

# WILL THERE BE WAR OR PEACE?

WHAT THE WEEK HAS DEVELOPED IN THE SPANISH AMERICAN CRISIS.

Senator Proctor's Dispassionate Story of Cuban Woes Moves the World to Sympathy with the Stricken Island

The Record of the Week in War Circles.—The Report of the Main Court of Inquiry Not Yet Given Out.—Work on Cuban Defenses and the Purchase of Boats Still Going on.

## FRIDAY.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Nothing that Senator Proctor could say would convince the majority of Senators that he did not speak to-day in his remarkable address that the knowledge of approval of the President, inasmuch as they believe that he would not have made such a statement without the consent if not at the request of the President. The Cuban sympathizers in the Senate were delighted with what Senator Chandler termed "a clear indication that the conservatives, including the administration, have determined to act for the liberation of Cuba, so that the radicals like myself can let them take the lead."

The fact that President McKinley has withheld, for more than a month since they were called for, the consular reports containing the facts which Senator Proctor summed up in his statement to Senators generally, not to indicate that the President did not authorize Senator Proctor's public report of what he saw, but on the contrary they interpreted the speech as the introduction to the consular reports which they expect to have later, and are the more convinced of this because Senator Proctor's statement was delivered in open Senate instead of an executive session, notwithstanding its unfavorable account of the Spanish policy in Cuba and its plain intimation that Cuba ought to have independence.

The immediate effect of the speech was to stimulate the idea that early action must be taken by the administration, and if it does not move rapidly enough, then by Congress, and that Congress ought to remain here until the Cuban question is settled.

Secretary Long says there will be no yielding.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—"You can state officially for me that no concessions have been made to Spain by the withdrawal of the Texas and the Massachusetts from the fleet at Key West; that nothing can occur which will change the attitude of firmness which has been taken by this government. Neither was the withdrawal of the Montgomery from Havana the outcome of any intimation from the Spanish authorities. The fleet had to return to Havana for her diving apparatus, and it was thought that the Montgomery could be of more service in the fleet."

Secretary John D. Long, of the navy, made this statement to-night when asked about the formation of the new flying squadron. It had been charged that the withdrawal of the Massachusetts and Texas from the fleet at Key West and of the Montgomery from Havana was a symptom of weakening on the part of the administration and a sly way of placing the Spanish cabinet, which had intimated its displeasure at the concentration of a fleet at Key West. The secretary continued: "The formation of this new fleet is exactly the reverse of a concession. American interests are now protected instead of weakened. In the event of an outbreak of hostilities the northern coast of the navy, been practically unprotected by any battleship. The department has been receiving appeals from all points on the North Atlantic coast for the formation of a squadron in Northern waters. This new fleet is given as an answer to these demands. It is the result directly of suggestions made by a naval board of which Assistant Secretary Roosevelt is chairman. The squadron will be concentrated at Hampton Roads at once."

SAGASTA IS WORRIED. MADRID, March 17.—Madrid is now quite excited. The cabinet ministers sat up late last night with Premier Sagasta, discussing the situation. I saw Sagasta to-day, looking ill and careworn. He said:

"I see no objection to having an international committee of experts make a new inquiry into the Maine disaster. They would be able to approach the subject with minds more prepared to give due weight to the evidence than either the Spanish or American committees of investigation. Jurists recognize the influence, even unintentional, of mental predispositions, and it has a value which the fair-minded do not overlook."

TORPEDO FLOTILLA STOPPED. MADRID, March 17.—Admiral Bernaldo, minister of marine, has wired the commander of the torpedo flotilla at the Canaries not to proceed to Havana.

PAYING FOR THE AMAZONAS. WASHINGTON, March 17.—The first disbursement of the \$50,000,000 has been made by the treasury department on an executive order for \$145,995, to be cable to London to the credit of Sir William Armstrong in part payment for 12 rapid-firing guns, including mounts and ammunition. The purchase price is \$21,000 for each gun. The treasury department tomorrow will cable Rothschilds at London, \$1,659,621, in full payment for the Brazilian cruiser Amazonas, and in part payment for the Abreuval.

