A Device That May Render Fleets and Guns Useless.

It a Alleged to Be a Powerful De stroyer, and Distance Is Said to Have No Effect on Its Magie Results.

[Special New York Letter.]

Nicola Tesla, greatest of living elec-tricians, is still a young man. He was born in the ancient kingdom of Servis, 35 years ago, and combines with the en-thusiasm of the Slav the dogged persistence of the same race. amidst congenial surroundings, and under the direct supervision of his moth-er, whose fame as an inventor of looms and other household devices is more full play. While at school he mastered tange of such currents, waves, impulses half a dozen languages, besides being and radiations. recognized as the leader in technical studies; and consequently had no diffi-culty in securing a position in the Hungarian government telegraph engin-eering department at Budapest. The bureaucratic methods prevailing in the office where he was employed did not please him, however, and he drifted to

young inventor's ambition.

INVENTED BY TESLA, many other drawbacks which are inseparably connected with such a sys

Tesla's plan seems to involve none of

these objections. He is enabled by the use of his invention to employ any means of propulsion, to impart to the moving body or vessel the highest pos-sible speed, to control the operation of its machinery, and to direct its movements from either a fixed point or from a body moving and changing its direction, however rapidly, and to maintain this control over great distances with-out artificial connections between the vessel and the apparatus governing its movement and without such restrictions as these must necessarily imgose. He requires no intermediate wires, cables or other form of mechanical or electrical connection with the object save the natural media in space. He accomplishes similar results, how-ever, by producing waves, impulses or radiations which are received through than local; and assisted in his studies the earth, water or atmosphere by suitby his father, an eminent preacher of cble apparatus on the moving body and the Greek church, his natural love for causes the desired actions so long as mathematics and mechanics was given the body remains within the effective

> Having made these experiments, Tes-la proceeded to demonstrate his the-ories by means of a model which he exhibited to a representative of the New York Herald.

Elevated on stools in the center of the inventor's laboratory was a model of a screw-propelled craft about four feet Paris, and then to the United States, where he found employment in Edison's famous laboratory.

It is said—whether trathfully or not. I cannot tell, that the wizard soon grew jealous of the young man's genius and suggested that his room would be more which carried small incandescent suggested that his room would be more agreeable than his company. Tesia took the hint, and established a laboratory of his own at New York, where he has conducted a number of experiments which will forever give him a contained the propelling machinery, high place in the history of electrical consisting of an electric motor actuscience. A few years ago his workshop was destroyed by fire, and with another motor to actuate the rudder it the results of years of research. This and the delicate machinery which percalamity, which would have discouraged most men, only served to fire the the central standard the electric im-In pa- pulses sent through the atmosphere



NICOLA TESLA, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ELECTRICIAN.

devices, which brought him the means which set in motion the propelling and of carrying on his greater operations. And now he has broken his silence by announcing to the world the perfection of an engine which, if it does but half he claims for it, will revolutionize mod-ern warfare and completely change the position of nations. In fact, the disarmament of the powers would be a necessity, and war would be so terrible that no country could sustain it even for a few weeks. Mr. Tesla's invention to describe it

in a few words, consists in an application of electricity whereby, without in-terposition of any artificial medium of communication, one man can control and direct with absolute exactness the movements of any type of vessel, balloon or land vehicle at any distance that may be desired. From a station on shore or from the deck of a moving vessel a torpedo boat equipped with this device may be propelled either on or below the surface, maneuver at will in any direction and finally brought into contact and exploded at the side of a hostile ship at any point within the range of the operator. velous yet, assuming that it were pos sible to locate the position of the war ship to be destroyed, the torpedo boat ald be directed to it, even if the ves sel lay in a European harbor and the operator were stationed at Sandy Hook

The result of this invention? Let Mr. Tesla speak for himself:

"War will cease to be possible when the world knows that the feeble of nations can supply itself with weapon which renders its coast s care and its ports impregnable to the assaults of even the united armadas of the world. Battleships will cease to be built and the mightiest ironclads and most tremendous artillery afloat will be of no more use than so much scrap iron. And this irresistible power can be exerted at any distance by an agency of sc delicate, so impalpable a quality that I am justified in predicting the time will come, incredible as it may seem, when it can be called into action by the mere exercise of the hu-

How does the new device work? Hitherto the only means of control-ling the movement of a vessel from a distance has been supplied through the medium of a flexible conductor, such as an electric cable, but this system, according to Tesla, is subject to many limitations, such as are imposed by the length, weight and strength of the conductor, by the difficulty of maintaining with safety the high speed of a vessel or changing the direction of its mov-

tience he labored and toiled on lesser | from the distant operating station, light or extinguish the electric lamps and fire the exploding charge in a chamber in the bow in response to sig-

> room, on which lay a little switch box, he gave the lever a sharp turn. Instantly the little propeller began to revolve. "Now I will send the boat to starboard," he added, and another movement of the lever sent the helm sharp over, and another motion turned it back again. "During the day," explained Tesla, "we should steer our course by keeping the two standards in line, but at night we should depend on electric lights," and at a signal both the tiny bulbs were illuminated.

> "Now we will assume," continued the inventor, "that the boat has arrived within striking distance of the vessel to be destroyed, and the bulb in the bow will serve to show that the explosion has taken place." As he spoke he touched the lever again and the light flashed and was extinguished. agine, if you can," concluded Tesla, 'what an irresistible instrument of destruction we have in a torpedo boat thus controlled, which we can operate day and night, on the surface or below it, and from any distance that may be desired. A ship thus assailed would

have no possibility of escape."

Mr. Tesla further claims that it is not even necessary to make a close approach to the vessel to be destroyed. At a distance of 100 feet the explosion of 200 pounds of dynamite will exert s shattering effect on a battleship, and 200 or 300 tons of the explosive, when exploded even a mile away would raise a wave that would overwhelm the the

largest and strongest ship ever built. Mr. Tesla contemplates giving a pubc demonstration of his invention at the Paris exposition, where he intends to exhibit a model of a torpedo boat whose movements are to be directed from his office at New York.

Good Men Not Needed.

Stranger-I should think such an enerprising, public-spirited citizen as Mr. codman would be nominated for some important office in this community. Politician-He'd run well, but we

on't need him.
"Don't need him?"

"No. We're always sure of a big ma-jerity, anyhow."—N. Y. Weakly.

A Slow Train.

Brakeman (on southern railroad)— Fassengers is not allowed on th' platform, sir, when the train is in mo-

ments with rapidity, by the necessity of effecting the control from a point which is practically fixed, and from motion.—N. 1. Weekly.

## SAMPSON TALKS.

Comments on Some Incidents of the Santiago Campaign.

He Claims that Gen. Shafter Expected Too Much of the Blockading Fleet and Bid Not Properly Hecog-nize the Navy in the Hour of Final Triumph.

Washington, Dec. 1.-The navy de-

partment yesterday made public a re-port from Admiral Sampson covering the operations of the blockading fleet off Santiago after the destruction of Cervera's squadron. The report begins with a dispatch dated July 15, and winds up with one dated Guanand winds up with one date of data tanamo, August 4. In the first report Sampson tells of the demonstration made against Aguadores by the Mich-igan troops under Duffield, the point of which was that as soon as the ships took part in the firing the Span-iands disappeared. He says the bomships took part in the firing the Spaniards disappeared. He says the bombardment of Santiago on July 2 served no particular end because Shafter's attack had been postponed. He quotes dispatches from himself to Shafter stating that it is impossible to force an entrance to the harbor until the mines had been removed and that work could be accomplished only after the troops had taken the forts. Shafter replied that he could not tell when he could take the batteries. If they were as difficult as those If they were as difficult as those against which he was pitted it would take some time and a great loss of life. Says he: "I am at a loss to see why the navy cannot work under a destructive fire as well as the army My loss yesterday was over 500 men.' An hour later on the same day, July 2, Shafter again appealed to Sampson to immediately force the arbor entrance, so as to avoid future loss among his men, already very heavy. Says he: "You can operate with less loss of life than I can." In reply Sampson pointed out that the channel of the harbor was strewn with mines, which would certainly rewith mines, which would estrainly re-sult in the sinking of one or more of his ships if he attempted to enter the harbor, and that by sinking one the harbor would be blocked against the entrance of the others. He had hoped that Shafter would take the noped that Shafter would take the batteries from the rear so he might drag for the torpedoes, but if it was Shafter's desire that he should force the entrance he would prepare to undertake it, thinking, however, that the position of both army and navy would be made more difficult if they failed in the attempt.

