

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Mar. 7th, 1898.

Secretary Long either talked too much or too little when he said: "The element of official Spanish participation in the explosion has been practically eliminated," and then added that the administration had received nothing but what had been made public concerning the investigation of the destruction of the Maine. The only thing eliminated by what has been made public is the accident theory; therefore, unless he has information which has not been made public, Secretary Long was doing what all other naval officials had been positively ordered not to do, theorizing—when he used that language. He did not better the case any when he stated that his only reason for saying that official Spanish participation had been eliminated from the case was the statement of the Spanish charged affairs at Washington that there were no mines in Havana harbor. As Mr. Long had just left a Cabinet meeting when he used the words quoted above there isn't the slightest doubt that they were deliberately used for a purpose. I will not go to the extent that some do, and charge that it was intended either for a notice to the Naval court of inquiry of the sort of verdict desired, or as a notice to the country that a policy of peace-at-any-price was to be followed, but it certainly has not served to strengthen confidence in the intention of the administration to stand up vigorously for national honor, regardless of cost or consequences.

About the only thing done this week by the administration looking like business was the making of a contract for a \$1,000,000 supply of projectiles, for the new high-power guns of our coast defenses. That no immediate action is expected on the Maine catastrophe was shown by the departure for Cuba, this week, of a party including Senators Thurston, Money, and Gallinger, and Representatives Amos J. Cummings, and William Alden Smith. These gentlemen are going directly to Havana, on a private yacht, for the purpose of doing a little investigating on their own hook, and they expect to get information that will be useful when the matter gets before Congress. They expect to be gone about ten days.

There is quite a stir among members of the House over a report that Czar Reed intended to try to rush the rest of the appropriation bills through and to force an adjournment of Congress, in order to prevent a declaration of war, or any other action on Cuba. A paper was at once circulated by republicans among republicans pledging the signers to vote against adjournment under any circumstances before satisfactory action had been taken on the Cuban question, and enough signers have already been obtained to block any adjournment scheme, with the aid of the democratic and populist votes, which have been promised.

A bill for the conditional repeal of the Federal tax or currency issued by State banks has been introduced by Senator Platt, of New York, much to the surprise of democrats, who have at various times sought the repeal of that tax, which they have always considered unjust. Mr. Platt's bill authorizes State banks to deposit with the U. S. Treasurer the bonds of any State, City or County and to receive in exchange circulating notes to the extent of 80 per cent of the deposits and 70 per cent of the capital stock of the bank. The securities to be held in trust for the redemption of the bank's circulating notes, just as U. S. bonds are now held for national bank notes.

Ex-Gov. Colcord, of Nevada, is in Washington trying to persuade the republican leaders that unless they abandon the single gold standard the party will be overthrown. He said on the subject: "I am a republican, but I do not believe that the party can continue in power by advocacy of the single gold standard. During the last few months I have traveled extensively, and everywhere I find a most bitter opposition to that policy. The democrats will press this view for all it is worth, and by so doing will sweep the country, unless there is a great change from existing conditions. The American people really want bimetallism—gold and silver—and if silver is restored to its former place as money, will be content to let Congress establish the ratio."

It was officially announced this week by Secretary Alger that the government relief expedition to the Klondike miners had been abandoned, and authority to sell the stuff purchased, including the remainder, has been asked of Congress. No official announcement has been made to that effect, but it is stated that it is now fully known that the whole business was a systematic scheme on the part of certain sharpers to "do" the government.

An English agriculturist has succeeded in the cross fertilization of grasses, clover, cereals and other food plants.

Hats That Will Be Worn Easter. The New Millinery that Will Have its First Airing at the Close of Lent.

Leghorns, Manilla, chip and raffia, in all colors, are used for the new spring hats, as well as an absolutely new straw braid with a satin finish not unlike the silk-covered braids which obtained during the winter. Sailor hats, that always have an assured position, are in a new material in the form of woven bulrushes, which, after being braided, are shaped and generally edged with a narrow black velvet ribbon. Linen crash is also used for this kind of hat. The most striking of all are those of white or gray felt, intended for summer wear. Rich ribbons of velvet, silk, satin and moire are all used, being plaited and shirred, while piece fabrics, heavily embroidered with beads and spangles, also obtain. The fashionable colors are periwinkle blue, anemone blue, heliotrope, champagne, the light shades of ruby, brown, pearl gray, pink and pale green. Fanciful combinations are noted in the flowers. There is a decided fancy for putting the trimming—that may take the form of a bunch of flowers, a bow of ribbon, a drapery of velvet or satin—under the brim on the left side, so massed as to have it come well on the hair.