## SATURDAY.

General Miles Says War is Inevitable. Honorable Settlement of Our Difficulties With Spain Beyond the Scope of Diplomacy in His Estimation.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—"If diplomacy succeeds in reaching an acceptable and honorable settlement of our differences with Spain, it will accomplish what now seems to me impossible. In my opinion there can be no settlement except through war. I regard war as inevitable."

This is the view of the present situation, expressed in conversation with a friend, held by General Nelson A. Miles, commander of the army of the United States. After making due allowance for the personal and professional considerations which might impel General Miles to accept the

issue of war with more readiness than civilian statesmen, his view is still entitled to great weight because of the position he occupies and the knowledge which must come to him regarding phases of the situation of which the public knows little or nothing.

The developments of the last 24 hours, according to face value the official and semi-official utterances of Washington and Madrid, have again utterly dissipated hopes of peace and brought the general public around to the same view as that held by General Miles.

If the Madrid government is correctly represented by the semi-official statement declaring that Spain will never pay indemnity for the loss of the Maine, this is a demonstration that the Spanish temper is what has all along been believed here, and not what the administration in its peace talk has tried to make this country believe it to be.

STRENGTH OF SPAIN'S ARMY. WASHINGTON, March 18.—Seventy thousand men is the number of Spanish soldiers who have been killed, wounded and otherwise incapacitated for duty during the present war in Cuba. These figures have been received in this city recently from reliable sources. The present force of Spain in Cuba is as follows:

Regulars, 135,000 men. Of this number it is estimated that 80,000 are effective; about 25,000 are in the two Eastern provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Puerto Principe, and the remainder in the provinces of Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. There are about 30,000 members in what is known as the volunteer army, mostly in the province of Havana, and corresponding to our State militia. There are 55,000 men who are not effective for military duty.

The strength of the Spanish army at home and including her nearby possessions is 100,000 men, which may be increased as follows: First reserve, 50,000; second reserve, 100,000; all instructed in military tactics, and a second reserve which is not instructed of 300,000 men, a total of 610,000 men. Since these figures were received here reports of 15,000 men to be sent to the army in Cuba leave only 58,000 men of Spain's regular army now in the peninsula, the Balearic Islands, the Spanish possessions in North Africa and the Canary Islands.

In the Philippine islands Spain has an army of 32,000 men, which includes about 15,000 native troops. In Porto Rico there are 5,000 Spanish troops, which could be supplemented by 4,000 volunteers.

AUSTRIANS HOBNOB WITH SPANIARDS. HAVANA, March 18.—The banquet at the palace of Captain General Blanco Wednesday night was fraught with deep significance, which did not develop until to-day. The Austrian cruiser Donau's officers were the guests of honor. Blanco himself proposed the toast to the Emperor Franz Josef and the Austrian navy.

Then occurred the startling event of the evening. Captain Kelwig, of the Donau, rose, proposed the health of the queen regent and of King Alfonso.

The Spaniards rose, glass in hand. Then the Austrian spoke these words: "Austria can never forget Maximilian and his fate. As heretofore, Austria stands beside Spain."

The brilliantly lighted banquet room was a scene of wild tumult in an instant. There were cries of:

"To the memory of Maximilian; neither Austria nor Spain can forget his fate, and will stand together against those whose unjustified threats of intervention brought about his cruel and untimely fate."

The Vizcaya leaves Havana harbor to-night for Mexican ports, it is said. She has finished coaling now and is making evident preparations to depart.

It is reported late to-night that the Austrian cruiser Donau will follow the Vizcaya to Mexico to emphasize her commander's opinion expressed in the toast at the banquet. Those bombastic freaks seem to wish the stirring up of Diaz as well as Uncle Sam.

BISMARCK BELIEVES CUBA WILL BE FREE. FREDERICKSBURG, March 18.—Prince Bismarck to-day gave an audience to Editor Bockel, of Chicago, who is here for the New York Journal. The prince's utterance on the Cuban question is without doubt the most important that has been in Europe since war fever broke out in the island began. These are his words: "We Germans condemn war as impractical. We sympathize with the grievances of the Cuban insurgents. I prophesy that Cuba will soon become an independent republic by diplomatic means."

McKinley Gets Information of the Maine Disaster.

