

COURT OF INQUIRY FORMALLY OPENED Investigation of the Condition of the Battleship Maine—Several Divers Are at Work on the Wreck—Progress Impeded by Darkness—The Army and the Coast Defenses Are Strengthened—Preparations for War.

Havana, Feb. 22.—The court of inquiry opened at half-past ten and took recess at half-past twelve. Lieutenant F. W. Holman, navigator and ordnance officer of the Maine, was examined at the morning session. The court met for the afternoon session at half-past one and Lieutenant Commander R. Wainwright, executive officer of the Maine, was called to the witness stand. Lieutenant Commander Wainwright has been in immediate charge of the wreck since the explosion.

Four divers are at work in the forward part of the ship, and the others aft. The task is most laborious, and the men are naturally extremely careful, as they have had to work in complete darkness, and several have had bad falls. Electric lights, worked from the Mangrove, are now available, and much good is expected from them.

Nearly all the possible salvage has now been made from the cabin aft. The efforts to reach the ward and mess rooms are frustrated by some unknown obstacle. It is expected to find bodies in these rooms. Two cases of ten inch ammunition have been found, the one having exploded, the other full of powder. These were found forward.

The work of securing the bodies under the hatch has been most difficult in the dark, but it is hoped that the electric light will be of great assistance. The bodies are much mutilated and some are partially buried.

The officers of the court of inquiry paid another visit to the wreck today, Captain Sampson, after the visits of the members of the court to the Captain General and Admiral Montalera this morning, said the reception extended them had been polite and cordial. The captain general and admiral had expressed deep sympathy and the hope that nothing would interfere to prevent a thorough investigation. They offered to give any help in their power. Captain Sampson referred to the visits as "tending to promote a better understanding."

Among the salvage were the tableware and the silver service belonging to the Maine. George W. Koshler, of Brooklyn, died today at the military hospital. All the other injured show some improvement. La Lucha, in an editorial today, comments upon the "unfairness of the United States in making Captain Sigbee the adviser and assistant to the court of inquiry."

The editorial is evidently based on incorrect information from the United States, as naval officers here say it is impossible under the rules constituting naval courts of inquiry, that the captain commanding the ship destroyed should have anything to do with the findings of the court, being in one sense on trial himself. It is made Captain Sigbee's duty to give all the testimony as to the facts in his possession.

TORPEDO BOATS LEAVE CADIZ. Madrid, Feb. 22.—United States Minister Woodford was received in audience by the queen regent today. A squadron of torpedo boats has left Cadiz for Havana harbor. Key West, Feb. 22.—The torpedo boats Ericsson and Cushing have made frequent trips by the New York and Iowa, now off Sand Key with dispatches. Rear Admiral Seward, with several officers of New York and Iowa has spent part of the day on shore. Havana, Feb. 22.—Gunner Charles Morgan, of the cruiser New York, who is in charge of the divers, will devote attention to examining the ammunition in the fore part of the Maine's hull and to ascertaining the condition of the plates, magazines and engines.

week, Captain Sigbee was heard from in a dispatch which indicates that close attention will be given to the coal bunkers by the naval court of inquiry at Havana.

Officials unquestionably have been for some time preparing for any emergency that may arise, but appearances at the department today would indicate that any necessary orders already have been given and that the situation which may call for immediate activity at Washington. The Castine and Cincinnati, in accordance with orders made known some time ago by the Associated Press, are to move much further north to West Indian waters and Norfolk, the latter being ordered to be in readiness and may be sent to New York later. The senate passed a bill to add two artillery regiments to the strength of the army. This measure has been urged for many months by officials of the war department who foresee that while congress of late years had taken measures for the protection of our coasts by appropriations for defensive works and great guns, it has not provided the men necessary to operate these engines of war.

Should the house pass the bill it will enable the department to carry out plans it has long had in view. Critics lately passed upon the state of the army and our fortifications has caused increased activity in military matters, and to some extent this is responsible for reports arriving from various quarters of movements at army posts. A report was circulated that General Miles as commander of the troops at all forts on the alert and ready for immediate service, but this was promptly denied by the general's chief of staff. Nothing whatever of a sensational character occurred in Washington and on the day the day was free of rumors by comparison with its immediate predecessors for the past week or more.

THE WRECKING EXPEDITION. The plans of the wrecking expedition for the relief of the Maine were completed today, after long conferences between Secretary Long and the representatives of the Merritt & Chapman company of New York and the Boston Towboat company. The companies had expected to start work in Havana harbor about a week, but at the last moment Secretary Long insisted that a provision should be made for sending forward at once at least one large wrecking boat with divers and equipments. This was agreed to and a dispatch was sent to the captain of the sea wrecker Right Arm, now at Key West, to suspend his private work and proceed at once to Havana. If the Right Arm has started north, a torpedo boat will be sent after her with orders to proceed to Havana. At the same time a dispatch was sent to the New York office of the company to send two of the most experienced divers by train to Key West, where they will go to Havana and join the wreckers and divers on the Right Arm.