failed in the attempt.

He promised to use mines at Guantanamo to countermine those at Santiago, which would consume considerable time. Says Sampson: "It is not so much the loss of men as it is the loss of ships which has until now deterred me from making a direct attack upon the ships within the port." After the battle with Cervera's fleet Shafter renewed his request that Sampson force an enquest that Sampson force an en-trance, saying his present position has cost him a thousand men and he did not wish to lose any more. Samp-son in comment says this shows a complete misapprehension of the cir-cumstances. He alleges that the sink-ing of the Mercedes would obstruct the entrance of the larger American ships and that extensive shore bat-taries were known to exist. His chief teries were known to exist. His chief of staff had indicated to Shafter the points that should be carried before any attention was paid to the city and the taking of these points would have insured the destruction of the mines and the entrance of the American Shafter had consented to this and Sampson did not know why the plan was changed unless the troops had been advanced too far to divert. He expresses the belief that an adherence to the original plan would have resulted in the much quicker urrender of the Spanish troops and less loss of life except the navy, which would have borne the brunt of at-

Sampson says: "I have been surprised to see published in the papers any statement of refusal on my part to endeavor to force my way into the harbor and cannot understand in case the newspaper reports be truthful statements of what was sent by him, Gen. Shafter's sending any reports of this kind. I here, moreover, would animadvert upon the apparently extraordinary openness with which every detail of hope, effort or sugges-tion on the part of the army has been traordinary published. The unwisdom of such cocedure is too manifest for discus

of dispatches showing that he was asked to participate in the terms of surrender and tried to find out when he should send a representative, but owing to one or two delays no time was fixed. Sampson's comments fol-low: "The foregoing certainly shows clearly the most absolute joint action and I took for granted that we should be joint signatories of any capitula tions, as is customary in all services in such circumstances. Capt. Chad-wick arrived at the front at the earl-iest hour it was possible for him to do so, and informed Gen. Shafter of my spectancy in the matter, but Shafte eremptorily refused. The convention ad already been signed, and he states s one reason that nothing had been said of the army in my report of the fleet action of July 3. There would have been as much reason for mentioning the navy in the report of the land action of July 1, when assault was made by our army on the Spanish lines.

Havana, Dec. 1.—The Spanish mail teamer Villaverde, with Marshal lance, the former captain general of luba, and his suite on board, left this port at 1 a. m. Wednesday. The departure of Blanco was not accompanied by the pomp and ceremony narking similar events in previous

# Usurped the Presidency.

San Francisco, Dec. 1.—Thomas Re-galado, the head of the revolutionary government in Salvador, has usurped the presidency and proclaimed him-self chief executive of the republic. THE EVACUATION OF CUBA.



#### PICKED UP A PRIZE.

British Steamer Tows into Port a smasted Ship Containing a Valua-

ble Cargo.
Philadelphia, Dec. 3.—The British Philadelphia, Dec. 3.—The British steamship Marston Moor, which sailed from Baltimore November 9 for Rotterdam, arrived at Delaware Breakwater Friday, having in tow one of the richest prizes picked up at sea for some time. She towed in the British bark La Escocesa, which was bound from Iquique to New York, laden with 2,000 tons of nitrate of soda, valued at about \$65,000. The principle of the property of the pr orize was picked up off Cape Henlopen, The bark when sighted was in charge of the chief officer. Capt. Evans, her commander, had died of brain fever. She was in a helpless condition, having experienced a heavy gale. The decks were swept, pump smashed, boats carried away, together with fore nd mizzen masts.