Not in the Form of the Court's Report, But from the Ship's Officers Themselves.—They Call at the White House.—President Will Probably Send His Message to Congress With the Verdict Late This Week.—Long Suddenly Grows Reluctant.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—President McKinley, the members of his cabinet, Congress, all official Washington and the public generally are eagerly and anxiously awaiting the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry, which will set forth the cause of the explosion that wrecked the Maine and perhaps fix the guilt or innocence of Spanish people. For several days the statement has been persistently made that the report, or a portion of it, would be in the hands of the President to-day.

Secretary Long declares that it is not here and all that can be learned now is that the administration expects to have it "in the course of a few days."

This may be a correct statement, so far as the report itself is concerned, but there is good reason to believe that sooner than "in the course of a few days" the President will know what the verdict is and be able to prepare his indictment against Spain, to be submitted to Congress with the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry promptly upon its receipt. The message is not apt to go to the two Houses until the latter part of next week.

MAINE OFFICERS SEW MCKINLEY. The arrival of several survivors of the

Maine and their extended conferences with President McKinley and Secretary Long furnished a feature in the Spanish situation.

Three officers of the Maine, Lieutenant G. F. W. Holman, George P. Blow and Lieutenant A. W. Catlin, of the marine corps, accompanied by Boatswain Larkins, came aboard yesterday morning from Key West. It was said their visit was purely voluntary on their part, as they are now on waiting orders and are free to go where they please.

Their long conference at the Navy Department, and later at the White House, led to much conjecture, it being asserted that Lieutenant Blow brought with him the report of the Court of Inquiry, and, at least, the general conclusions reached by that court. It can be stated positively, from an authoritative source, that the officers did not bring with them the report, either in whole or in general conclusions. It is stated, with equal positiveness, that they do not know what the action of the Court of Inquiry is, and therefore are not in a position to convey any information to the President or Secretary of the Navy on that point.

DONS PLAYING THEIR FINAL CARD IN CUBA.

HAVANA, via Key West, March 19.—News has just reached this correspondent from authentic sources that the Autonomist Government, backed by the military authorities here and the Government at Madrid, is now playing its last card to secure peace in Cuba and prevent intervention on the part of the United States.

All the insurgent Generals, President Maso and the insurgent officials, with General Garcia, got through General Pando's lines some time ago, and the latter gave up the campaign, which was to have been a general military operation to drive the Province of Santiago de Cuba or the Province of Puerto Principe; but in addition to passing through the trocha the insurgents turned General Pando's flank. It is just possible that the flank movement was winked at by General Pando for the purpose of attempting to carry out his ulterior purpose.

Such was the position of all concerned when the last advices were received at the palace in Havana. General Pando's purpose, to further which he has ordered a practical armistice in the eastern part of Cuba, is stated succinctly as follows:

To have a personal conference with General Garcia, President of the Republic, and other insurgents, and even with General Gomez, if possible, and to make them a formal offer of autonomy, according to the program drawn up by the Left, or Radical wing of that party.

ALMOST COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE.

As previously cabled, this offer includes, in return for the ending of the insurrection, the disarmament and disbanding of all volunteers; commercial treaties to be concluded without Spanish interference; a maximum sum of \$2,000,000 annually to be paid to Spain by Cuba, as the latter's nominal suzerain; no insurgents to be shot or imprisoned on account of the existing insurrection, and no insurgents to be sent as prisoners out of Cuba for further political offenses.

The advices received here are, in substance, that Captain Pando felt confident of securing the conference, while on the other hand, Captain General Blanco, Secretary General Góngora and the Spanish staff officers of high rank and many radical members of the Autonomist Government felt sure that the proposition, being the best ever offered, and assuring practical independence, would be accepted; that the rebellion would be declared at an end, and that, consequently, all excuse for the intervention by the United States would be ended.

They class as false the assertions that the Spanish soldiers are "unpaid and unfed and living in towns, while their officers are conspiring against the Autonomist Government and refuse to take the field, either denying the presence of the insurgents or saying, 'Let the troops who are in favor of autonomy fight it battles.'"

The general opinion seems to be that the Pando conference will, in any event, be the end of autonomy, and the most sanguine assert that it will make the intervention of the United States imperative. Those who have this view claim that the intervention of the United States will be necessary to prevent outrages which will disgrace civilization, and also to protect American citizens in Cuba. Under the circumstances, news from the scene of the conference is awaited with the greatest anxiety.

