

PEACE OR WAR.

President McKinley, It is Said, is Ready for the Report.

"COURT HAS DECIDED."

This Statement is Quoted As Coming From a Prominent Naval Officer—Firm Action is Expected—Intervention in Cuba is Not Believed to Be Far in the Distance—2,000 Men For the Navy.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says: President McKinley, according to a distinguished naval officer, who is quoted in a special cablegram from Havana, has informed Captain Sampson, chairman of the United States naval court of inquiry, that he is ready to receive the court's report on the wreck of the battleship Maine. The court is said to have come to a final decision in the case.

It is believed in executive and official circles in Washington that the government will not much longer delay its programme of intervention in Cuba, and that events are rapidly shaping action in that direction.

Orders have been issued for the immediate enlistment of 2,000 men for the navy, a large proportion of them to be machinists. A special board has been detailed by Secretary Long to go to cities in the South and West to enlist recruits.

Military orders which go into effect immediately will lead to the manning of hitherto unprotected fortifications from Boston down the Atlantic coast and along the gulf to Galveston.

At a conference held at the Navy Department between Assistant Secretary Roosevelt and the chiefs of the naval bureaus the advisability of arming and equipping fast merchant vessels as auxiliary cruisers was discussed.

Work upon new ships and repairs to older ones are being hurried all over the country. The Columbian Iron Works, at Baltimore, received instructions from Washington and will work night and day upon the torpedo boats McKee, Rodgers and Plunger.

Many members of the British House of Commons take the view that any trouble threatening the United States should be shared by Great Britain. Hon. Hubert Valentin Dumouchet intended to question the government on the subject, but postponed it for the present.

Spain is courted the assistance of France and Russia, as there is a strong belief at Madrid that Great Britain will side with the United States in the event of war.

The Spanish government has made five conditional purchases of coasting steamers in Austria through her military agent.

Senator Sagasta, the Spanish premier, says that all the members of the Madrid cabinet regard it as a question of honor to remain at their posts in the present crisis.

Senator Proctor and Col. M. M. Parker, who have returned from Cuba, left Key West for Washington. They give an amusing description of a "battle" between a few combatants on each side, which, they say, was gotten up at Matanzas for their benefit.

Loyalists in Havana have started a movement to build or purchase for Spain a warship to be called the Isla de Cuba.

NO SHORE LEAVE FOR TARS.

Members of the Cruiser Montgomery's Crew Are Denied This Privilege.

Captain Converse, of the United States cruiser Montgomery, at Havana, in company with Consul General Lee, called on Captain General Blanco and received cordially and courteously.

In a letter to the United States consul general, Dr. Congozo, the secretary general of Cuba, assures General Lee that there will be no more delay in the passage of relief supplies through the custom house. On account of the discovery of jewelry in such supplies the authorities held up many consignments, and some perishable provisions were spoiled.

The officers and men of the Montgomery are still refused shore leave. They devote much time to drill, which excites much interest, especially among the sailors on the Spanish ships, where the tactics are different.

"BLOWN UP BY A MINE."

"That is What Both Divers Say," Writes a Sailor Lad From the Montgomery.

The parents of Johnson L. Hayes, of Montoursville, Pa., have received a letter from him, dated on board the cruiser Montgomery at Key West. Young Hayes is one of the crew and has been in the navy twenty-two months.

In his letter he says: "The fleet is nearly all here awaiting the end of the investigation on the New York, which is lying about six miles from here.

"More dead and wounded were brought from Havana on the Satche.

"We have become a regular prison ship now.

"We have two divers, who were down in the Maine and are waiting to give their testimony at the court of inquiry. They will not be allowed to communicate with the shore till the court is over. One reporter, who knew too much, has also been brought aboard.

"The Maine was blown up by a mine—that is what both divers say."

GOMEZ OFFERS \$150,000,000.

This Sum, It is Reported, Would be Given in Exchange for Independence.

There is a good deal of comment in Havana about propositions to the insurgents by the radical wing of the autonomist party.

