly rumor reached Hampton

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yesterday afternoon which caused some concern. A letter was shown here by one of the Isle of Wight organizers, in which two hundred York county tongers were pledged to come and assist the Southsiders in pulling stakes and aiding them "in whatsoever manner was necessary."

The crew of the Viola reported that everything was perfectly quiet along the James, that no one was out and that they saw no sign of disturbance. They stated that they met the Commodore Maury about three or four miles above Newport News and went alongside and conversed with both Commodore Lee and Supervisor W. E. Lawson, who were aboard.

In conversation with captains of police boats last night it was generally thought that the matter would subside without bloodshed. It is thought that real or imaginary grievances can be taken into court and there settled in a proper and orderly manner. It is argued that the tongers can be induced to take this view of it.

It was stated also that the tongers had thrown down the ultimatum that "no natural rock should be skaked off in the James no matter whether it was left out of the Baylor survey or not."

### The Maury Returns.


The Commodore Maury returned to Hampton last night, put Capt. Lawson ashore, and proceeded on to Norfolk with Commodore Lee. These officials visited Battery Park and other points during yesterday and discussed the situation at length with the tongers. The commission will leave the prosecution to the authorities of the counties in which the alleged wrongs have been done. While Capt. Lawson was non-committal last night he intimated in his conversation that matters would be satisfactorily adjusted. It is most probable that the fleet will be dismissed in a few days.

### News of Quietude.

Subsequent to the arrival of the Viola additional news was received from the James confirming the report of the Viola that peace reigned supreme on the river. The movement of the Maury, however, and what action, if any had been taken by Mr. Lee, could not be learned.

### Interest in Barbecue.

A number of oystermen from this county and York, have been asked to the barbecue at Rescue, to be held next Saturday and many have expressed their intention of going. This is regarded as a peaceful token and it is generally believed that it indicates an amicable settlement or compromise. Should this be reached the police vessels here now would weigh anchor and return to policing their own waters.

  
HAMPTON, VA., PHOEBUS, VA.

# Time Almost Up!