In spite of official and other denials it is believed that serious troubles for Spain in Puerto Rico are imminent, and it is asserted (though the report cannot be verified at present) that the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya, when she leaves Havana, will go to Puerto Rico in order to strengthen the hands of the Government officials there.

## MONDAY.

An Air of Suspense!

It is now Noticeable in the Navy Department.—New Squadron Discussed.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—An air of suspense was noticeable in the navy department to-day due to the approach of the time for the delivery of the report of the court of inquiry. It is not known just when the document will come to Washington, and of course, in view of the reports of the court of inquiry, it is certain that the President will not send his message to Congress with the report of the court of inquiry, which will set forth the cause of the explosion that wrecked the Maine and perhaps fix the guilt or innocence of Spanish people. For several days the statement has been persistently made that the report, or a portion of it, would be in the hands of the President to-day.

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defense. In accordance with this intention a separate form of requisition has been prepared and all amounts allotted from the fund are made upon the direct order signed by the President himself.

"The President wants to report to congress just how every cent of this money is spent," said a member of the cabinet to-day, "and for this reason is adopting the course above outlined."

## WORK OF RECRUITING.

The amount paid for the Mayflower was about \$400,000. Recruiting is going in a pace at all stations for the army and the navy. The Michigan, at Erie, Pa., has enlisted fifty-five men so far and the reports come from all quarters. The Columbia and Minneapolis are still 210 men each short of their proper force. This is accounted for by the fact that firemen, machinists and coal passers are wanted. An officer at the department said that 5,000 landsmen could be secured in a day if they were desired.

## TUESDAY.

The Crisis Has Come.

McKinley Realizes That Congress Can't Be Controlled. Manoeuvring for an Adjournment of One or Both Houses for a Few Days to Give Him Time to Act on the Report of the Court of Inquiry—Preparing Himself for the Mandate of Recognizing Cuban Independence or of Intervention.

WASHINGTON, March 21st.—For the first time since the destruction of the battleship Maine, on February 15th, a definite date has been fixed when the American people will know officially the facts ascertained by the Naval Court of Inquiry. The President has also partially formulated his plan of action for dealing with the Maine incident and the entire Cuban question.

The report of the Court of Inquiry will reach this city Thursday night. The President has suggested to the party leaders that one or both Houses of Congress shall adjourn over from Thursday to Monday. The Senate has promised compliance with this request, and the fact of the House being in session Friday and Saturday, will consequently prove immaterial. Several Senators have already accepted invitations to witness the launching of the new battleships Kentucky and Kearsarge, at Newport News, and will leave for that place Wednesday night.

MCKINLEY PREPARED FOR CONGRESS.

Congress not being in session, the President will have three days in which to examine the Court of Inquiry's report, and possibly make some representations to Spain on the subject of an explanation; but if the temper of Congress proves to be such as is now indicated, the President is prepared for the passage of either a resolution instructing him to recognize the independence of Cuba or one directing him to intervene, by force and establish peace on the island.

It is almost the unanimous belief among public men that Congress will pass a resolution in favor of immediate intervention.

If Congress can be held in check for a few days, it is the intention of the President to present first the destruction of the Maine to Spain for settlement. Failing to receive a satisfactory response within a reasonable time, he may then suggest recognition as a result of such a refusal. If the reply from Spain should prove satisfactory—if, for instance, an apology is tendered with the promise of ample reparation—he will hold the consular reports and other correspondence in abeyance, waiting to make them the basis of subsequent representations to Congress for dealing with the general and broader question.

SMALL COMFORT FROM REED.

Speaker Reed said the House would be difficult to control. While personally he is opposed to the annexation of Cuba, and has not heretofore been friendly to the cause of the insurgents, he has become convinced, since the destruction of the Maine, that definite action has been too long delayed by the United States Government.

The Maine report will go to Congress Monday. This comes from high authority. The full report will be held for consideration by the President until then. As the climax approaches the situation becomes more grave.

The report to Congress will be accompanied by a message from the President stating that, after receiving the report, the conclusions were laid before the Spanish Government and appropriate action from that quarter asked.