The Spaniards say the autonomist programme promises nothing but sorrow and war, while General Gomez has offered \$150,000,000 and a favorable commercial treaty with Spain if independence is granted. They also say that the autonomist programme to disarm the volunteers would mean independence if carried out, since the insurgents would not be disarmed.

The central committee of the conservative party, after a long debate, agreed to take part in the forthcoming elections. The attitude of the conservatives does not mean that they accept the autonomous form of government, or that they will contribute to its establishment. They will only accept the positions to which they may be elected, so as to watch the proceedings of the autonomists and defend their own interests.

Death of Hugh Jewett.

Hugh J. Jewett, one of the best-known railroad men in the country, died at the Hotel Bon Air, Augusta, Ga. For the last six years he has been in poor health. He was born at Deer Creek, Md., in 1818. He studied law and was admitted to the bar but later took up railroad business.

THE NEWS.

Mrs. Robert Mantell, the actress, died in Port Huron, Mich.

The firm of Bettman, Watson & Bernheimer, dealers in oils, who operated in many States, has failed. The estimated capital of the concern was six million dollars.

It is said that a railroad will be built from Fredericksburg, Va., to the Chesapeake Bay through the Northern Neck.

Major Jacob Bretz died at Carlisle, Pa., aged 91 years.

The Old Dominion steamer Jamestown brought down from New York to Norfolk a hundred cases of 10-inch armor-piercing projectiles for Fort Monroe, and also some smaller projectiles. They were taken to Old Point. It is understood that there were seven or eight mines in the lot, to be planted in the channel.

A Philadelphia syndicate formed by Geo. H. Earle, Jr., and Richard Y. Cook took up the loans of \$500,000, secured by bonds and stock of the Record Publishing Company and held by P. A. B. Widener, Wm. L. Elkins, James McMaes and the Kemble estate. These securities, it is claimed, represent a control of the Record property.

A fire which originated in the large novelty store of Wolf & Company, Franklin and Vine streets, Philadelphia, did damage amounting to \$25,000 before it was gotten under control.

Ex-Chief Justice Wyckoff, of the Cherokee nation, has been placed in jail at Vinita, charged with cattle stealing. He could not give bond for \$1,000.

Six persons have been taken to Colorado Springs from Cripple Creek and placed in the county jail, charged with stealing a vast amount of the richest ores.

The vote on the proposition to establish a defense fund for the United Mine-Workers has been officially counted and the result announced. It is decidedly against the plan.

The San Domingo mine, in the Santa Eulalia district, fifteen miles southeast of Chihuahua, Col., has been burned. Two watchmen were roasted alive. The loss amounts to half a million dollars.

Edwin S. Thying, town treasurer of Exeter, N. H., has been arrested in Boston on a writ issued by the selectmen, charging him with the embezzlement of about \$11,000 of the funds of the town. He has been given ten days in which to make good.

The thirtieth Cincinnati May musical festival, under the auspices of the Musical Festival Association, will begin May 24. Theodore Thomas will direct, as he has done for a quarter of a century.

An effort has been made by the Bessemer blast furnace operators of Cleveland, Pittsburg and the Shenango and Mahoning valleys to enter into a combination. Fourteen interests, owning nineteen furnaces, are included.

Governor Otero has made an order removing A. B. Fall as solicitor-general of New Mexico, charging neglect of duty. Fall has said that he will not only make a contest in the courts, but will go to Congress and the President.

Sherwood Cunniff, receiving teller of the First National Bank, Cincinnati, has been arrested on account of an alleged discrepancy of \$23,000 in his accounts. He turned over to the bank his real estate, nominally valued at \$30,000, and was released on \$10,000 bond, and it is believed he will not be prosecuted.

A four-handed encounter occurred between farmers residing in Fulton county, Ky., over a lawsuit. Joe Lynch, his son, Hurl Lynch, Wade Harding and James Norris were seriously injured.

Sergeant Fisher, of the military police at the Military Academy at West Point, committed suicide because he was reduced to the ranks.