—March Ladies' Home Journal.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, } ss. LUCAS COUNTY. FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Consistency Not in It. We read in an exchange of a certain editor who wrote a long and carefully prepared article on the importance of patronizing home industries, giving many reasons why farmers and others should patronize home merchants rather than send off for their goods. The article was so good that it attracted the attention of the merchants and they highly commended the loyalty of the editor. One merchant was so favorably impressed with the article that he sat down and wrote a congratulatory letter to the editor, but to the surprise of the pencil pusher, the letter head which the merchant used had been printed in a neighboring town, and the return on the envelope was made with a rubber stamp furnished by a Chicago axle grease house.

Dover, N. H., Oct. 31, 1896. MESSRS. ELY BROS.—The Balm reached me safely and in so short a time the effect is surprising. My son says the first application gave decided relief. I have a shelf filled with "Catarrh Cures." To-morrow the stove shall receive them and Ely's Cream Balm will reign supreme. Respectfully, MRS. FRANKLIN FREEMAN. Cream Balm is kept by all Druggists. Full size 50c. Trial size 10 cents. We mail it. ELY BROS., 56 Warren St., N. Y. City.

Boarding House Fraud. A small, sombre, gray-haired man aged between fifty and fifty-five years, has been playing a new game on boarding houses in the vicinity. The other day he applied to a Milton landlady for board for himself and three others. He represented that they were going to start a fertilizing plant down town and wanted a permanent boarding place. Satisfactory terms were agreed upon and the other boarders were to arrive in a few days. After being accommodated several days the man left saying the four of them would be there that evening. The landlady laid in an extra supply of provisions but the guests failed to turn up.

Fossil Pills.—The demand is proof of their worth—Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills are beating out many fossil formulas at a quarter a box—They're better medicine—Easier doses and 10 cents a vial. A thousand ailments may arise from a disordered liver. Keep the liver right and you'll not have Sick Headache, Biliousness, Nausea, Constipation, and Sallow Skin.—20. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Need of the Patent Office for a Larger Force—Thirteen Thousand Cases Awaiting Action—Months in Arrears

Referring to the condition of business in the U. S. Patent Office, Assistant Commissioner Greely said: "We are deeply interested in the pending appropriation for the support of the patent Office during the coming fiscal year. The appropriation bill, as reported, provides for a slight increase in the working force of the office, but it is so slight as not to materially affect the conditions which even now are becoming monstrous proportions. The new bill, I believe, gives us 1 new principal examiner, 9 assistant examiners and 3 messengers. We originally estimated for 4 principal examiners, 36 assistant examiners, 35 clerks and 10 messengers. The Secretary cut this estimate to 2 principal examiners, 18 assistants, 11 clerks, and 14 messengers. This matter of additional help is a most serious problem, more important to-day than ever before, and becoming more so every twenty-four hours.

"Even with the small increase allowed by Congress, we would be better off, if only the appropriation were made immediately available. But instead of that the additional help cannot be utilized until next July, and by that time this office will be seriously behind in its work. To-day our examiners are from three to four months behind in their work, and some divisions are as much as six months behind.