The reticence in Administration circles, high and low, has been so accentuated to-day as to amount to almost complete silence. It is certain that the President has informed some of the leaders of the Senate and House that he will give the two bodies the opportunity to act. The President will send a message to Congress with the Cuban consular reports. Whether or not the Maine report will accompany the other documents I cannot positively ascertain.

## CALLING IN THE WARSHIPS.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 21st.—The American cruiser Cincinnati and gunboats Castine and Wilmington have arrived at Port Antonio. They are coaling with sensational dispatch.

A Washington special says: The arrival of the Cincinnati, Castine and Wilmington at Jamaica is in pursuance of orders from the Navy Department, as well as to all other ships outlying, to proceed to United States ports as soon as possible.

The Cincinnati and the Castine came direct from Barbados, and the Wilmington from La Guayra, Venezuela. They all stopped at Kingston, as is usual, for courtesy and for coal. They will sail immediately to United States ports for further orders.

THE NEW CRUISERS GET THEIR NAMES.

WASHINGTON, March 21st.—Secretary Long has issued an order that the Amazonas, the cruiser recently purchased at Newcastle-on-Tyne from the Brazilian Government, heretofore shall bear the name of New Orleans, in honor of the principal city of Louisiana. Telegraphic instructions were sent to the naval officer in command of the vessel, who will take immediate steps to carry them into effect.

New Orleans was chosen as the name of the warship, for the reason that Louisiana is one of the few States of the Union not represented in the navy at this time. There was quite a contest among several other cities to have the new warship named in their honor. Albany, Providence and Buffalo advancing their claims quite strenuously.

Secretary Long has also christened the cruiser Abreuval, the sister ship of the Amazonas, the Albany, in honor of the capital of the Empire State.

## WEDNESDAY.

To Intervene In Behalf of Cuba.

Both Houses Eager to Act.—Such a Movement Demanded, Irrespective of the Report on the Maine Disaster, and Spain Must Fight or Knuckle.

WASHINGTON, March 22nd.—The crisis in our relations with Spain will not come through the report of the Maine court of inquiry, according to the developments of

to-day. It will come through the adoption by this Government of a policy of almost immediate intervention in Cuba to save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of reconcentrados whose appalling condition was forced on the attention of the world last week by the speech of Senator Proctor, whose dreadful pictures of death and devastation will be supplemented by a speech from Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, and by a speech from Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, both of whom are fresh from the scenes they will attempt to describe.

It appears from all that can be learned of the discussion at to-day's cabinet meeting that the President and his immediate advisers realize Congress will not be satisfied even with recognition of Cuban independence. That step would not, it is plain, materially change conditions in Cuba nor be of real benefit to the insurgent cause, while it would not alleviate in the slightest degree the mystery of the reconcentrados.

At the same time it would place this Government in a position before the world that might be less tenable and less advantageous to us in any future action we might feel called on to take, than if we now took the more decisive step on humanitarian ground of intervening in Cuba in order to save the lives of the starving women and children and putting a stop to the war.

## BROAD HINTS TO SPAIN.

It was disclosed at the cabinet meeting to-day that besides getting from Spain a formal statement of her willingness to give Cuba absolute autonomy, retaining nothing but the flag, which the Cuban leaders, flushed with the sight of success, are not expected to accept, the administration through Minister Woodford has been trying to convince the Spanish government that the time has come for it to relinquish Cuba and to choose between peace and war in doing so, with the probability also that if it acts quickly it can get a part of its war debt which the Cuban leaders have agreed to pay.

President McKinley's preference for the recognition of independence was based upon his desire not to seem the aggressor, which is exactly the position of Senor Sagasta, but under the practical objections raised by members of the cabinet and of Congress the President's confidence in this method of proceeding was so shaken that he must turn to the alternative of intervention. As cabinet officers pointed out, the Cuban republic, so-called, has done nothing to entitle it to recognition.

## WOULD BE A CASUS BELLI.

Under all precedents, since the President in his December message to Congress stated, as President Cleveland had stated, and as President Grant stated before them, substantially that there was nothing to recognize either for belligerency or for independence, the active recognition would be, in the circumstances, regarded by the civilized world as well as an act of war justifying any retaliation that Spain might take.