James H. Carpenter, inventor of the Carpenter projectile, died of pneumonia at Reading, Pa., at the age of 51 years.

Isaac A. Shepard, a prominent manufacturer, died in Philadelphia at the age of 71 years.

John Berniak and Mary Westerham, an eloping couple from Baltimore, were arrested in Chicago.

Rev. Mr. Seymour, an Indian, occupied the pulpit in the Episcopal Church, in Carlisle, Pa.

United States Senator Mills, of Texas, has withdrawn from the race for re-election.

A woman was suffocated and five other persons badly burned in a fire in Pittsburg. Ex-Mayor Gustav Brown was buried in Charlestown, W. Va.

ONE SUFFOCATED, FIVE BURNED.

Three Families Unable to Escape From a Burning Building in Pittsburg.

One of the most exciting fires the Pittsburg department has ever been called upon to fight occurred at 614 Webster avenue Sunday, when one woman was suffocated and five other people so badly burned that three may die. Three families were penned in a ramshackle building, and the stairs eaten away by flames as they slept. Here is the result of the 15 minutes' captivity:

Dead.—Mrs. Dominie Eriello, aged 30, wife of Dominie Eriello, fruit huckster, was separated from her husband in the smoke, was suffocated while trying to raise a window and died in the patrol wagon.

Injured.—Harry Levin, aged 16, burned about face, arms and shoulders, injuries possibly fatal; Lillian Levin, aged 6, burned about hands, feet and face; condition poor; Max Verilinski, aged 22, burned about legs and head, and fatally injured internally; Jessie Verilinski, aged 22, his wife, burned about the neck, feet and face, injuries serious; Ethel Verilinski, 8 months, burned about hands and body; will probably die; Elizabeth Levin, aged 15, ankle broken by jumping from second-story window, also hurt internally; Rita Levin, aged 3 years, thrown from second-story window; badly bruised.

The building at 615 Webster avenue is a three-story brick tenement, old and shaky. On the first floor and the rear of the second floor lived Sam Levin, with his wife and seven children. On the second floor front lived Dominie Eriello, with his wife. On the third floor lived Max Verilinski, with his wife and 8-months-old baby.

The fire started in Levin's dining-room, in the rear of the first floor. It burned through the door and up the stairway, and in a very short time the entire building was in flames. Only the most efficient work of the rescuing firemen prevented a tenement-house horror.

Senator Mills Withdraws.

The Houston (Tex.) Post prints a letter from United States Senator Mills, in which he formally withdraws from the race for re-election, which leaves the field to Governor C. A. Culbertson. In his letter Mr. Mills gives as the principal reason for his withdrawal the recent action of the State Executive Committee which makes a stringent test for all persons desiring to participate in Democratic primaries and conventions.

Colonel Henry was wounded on the elbow in a sword duel in Paris with Colonel Piquart, whom he recently denounced at the Zola trial.

MILLIONS ARE VOTED.

Defense Bill Passes the House of Representatives.

NOT A VOTE AGAINST IT.

Party Lines Were Swept Away and With a Unanimous Voice Congress Voted Its Confidence in the Administration—A Scene of Enthusiasm Greeted the Announcement of the Vote.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says: In a spirit of patriotism, with eloquent words ringing in their ears, every member of the House of Representatives, responded to the President's first call to meet the Spanish situation by casting his vote for a bill placing in President McKinley's hands fifty millions of dollars to be expended at his discretion for the national defense.

Party lines were swept away, and with a unanimous voice Congress voted its confidence in the Administration. Many members who were paired with absent colleagues took the responsibility of breaking their pairs, an unprecedented thing in legislative annals, in order that they might go on record in support of this vast appropriation to maintain the dignity and honor of their country.

Speaker Reed, who, as the presiding officer, seldom votes only in case of a tie, had his name called and voted in his capacity as a representative.