#### TIN PLATE COMBINE.

It Will Have a Capital of \$50.000,000 and Control the Trade in this Coun-

try.
Pittsburg, Dec. 3.-Representatives of all of the tin plate manufacturing concerns in America met here Friday for the purpose of arranging prelimipary details of the combination that s to unite all the tin plate interests on this side of the Atlantic. The com-pine will be formed on lines entirely different from any yet effected in the United States. The new company will have a capital of \$50,000,000.

The work of appraisement will com-mence next Monday, when 20 of the plants will shut down (ten of them peing located in the west and ten in the east). On the following Monday 20 other plants will be shut down and in invoice of their value taken.

A Hard Blow at Bucket Shops. Chicago, Dec. 3.—On charges of using the United States mails to carry using the United States mails to carry on a scheme to defraud patrons in bucket shop deals, four persons, form-erly belonging to or connected with the firm of which W. R. Hennig was he head, and including Hennig, were sentenced and fined yesterday before Judge Grosscup. The defendants all pleaded guilty. The cases were the first in which convictions of bucket shoppers have been secured under the federal law in this city and the result is recorded as a death blow to sult is regarded as a death blow to bucket shops.

#### An Official Denial.

Washington, Dec. 3.—In view of a published statement that a committee the Anglo-American commission had accepted the recommendations of a United States naval commission as to the building of warships on the tor Fairbanks, representing all parties on the commission, say: "The state-ment that an agreement has been ar-rived at by the sub-committee ap-pointed to consider the question of naval vessels on the great lakes is in-correct. The matter is still under dis-

### Alleged Swindlers Arrested.

New York, Dec. 3.—George S. Mar-tin, Charles S. Grill and W. S. Cutler, said to be members of the Worthing ton gang, one of the most notorious gangs of real estate swindlers in the gangs of real estate swinders in the country, were arrested Friday and locked up in the Tombs on charges of swindling. The police have been after them for over a year. Each of the men has a long list of aliases and is known in nearly every state in the Union. The Worthington gang was Union. The Worthington gang was run by Henry and John Worthing-ton, who had offices at 18 Wall street.

Lee's Troops Ordered to Havana. Savannah, Dec. 3.—The Second di-cision of the Seventh army corps, the Second division hospital corps and the signal corps of the Seventh corps have been ordered to move as soon as possible from Savannah to Havana.

Buffalo Joins the Western League.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Buffalo yesterday became a member of the Western hecame a member of the western League of baseball clubs. The papers were signed by President Johnson on behalf of the Western league and by James Franklin on behalf of the Buffalo club. It is the first time the The papers Western league circuit ever has extended so far east.

#### Hale Objects.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Senator Hale, of Maine, announces his opposition to the peace treaty which is being form-ulated in Paris. He is opposed to the acquisition of the Philippines.

#### MADE BIG GAINS.

Iron and Steel Trade Shows Large Improvement, Orders for

Tons of Rails Being Given this Week. New York, Dec. 3.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: The report of failures for November is extremely gratifying because it shows not only a decrease in number and a smaller amount of liabilities than in any other month excepting three summer months since the monthly record careful analysis shows a striking improvement both in the small and in the large failures, and in nearly all classes of industry and trade. Considering that failures are usually smaller in summer months than in November, the monthly return may be considered about the best ever made and shows a condition of fourmade and shows a condition of financial soundness rarely surpassed.

Nobody can estimate the gain for

the iron and steel industry which will result from the past week's transac-tions in steel rails, which are said to exceed 700,000 tons.

Sales of wool were large in November, but they have been effected by important concessions in price. Manufacturers have somewhat larger orders and are more hopeful, but a considerable share of the machinery must remain idle until the material is cheaper in comparison with the cost

of wool and goods in other countries Failures for the week have been 281 in the United States, against 306 last year, and 19 in Canada, against 28 last year.