## SPAIN PREPARING FOR PRIVATEERING.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Advices have been received here that the Spanish government if war breaks out, is ready to equip 900 cruisers for the purpose of preying upon American commerce, under the right of privateering which Spain, like the United States, refused to renounce when it was renounced by the other continental powers by the treaty of Paris.

## Bryan's Confidence in McKinley.

FAYETTE, Mo., March 22.—W. J. Bryan, who delivered an address here last night, was asked for an opinion on the outlook for war, and said: "I have every belief that the President will act satisfactorily in this matter, and in fact the confidence I place in him by the American people is shown by Congress in passing the \$50,000,000 appropriation bill. I also firmly believe that the national honor will be maintained, but whether there will be a resource to arms I don't know, nor would I care to express an opinion."

## THURSDAY.

National Aid to Cuba.

No Doubt but That the Appropriation Will Be Sanctioned at Once.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The suggestion made in the Senate committee on appropriations for an appropriation in the sundry civil bill of \$250,000 to relieve the destitute Cubans is one of the results of the conference yesterday between the President and Senators Allison and Gorman, and it is the understanding in the committee that the President will follow the suggestion to officially furnish aid to the sufferers, and it is pointed out that if she should she would bring upon herself the condemnation of the civilized world.

## Motion for Recognition.

Congressman Clark, of Missouri, Put in a Pointed Resolution.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Representative Clark, of Missouri, to-day introduced the following resolution: That the Congress of the United States of America participate with the people of the United States in the deep interest which they feel for the success of the people of Cuba, who are struggling to establish their liberty and independence, and do hereby recognize the independence of the republic of Cuba.

## ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

The new \$2,000 United Evangelical church at Linden Hall was dedicated on Sunday under very auspicious circumstances. The services were conducted exactly as announced in the description of the church and program published in last week's WATCHMAN. They had no trouble in raising \$891.75 which was somewhat in excess of the amount needed.

Judge WICKHAM, of the superior court, handed down a decision on Monday ruling that a constable cannot legally claim circular mileage for executing a warrant and serving a subpoena. According to his ruling they can charge at the rate of ten cents a mile for one way. Fifty cents additional can be charged for each additional witness subpoenaed.

## HARRY BUSH HAS REACHED SKAGWAY.

A great many of the WATCHMAN readers know Harry Bush personally, others have read before of his gold mining experiences in Alaska and Arizona, of his lumbering and coffee growing in South America and have become more or less interested in his travels. We have already published an account of his latest venture, how he organized a Klondyke gold company in Philadelphia and started for the north-west on Feb. 2nd, but we told you then that he had expected to go overland from Edmonton, B. C. It was very much like him to change his route after leaving here, so instead of going as he had originally intended doing he went via Seattle, Juneau and Skagway. At the latter place he hurriedly wrote the following letter to the WATCHMAN.

DEAR WATCHMAN:—

Having found that it was almost impossible to get horses and feed at Edmonton we decided to change our route to the North-west and go by Seattle. Accordingly we left the Reading depot in Philadelphia on Wednesday morning, Feb. 2nd, taking advantage of the weekly tourist service. We did very well until after leaving Buffalo when much time was lost and we reached Chicago just in time to see our western connection pulling out. At 2 a. m. we got a Wisconsin Central train and arrived in St. Paul with 10 minutes to our credit before the Great Northern left.

There our troubles began for the berths which had been sold to us in Philadelphia were in the possession of others, so we had to content ourselves with second story affairs. While going through Montana I decided that the Great Northern is a lulu. We were flying around the spur of a mountain, seemingly suspended in mid-air and as the curve was very sharp the road was graded decidedly to the outside so that it seemed as if we were sure to topple off into the canon, thousands of feet below. Just after we crossed a stump that got under the baggage car delayed us for some time so that we realized that we couldn't reach Seattle that night and insisted on having our berths made up. The porter refused to do it, whereupon twenty of us became our own chamber-maids and made such snug berths that we were still in them when the train pulled into Seattle the next morning at 7 o'clock.