The scene of enthusiasm which greeted the announcement of the vote—yes 311, no 0—has seldom been paralleled in the House. All day long the galleries were jammed with enthusiastic spectators applauding to the echo the sterling patriotism of the words of eloquence which were uttered by the members on the floor. All the speeches were brief.

Many Speeches.

Although four hours were allowed for debate so great an enthusiasm for the bill that no member was given more than five minutes, and most of them had to content themselves with a beggarly fraction of a minute. In all 59 speeches were made. With one acclaim members from the North and South, East and West, the States and the Territories, battle-scarred veterans of the Union and the Confederate armies, all joined in proclaiming their support of the country's chief magistrate in the face of a possible foreign war.

General Grosvenor, of Ohio, said that if war did come the \$50,000,000 appropriated by this bill would be wisely expended if only to serve to show the world that when threatened from without the hearts of the American people beat as one. In the whole debate there was only a slight discordant note caused by the speech of General Bingham, of Pennsylvania, a gallant soldier who served with distinction under Hancock.

He spoke too conservatively for the ardent temper of the House, and when he insisted that our relations with Spain were as friendly as they had been for years many of the members hissed him. While almost every member who spoke deprecated the possibility of war, a wide divergence of opinion as to how loose were hostilities manifested itself in the debate.

The general contention of the minority, among them the leaders on both sides, was that this appropriation by preparing for war would prove the surest guarantee of peace. Others insisted that war's alarms would soon be heard, and Mr. Mann, of Illinois, declared that war actually existed in all save name. The speeches which attracted most attention were those of Messrs. Cannon, Henderson and Dooliver on the Republican side, and Messrs. Bailey and Sayers on the Democratic side.

Sent to the Senate.

The bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for the national defense was carried immediately to the Senate, and has been presented to that body and referred, on motion of Mr. Allison, to the Committee on Appropriations.

The galleries of the House were packed to the doors, and long lines of people unable to gain admission, surged about the corridors. On the floor almost every member was in his seat. On the faces of the leaders on both sides set an air of stern resolution indicating their deep appreciation of the grim business upon which Congress and the country were entering in making this vast appropriation for possible war.

As soon as a journal had been read the Speaker rapped for order, and amid a deafening cheer Cannon arose and presented as a de-facto bill the measure appropriating \$50,000,000. It included also several other items, among which is \$100,000 for coal for naval vessels.

General Wheeler (Dem. Ala.), the ex-Confederate cavalry leader, started a wave of applause when the bill was presented.

Passage of the Bill.

When the question was put on the passage of the bill the whole house rose en masse in its favor, but Mr. Cannon asked for the yeas and nays. He did so, he said, at the request of many members, who desired that every member should go on record.

Every member present voted for the bill many of them assuming the responsibility of breaking their pairs in order to place themselves on record. At the conclusion of the roll call the Speaker had his name called, an unusual procedure, and amid great applause voted for the bill. When he announced the vote "311 yeas, no nays," an enthusiastic demonstration occurred.

FIFTY MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE.

The Bill to Place This Sum at the President's Disposal For Immediate Use.

Chairman Cannon, of the Appropriation Committee, promptly introduced a bill entitled "Making Appropriations for the National Defense." It is as follows:

"That there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the national defense, and for each and every purpose connected therewith to be expended at the discretion of the President, and to remain available until June 30, 1899, \$50,000,000."

It was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Cannon, after an interview with the President voted for the bill. When he called a special meeting of the Appropriations Committee. After this meeting Mr. Cannon introduced the national defense bill in the House.

Guns For the Fourth.

Six ten-inch guns and several mortars went southward from Alexandria, Va., for Galveston over the Southern Railway. A special train of sixteen sealed cars of ammunition passed through for Tampa, and six more guns go southward. The ammunition train was run on passenger schedule via Short Line.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

President McKinley Refuses to Recall General Lee.

NOW GETTING SERIOUS.