THIRTEEN THOUSAND CASES WAITING. "We have on hand, in round numbers, awaiting action, 13,000 cases, of which number 9,600 have never been looked at. In the next four months our business will largely increase. March, April, May and June have heretofore been the heaviest months of the year, and there is no reason to doubt the record will be kept up. So you see, when July comes around, we will be hopelessly behind. I estimate we will receive in that time 14,000 new cases. So it is easy to understand how important it is to have an adequate force to do the work. It is not generally understood what a large proportion of the government revenue comes from this office. Last year we covered into the treasury, after paying the running expenses of the office, \$3,771,355.05, and the books of the Treasurer of the United States show a total of \$5,093,614.23 paid to the general government by the Patent Office after paying all its expenses. The inventors are protesting against the delay. They claim, and very properly, too, they are entitled to prompt and efficient service. The government requires them to pay for the work in advance, and then they are required to wait for months before having their applications attended to. One thing is certain, the efficiency of the Patent Office demands, in the interest of its clients, a suitable force of employes to prosecute the work intrusted to it."—From The Evening Star of February 5, 1898.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Of the 70,000,000 inhabitants of the United States almost one-fourth are pupils in schools of some kind. Usually the proportion of school children to the whole population of a civilized country is about one-fifth. But we go beyond this, showing what a strong, young, rich nation we are. We are a nation of young people because so many among us are pupils of school age; we are a rich nation because we can afford to let our children go to school instead of taking them out to earn a living while still in their tender years. It is to be hoped the education the young ones are getting is of a quality worthy of them, fitted to make them patriots and useful gentlemen and ladies.

In the rate of increase of our school population there is a significant fact. The whole country over the school enrollment increases annually at the rate of 2.1 per cent. In city schools the increase of the annual enrollment is 5.8 per cent, showing that our American cities are growing in population nearly three times as fast as the country. The last census showed that the population of some rural counties in the older States had actually fallen off in ten years. The American seems to be developing the tendency to become a city dweller. Nearly one-fourth of our entire school population is in cities of over 3,000 inhabitants. There are 484 colleges and universities in the United States, and 162 of these are for women students alone. Twenty-five years ago 41 per cent of the teachers in the American public schools were men. Now the men teachers are only 32.06 per cent, the rest being women. It is noteworthy that the students studying for professions in the United States there are 2 1/2 times as many in the department of medicine as in law. For the higher education of colored students throughout the country there are 178 schools, and of these 101 are in seven Southern States. North Carolina leading off with 27.

Constipation

Causes fully half the sickness in the world. It causes the digested food too long in the bowels and produces biliousness, torpid liver, indigestion, bad taste, coated tongue, sick headache, insomnia, etc. Hood's Pills cure constipation and all its results, easily and thoroughly. 25c. All druggists. Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

More Evidence That the Maine Was Destroyed by a Sub-Marine Mine.

Private advices received by steamer from Havana state that, despite Spanish opposition, the two American divers employed by the naval authorities on the wreck of the ill-fated Maine, while pretending to be engaged solely in the work of rescuing the bodies and effects of officers and men from the hold, have secured indisputable evidence to prove beyond doubt that the Maine was blown up from the outside. The two divers have been before the Board of Inquiry, and while sessions are held in secret aboard the Fern enough has leaked out to create the impression that their testimony reveals the fact that the Maine was blown up by a submarine mine.

Captain Sigsbee, it is said, was aware of the fact that his ship had been moored over one of the mines, and had so notified the authorities at Washington; also that the bottom of Havana harbor was a perfect network of torpedoes, each buoy marking a spot where one was located. The harbor, it is alleged, was so protected by torpedoes some time since, when belligerency talk became rampant in Congress. The mines are connected with electrical wires and worked by a key-board located in the arsenal at the Navy Yard.

"PAINLESS AND DELIGHTFUL CATARRHAL REMEDY" is the good word which John MacInnes, Wathaback Bridge, N. S., has to say of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder, after having suffered from Catarrhal Deafness for years. In 10 minutes from the first application he had relief and after using but one bottle his hearing was restored in all its natural acuteness. Not an excuse for despairing of a cure with such a remedy within reach of you.—18.

Sold by C. A. Kleim. Olose Secrecy.

Very Little Leakage From the Inquiry Court.

The fact is becoming more evident as the days pass that any information direct from members of the United States Court of Inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine and from those appearing before it is guarded with unusual closeness. Practically no information presented to the court has been disclosed. The restrictions are so severe that the communications between the naval men who have been before the court have been most guarded.

Naval officers at Key West station who are not connected with the court express the guarded view that very little testimony has yet been heard tending to show that the explosion was the result of a conspiracy or as to the exact cause of the disaster.

When bilious or constive, eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed. 10c, 25c. 4-11.

GOOD TIMES HAVE COME. You can afford to indulge yourself or your family in the luxury of a good weekly newspaper and a quarterly magazine of fiction. You can get both of these publications with almost a library of good novels for \$5 per year.