We had no trouble in getting accommodations and were greatly surprised to find how reasonable charges for outfits were. It was really much better to equip in Seattle, because of the greater variety to select from and the fact that merchants there make a specialty of the Klondyke trade. We found it equally as hard to gain reliable information as it is in the East. No two stories were alike, even when told by men who had come from the same diggings. The outfitting didn't cost much, but the steamer fare to Skagway was from \$35 to \$50 and \$18 per ton for freight until you got to pay it and find the charge to be \$85. Their harvest was the three berths the larger, safer boats from the East are en route to enter this traffic.

There are a great many who start for the North-west and get as far as Seattle, there to strand. One of the others who came from Philadelphia on the same train with us disappeared one night in Seattle and we didn't see him for three days, when he turned up full as a boiled lobster. They tell me that he had "blown in" all of his money and had nothing left but his ticket to Dyea to show for it. He is on the boat now without heavy clothing or any of the old tub. On Seattle of a couple of miners who were grubstaked by a Montreal banker and had a two years' outfit and \$5,000 each. They got as far as Skagway and then the banker came sober up when everything was gone. This is the story of a great many.

We had everything in shape to leave on Monday, the 14th, as scheduled on the Utopia that afternoon at 2:30. She has 375 tons register and carried 80 passengers, 45 horses, 37 dogs and 600 tons of freight. The state rooms are 7 x 7 x 9 and accommodate six by crowding two into each of the three berths that are one above the other. At present I am lying in berth 6 room 5 writing to you. The boat is anchored because it is snowing so hard that we can't see the shore. They tell us we will be able to see the Corona, one of the vessels of this trade, which struck a rock and went to the bottom a short time ago. They are raising her now.

On Feb. 19th we landed in United States territory to drop a stowaway. They had refused to let us land him at the last port we touched because a boat ahead of us had left 20 of them there and the residents had enough of stowaways. We landed ours on a beach about one-half mile away from an Indian saw mill where he can get feed if he works for it.

That afternoon we touched at Ft. Wrangle and as soon as we left the place struck a stiff gale that retarded us very much and made us look a little like the old tub. On the 23rd we ran into Juneau, having had the longest trip record. Bad weather made us lay up for 8 hours there and we had a storm all the way to Skagway. The scenery between the two latter points is magnificent, but the storm was so frightful that we had no time nor inclination to enjoy anything other than a most hopeful longing for a good solid rock ship to hang onto.

I have not time now to tell you the details of Skagway, but will do so with the first opportunity.

Yours cordially,

HARRY P. BUSH.

## On the Trail.

SHEEP CAMP, March 6, 1898. We landed at Dyea wharf, 4 miles below Dyea, on Thursday, February 24th, and walked up to town to try and find lodging. The hotels are all full. We went to a little Atlantic City bath house, with the place just laid out and wide enough to hold two single beds, side by side, and allowing space at the foot for the door, to swing in and get the beds one is compelled to crawl over the foot-boards. The proprietor furnishes you two quilts, two blankets and a pillow without a slip for four bits, or 50cts. They also have bunks large enough to accommodate two persons, built up three tiers high in which there is a mattress, but you have to furnish your own bedding at 25cts per night.

We took lodging at the San Francisco house, Capt. White proprietor, and paid 50cts. each in advance. The key to our room was carried by Hunter and as it fitted Lucas' room and one other it was the only key, so when these fellows wanted into their rooms they would have to hunt Hunter up and get him to unlock their doors.

On Friday we made arrangements to have our goods hauled from Dyea to Sheep Camp at the rate of 80cts per hundred and were to get an early start on Saturday morning as the shipping was good, and it looked as if a thaw might come soon, which would put the price of freighting away up. As it happened the price went up to \$3 per hundred just after we left.

When we returned our hotel after having completed our arrangements for striking the trail early we came very near having a fight with the Captain. He said we were "too damned particular" and that we were when we found our beds wet clear through. The frost had been melting out of the boards and dropping down onto the beds like rain. When we called his attention to it he said it was only frost, but we didn't intend paying for the privilege of sleeping in such a cold bath house and told him so. When he found that we didn't he bluffed he told us that we could get out, but afterwards he hunted up dry bunks and we had a good night's rest. A few miles out of Dyea, which impressed me as all boom towns of a few frame shacks and tents have done, you come in sight of "Irene" glacier. It is magnificent but sent a cold shiver down my back as I looked up 1,000 feet above my head at the great mountain of frozen indigo water—for it reminds me for all the world of the blue water