The Spanish Government May Force General Lee Out of Cuba by Giving Him His Exequatur, and May Also Prosecute Him, if They Dare, and Imprison Him—The Move May Be Only a Campaign Trick.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says: Spain has demanded the recall from Havana of Consul General Lee, and President McKinley has promptly refused the demand. Not only has the Spanish government been informed that General Lee will not be recalled at its request, but the President has endorsed every action of Mr. Lee, and has studiously dwelt upon "the entire confidence which is reposed by this government in the judgment, the fidelity and the courage of the Consul General." To Spain's further protest against the despatch of the two warships, the Nashville and the Montgomery, to carry supplies to the starving Cubans at Matanzas and Sagua la Grande, and its request that the orders to these ships be recalled and the supplies be sent in merchantmen, the government announces officially with a courtesy that is deeply significant of determination that a warship, which is best adapted for the purpose and most available, will leave Key West for a Cuban port next week. In other words, President McKinley has taken a positive stand against interference by Spain with his program.

Secretary of the Navy Long and Assistant Secretary of State Day were at the White House with President McKinley. After a conference lasting nearly two hours, both gentlemen gave the above brief summary of the situation, and Mr. Day added that, although Mr. Woodford had been instructed to lay the reply of this administration before the Spanish government, there had been no further communication, and that neither the demand for the recall of Mr. Lee nor the protest against the use of the war vessels had been reiterated by the Spanish government.

It is, of course, in the hands of the Spanish government to seek its own redress. Consul General Lee's exequatur may be withdrawn and his official connections with the Spanish government may thus be summarily ended. Mr. McKinley has informed the Spanish government that General Lee's course meets "his entire satisfaction," and the withdrawal of his exequatur will, therefore, necessarily end all diplomatic relations between the two countries. If Mr. Lee's exequatur is withdrawn there will be no course for him to pursue but to leave Cuba by the next boat, first placing all Americans on the island under the care of the consul from Germany, Great Britain or some other friendly nation.

Spain Backs Down.

Spain has withdrawn her request for the recall of Consul-General Lee, and it is now believed that the incident is practically closed.

The withdrawal came in the shape of an official communication from Minister Woodford.

It is now stated that the request was never put in the shape of a demand, but that it was merely a suggestion on the part of Spain, and when she found that it would not be pleasantly received by this country, she promptly receded.

It is learned that the Spanish objection to Consul-General Lee was based largely upon his sympathy for the Cubans, and some of his utterances which have found their way into print. It is understood that the Spaniards also take exception to the friendly relations and companionship existing between him and correspondents of papers which have been decidedly unfriendly to Spain. It is believed that Senator De Lorme carried to Spain newspapers and information calculated to make the Spanish Government request the recall of Consul-General Lee.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

The centenary of Methodism in Ohio will be celebrated in Delaware in June, and President McKinley will attend.

Queen Victoria has refused to lend to Canada and the Australian colonies, for exhibition, her Jubilee jewel gifts.

Dr. Breton, who has been appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Chinese Maritime Customs, was for some time in the medical service of the English army.

Bishop Elliott is now the senior member of the British Episcopal Bench, having been promoted from the Deanery of Exeter to the See of Gloucester and Bristol early in 1883.

Vice-Admiral Makarov, of the Russian navy, is on his way to this country to look into American ice-breaking ferries. The Russians want to keep some of their harbors open in the winter.

Lord Ashburham's Stow manuscripts have been bought at private sale by the British Government for \$225,000. When the collection was bought at auction for \$40,000 by the late Earl, some years ago, the Government refused to bid.

William F. Norton, the eccentric millionaire, who owns the Auditorium Theatre in Louisville, Ky., and who manages it under the name of Daniel Gulp, cleared 7 cents a bushel on 1,000,000 bushels of wheat during the last jump in prices.

Senator White, of California, is said to contemplate retiring from the Senate at the end of his present term, which expires next year.

Sir Arthur Sullivan has taken a villa at Beaulieu, within easy distance of Nice and Monte Carlo, and there he proposes to reside during the March winds. Meanwhile, he hopes to work hard upon his new opera.

The Kansas Legislature has just appropriated \$1,000 for a marble bust of Charles Robinson, the first Governor of Kansas, to be placed in the State University.