THE JOURNAL OF SOCIETY. NEW YORK THURSDAY. world-famed for its brightness and the most complete General Weekly—covering a wider range of subjects suited to the tastes of men and women of culture and refinement than any journal—ever published. Subscription price, \$5 per annum. TABLES FROM TOWN TOPICS, a 256-page Quarterly Magazine of fiction, appearing the first day of March, June, September and December, and publishing original novels by the best writers of the day and a mass of short stories, poems, burlesques, whimsicalities, etc. Subscription price, \$2 per annum. Club price for both, \$5 per annum. You can have both of these if you subscribe NOW and a bonus of 10 novels selected from the list below. Regular price for each, 50 cents. All sent postpaid. Remit \$5 in New York exchange, express or postal money order, or by registered letter, together with a list of the 10 novels selected, by numbers, to TOWN TOPICS, 305 Fifth Avenue, New York.

THE SALE OF A SOUL. By C. M. McLellan. THE COUSIN OF THE KING. By A. S. Van Westrum. SIX MONTHS IN HADES. By Charles J. Cinghian. THE SKIRTS OF CHANCE. By Captain Alfred Thompson. AN ECLIPSE OF VIRTUE. By Charles Stokes Wayne. AN UNSPEAKABLE SIREN. By John Gilliat. THAT DREADFUL WOMAN. By Harold R. Vynne. A DEAL IN DENVER. By Glimmer McKeendree. THE HOUSE OF THE FUTURE. By David Christie Murray. A VERY REMARKABLE GIRL. By L. H. Rickford. MARRIAGE FOR HATE. By Harold R. Vynne. THE HUNT FOR HAPPINESS. By Anita Vivand. THE WRONG MAN. By Glimmer McKeendree. THE STRANGE EXPERIMENT. By Harold R. Vynne. ON THE ALTAR OF FASHION. By John Gilliat. A MARRY TO LOVE. By Joana E. Wood.

We Manufacture PURE ICE FROM DISTILLED & FILTERED WATER. In our storage rooms we hold good for many months Apples, Peas, Grapes, etc. If you have any thing to store, give us a call. Cold Storage & Artificial Ice Co.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD. BLOOMSBURG DIVISION. STATIONS. EAST. NORTHUMBERLAND..... 6:35 1:50 10:00 5:50

STATIONS. WEST. SCRANTON..... 6:00 10:30 1:55 5:70

SOUTH—B. & O. R. R.—NORTH ARRIVE. 7:10 11:45 6:30 2:15

HUMPHREYS' CURES. No. 1 Fever, Congestion. No. 2 Worms. No. 3 Infants' Diseases. No. 4 Diarrhea. No. 7 Coughs & Colds. No. 9 Headache. No. 10 Dyspepsia, Indigestion. No. 11 Delayed Periods. No. 12 Leucorrhoea. No. 13 Clroup. No. 14 Skin Diseases. No. 15 Rheumatism. No. 19 Catarrh. No. 27 Kidney Diseases. No. 34 Sore Throat. No. 77 Grip & Hay Fever.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM. Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes its luxuriant growth. Never Falls Out. Restores Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp disease & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 Druggists. 2-17-t-d.

Pennsylvania Railroad.

Time Table in effect Feb. 20, '98. Scranton (C & E) & Elly 1:15 1:45 2:15 2:45

Weekdays. Daily. Flag station. Pittsburg..... 1:10 1:40 2:10 2:40

Fullman Parlor and Sleeping Cars run on through trains between Sunbury, Williamsport and Erie, between Sunbury and Philadelphia and Washington and between Harrisburg, Pittsburg and the west.

Philadelphia & Reading Railway

Engines Burn Hard Coal—No Smoke. In effect Nov. 14, 1897. TRAINS LEAVE BLOOMSBURG. For New York, Philadelphia, Reading, Pottsville, Tamoga, weekdays 11:45 a. m.

ATLANTIC CITY DIVISION. Leave Philadelphia, Chestnut Street wharf and South Street wharf for Atlantic City. WEEK-DAYS—Express, 9:00 a. m., 2:00, 4:00, 5:00 p. m.