## Cubans Visit the President.

Cubans Visit the President.
Washington, Dec. 3.—The members of the Cuban commission, headed by Gen. Garcia, called at the White House Friday and were received by the president. The meeting was entirely unofficial in character. It lasted an hour and a half. The greeting ed an hour and a half. The greeting of the president was very cordial, but the Cubans were received as citizens of Cuba and not as having an official status. Nothing could be learned as to the subjects of the conversation.

Naval Militiamen's Convention. Philadelphia, Dec. 3.—The annual meeting of the Association of Naval Militia of the United States met here Friday on board the receiving ship St. Louis, representatives being present from 12 states. The day was given to a general discussion of the advisability of forming a naval reserve of a national character.

#### THE MARKETS.

#### Financial.

New York, Dec. 3.—Money on call 2@24 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 34:@44 per cent. Sterling exchange steady at 484:@4844 for de-mand and 4814@4814 for 60 days.

Grain, Provisions and Live Stock. Flour—Active for spring patents. Wheat—No. 2 red 76 \( \frac{1}{2} \) \( \frac{1}{2}

Butter-Western creamery 15722c Beeves Steers 14.50@5.40, oxen and stags 53.124@4.80, yeals 4.00@7.75. Sheep-Medium to good 83.50@4.25, lambs 85.375 g. 70.

Cleveland, Dec. 3.-Flour - Winter wheat Wheat-No. 2 red 70c Wheat—No. 2 red 70c.
Corn—No. 2 yellow, in elevator, 37½c.
Oats—No. 2 white 31½@33c.
Cheese—York state 10-@11c, Ohio 10Д19½c.
Potatoes—Per bushel 33Д40c.
Butter—Extra creamery 23@23½c.
Eggs—Strictly fresh 21@22c.
Cattle—Choice steers \$4.50@4.75, fair to good
\$4.25@4.40, caives \$5.75@6.25.

Sheep Good to choice \$3.60 \( \hat{2}\) 3.80, fair to good \$3.25 \( \hat{3}\), 5, 10.

Hogs-Yorkers 13.25, pigs \$3.35 33.40. Chicago, Dec. 3.—Wheat-December 65%c.

Ribs—December \$4.65.
Hegs—Light \$320 63.42\(\frac{1}{2}\), heavy \$3.20\(\infty 3.50\), rough \$3.20\(\infty 3.30\), Yorkers \$3.35\(\infty 3.40\).
Cattle—Beeves \$4.0\(\infty 6.50\), cows and helfers \$2.0\(\infty 6.45\), stockers \$2.85\(\infty 4.40\), lambs \$4.50\(\infty 5.40\).

Toledo, Dec. 3.—Wheat No. 2 cash 70%c. Corn—No. 2 mixed 34%c. Oats—No. 2 mixed 37c. Clover Seed—Prime cash, new, \$4.70. Oil—Unchanged.

East Liberty, Dec. 3.—Cattle—Prime \$4.85@ 00, good 44.65@4.80. 5.00, good 44,5024.50. Hogs—Prime heavy \$3.45@3.50, best Verkers .3.45, good pigs :3.45@3.50. Sheep—Best wethers \$4.45 \(^14.60\), fatr mixed \$3.70\(\text{0.4} \) 4.0, choice lamps \(^15.25\(\text{0.5} \).50.

East Buffalo, Dec. 3.—Cattle—Good butchers cows : 3.25 : 43.65, best veals \$7.50@8.0). Hogs-Yorkers and mediums \$3.35 \( \alpha \) 3.40, pigs Sheep—Mixed sheep \$4.00 \( \) 4.25, best lambs 5.75 \( \) 5.45.

Oil Market.

Oil City, Dec. 3.—Credit balances '1.15. Cer tificates opened at 1.12½ bid for cash; no othe bids; no sales.

# HUMAN GASBAGS.

Spain's Diplomats are Prize Winners in this Role.

ANOTHER DAY OF DELAY.

Dons Claim to Lack Instructions on Various Points.