Bishop Vincent, of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, has begun a crusade against Sunday golf. He has expressed himself very forcibly on the turning of Sunday into a day of "wholesale recreation."

Prof. Hamilton King, who will soon succeed Mr. Barrett as Minister to Corea, has just taken out his citizenship papers in Detroit. His father was naturalized 2 years ago, but as Mr. King was unable to produce the papers he was forced to take out new ones.

Mr. Fivecants lives in Anderson county and Mr. Fewcants in Cowley county, Kansas.

Governor Renfrew, of Oklahoma, got his start in the world by exhibiting a petrified child in Arkansas. That was 30 years ago. A few days since he recognized the child in Guthrie, where it was being exhibited as a petrified woman. Of course, it had grown during that time.

DEMAND DENIED.

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THE KEYSTONE STATE.

Latest News Gleaned from Various Parts.

FACED THE ENGINE.

Aged Isaac Stuffed Deliberately Stood in Flying Trains Path—Farm Hands Bring an Alleged Thief to Bay—A Lighter Penalty For the Indian Pupils Who Attempted Incendiarism.

Isaac B. Stuffed, aged 69 years, whose home was at Reading, but who for the past four weeks was the guest of his son, H. D. Stuffed, at Pottsville, committed suicide by standing in front of the soon Philadelphia & Reading express train from the city. The man was walking slowly along the main track, when the train suddenly rounded a curve and bore down upon him. The engineer whistled repeatedly, but Stuffed did not heed the warning. Instead of leaving the track he stepped directly in the way of the train, folded his arms and deliberately faced the engine. He was thrown upon the south-bound track. His neck was broken.

Running Fight.

A stranger giving the name of John Brown, of Tennessee, was arrested after a desperate battle with two laborers on the farm of Walter Hibberd, in East Whitealand. It is alleged that Brown had entered one of the farm buildings and was surprised while in the act of carrying off some valuable property. He fled, and the farm hands gave pursuit. Revolvers were used rather freely, but the fusillade became too hot for Brown and he surrendered. He was lodged in the Chester County Prison by Detective Harry B. Thomson.

Sentences Changed.

At court at Carlisle before Judge Biddle the cases of Fannie Eagleborn and Eliza Flanders were brought up and their sentences revoked. These are the two pupils of the Indian Industrial School who two weeks ago was sentenced to a term of eighteen months in the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia for attempting to burn the Indian School dormitories. A new sentence, sending them to the county jail for one year, was imposed.

Legally Dead.

In Argument Court two sons of the late William Jacoby, of South Whitehall Township were declared legally dead. Sixteen years ago, when the boys were quite young, they disappeared and have not been heard from since. After they were declared legally dead Register of Wills Weaver was directed to appoint an administrator in the estate that they inherited from their deceased father.

Water Right Dispute.

By reason of a water right dispute work on the new hosiery mill of Louis E. Tanel, Norristown, has been stopped. The mill was to be located at Penn and Arch streets. It was to be four stories high and 260 feet long. Through the property there runs Saw Mill Creek, a stream which feeds the Norristown Woolen Company's plant. The latter company contends that the refuse dye from the hosiery factory will so poison the water that it will not be available for use at the Woolen works.

Dynamite Causes Death.

John Delaney and Peter Quinn were fatally injured by the explosion of a dynamite blast at the new Burruss shaft, Shamokin, and William Kullerman escaped with severe lacerations. When the night shift fired the dynamite blast with an electric battery one stick of duall failed to explode, and in trimming the sides of the shaft with their picks Delaney or Quinn caused it to explode with terrible force. Delaney was from Pittsburg and Quinn from Boston.

Death on the Track.

George Seshak, of Port Bowley, aged about 35 years, was killed at the Mill Creek Station of the Jersey Central Railroad, by a passenger train. He was seen standing on the track next to that on which the train was approaching, and when it drew near he ran toward it and was struck and killed. It is thought that he believed the train would stop at