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

Spain Waits for a Better Offer for the Caroline Group of Islands than the Americans May Make and Germany is a Factor in the Deal.

Paris, Dec. 3.-Friday's session of the peace commission was a repeti-tion virtually of several earlier meet-ings. When, after two hours of discussion the Spaniards were pressed for definite statements, they pleaded that they had not received instruc-tions from Madrid. Thereupon the Americans declared that it was use-less to waste time in debate with men who were not empowered to make who were not empowered to make bargains. Although adjournment was taken till to-day it is probable there will be a further postponement till Monday

The Spaniards' version of Friday's session is that they asked to have the treaty concluded first and then the minor matters discussed. According o reports from American sources the Spanish commissioners endeavored to draw hints as to how far the Americans were willing to compromise the lemands under discussion without, lisclosing what concessions Spain was

willing to make. As the negotiations proceed the rospects of consuming much time increase. Several very important propositions, presenting many phases, invite discussion and must afterwards be embodied in the agreements. This task of embodying may be long drawn out, every word requiring considera-

On the questions yet unsettled which do not concern territory or financial interests, both commissions display anxiety to promote the wel-fare of the inhabitants involved.

Washington, Dec. 3.—It can be stated positively that no hitch has oced positively that no hitch has oc-curred in the proceedings of the peace commission at Paris, and an impres-sion to the trary in certain quar-ters probably arose through a misun-derstanding of the phase those pro-ceedings have reached. With the ac-quiesence by the Spanish commis-sioners in the American demands set-out in the original protocol all dan-ger of a failure to sign a peace treaty out in the original protocol all dan-ger of a failure to sign a peace treaty disappeared, and that such a treaty will be forthcoming, covering at least all of the protocol points, is consid-cred assured. What is now going on in Paris is a negotiation respect-ing certain objects which the United States government seeks to accomplish in that manner, instead of resorting to the more tedious method of correspondence between the two govern-

These objects have been stated in the cablegrams from Paris, namely, the acquisition of one of the Caroline islands as a cable and coaling station; of certain rights to land cables on Spanish possessions at other points; the procurement of freedom of religious worship in the Carolines, and the revival of certain treaties of trade and commerce, etc. These matters do not in any way affect the conclusion of the process treaty. They clusion of the peace treaty. They might all fail to be realized and still the treaty would not be affected.

Moreover, while Spain was the sub-ject of peremptory demands in the case of the protocol points, she is free of compulsion now while these diplo-matic exchanges are in progress. She may sell to the United States one of the Caroline islands or may refuse to do so, and, moreover, if we buy islands it must be at a price satisfactory to Spain. She may even sell the Caro-line group to Germany instead of to the United States if she can obtain a better price from the former. There is good reason to assume the correctness of the report that Germany is pargaining for these islands.

The statement that Spain has refused to sell us Ceuta, opposite Gibraltar, for a coal and cable station is inaccurate; the United States government has not made any proposition for the acquisition of that island.

The case is different respecting the Carolines. The American naval experts have urged very strongly that this group be retained and in addition that the Pelew group, lying to the westward, be purchased. They have pointed out that the southmost island of the Ladrone group, Waloa, island of the Ladrone group, Waloa, lies only 300 miles north of Ponape, in the Carolines, and the Pelew islands are only about 600 miles distant from the Philippines. With these the United States would have a complete chain of islands located at convenient distances more than half way across the Pacific.

the Pacific.

Moreover, the vast bulk of trade in that quarter of the world passes that quarter of the world passes through the natural channel between the Ladrones and the Caroline command.

command.

If Germany is able to outbid the United States for these islands she may obtain them, but a suspicion is entertained that the naming of \$2,000,-000 was inspired by a friendly desire to make the best possible terms for Spain from the United States, by raising the price of the goods. One of the pledges which is almost as good as a treaty obligation in its force even now, is that the United States, in return for the release of the political prisoners from Cuba and Porto Rico, held by Spain, will secure the release of the Spanish prisoners held by Agui-