The commander of the Right Arm is ordered to place himself, with his divers and machinery under the orders of Captain Sigbee, who thus will be free to avail himself of their services in the recovery of bodies or any particularly desirable pieces of equipment or property. There are emergency steps which precede the Maine wrecking expedition, which will be outfitted at Boston, New York and Norfolk.

The terms of the contract as concluded and signed today provide for the payment to the wrecking companies of the sum of \$871 per day for their regular plant and an additional payment of \$500 per day for the use of the Monarch while the latter is actually employed. An express provision is made that the government may terminate the contract at any moment. It is also provided that the compensation shall not exceed the sum of \$200,000 appropriated by congress for this purpose. Finally it is provided that if the companies succeed in raising the Maine and towing her to New York, they shall receive a bonus of \$100,000.

In view of the large first cost of the Maine, about \$3,000,000, and the national desire that she shall be raised, Secretary Long believes that he is fully justified in making the above terms with the wreckers. It must be borne in mind, he said today, that this will constitute the largest wrecking expedition ever equipped in this country. Moreover, the wreckers expressed a willingness to go to work in the usual way which they serve underwriters, namely, to do the wrecking work and then take the award of a board of arbitration. This plan, however, was not open to the government, which is compelled by law to fix exact terms in advance.

WORK WILL BE HASTENED. A clause of the contract requires the companies to proceed with all dispatch with the work and though this haste adds to the cost, it is believed to be necessary in view of the possibility of the early appearance of yellow fever at Havana. Captain Humphreys and Mr. Chapman, representing the two companies who will do the work, explained to the Associated Press the plans they will adopt. In addition to the emergency work to be prosecuted, the main expedition will be made up of about 100 men, including six skilled divers; the wrecking derrick, underwriter, of Boston, of six hundred horse power, the wrecking steamer John G. Jones,

of Norfolk, of similar power; the iron barge Lone Star, of Boston, capable to carry 3,000 tons; the floating derrick Monarch, capable of lifting 250 tons, the largest floating derrick in the country; and another derrick capable of lifting thirty tons. The forwarding of the boats, derricks and men will begin at once. Tenders were sent today to begin the outfitting, the taking on of coal and the assembling of men and equipments. The boats are ready to start at any time, but it will take a day or two to get together. The wreckers say it will be impossible to assemble the material and get it into Havana harbor ready for work for a week. The Underwriter has a crew of seven men, including her own staff of divers, who are veterans in this line of work. The Jones has a like crew and equipment. Each wrecking vessel has a large complement of pumps, anchors, iron masts with heavy hoisting gear, etc. Captain Thomas Kivlin, of New York, is mentioned as likely to be placed in charge of the expedition. The wrecking master will be in complete charge, as the government will trust entirely to the experience of the wreckers, although a naval officer will be detailed to inspect the work as it proceeds. The officers of the two wrecking companies said today that after the expedition was assembled a complete inspection of the wreck would be made and the exact line of work determined upon. Most of the lifting will be done by the smaller derrick, but it will take the monster derrick Monarch to lift the huge turrets of the Maine and the guns mounted within them. Captain Humphreys stated that the purpose was not to separate the big guns from the turrets but to lift them as a whole. This will be a tremendous undertaking, as the combined weight of each turret and gun is 166 tons. The Monarch can lift 250 tons. The wreckers were loath to express an opinion as to their ability to raise the hull of the Maine. They are hopeful, however, that the ship can be brought to the surface. The iron barge Lone Star will be used to receive the turrets, guns and wreckage, and as fast as loads are made up such will be towed to the Norfolk navy yard.

REQUEST FOR DRAWINGS. The following telegram was received by the navy department this afternoon from Captain Sigbee: "Send to Forsythe for Sigbee transverse sectional drawing of Maine through forward ten inch magazine and shell room showing pocket coal bunkers." This request was immediately complied with. It is supposed that Captain Sigbee wants the drawings to assist in the wrecking work. They will be useful also for the court of inquiry. The fact that it is deemed essential that the drawings shall show the pocket coal bunkers, is evidence that Captain Sigbee has in mind the spontaneous combustion theory. Some of the employees of the navy department have been making estimates of the amount of money that will be required to meet the demands of the joint resolution which Mr. Boutelle proposes to introduce in the house allowing a year's sea pay to the families of the dead sailors and money for lost clothing and effects not to exceed a year's pay from the survivors. They fix the sum at not to exceed \$150,000. The naval officers assert that the report that the movements of the South Atlantic squadron now under way are with a view to the early assembling of the vessels near Havana is without foundation. THE TERROR WILL SAIL. Norfolk, Va., Feb. 22.—The repairs on the monitor Terror was completed tonight, and it is understood she will sail for New York in the morning. Repairs on the torpedo boats Foote and Winslow also are practically completed and they are ready to leave the dry dock. The Puritan will hardly be ready to leave the yard under ten days. All of her boilers have been repaired but one. It is said that the gunboat Machias will be repaired at this yard, and a requisition for more men has been made. FOR RELIEF OF MAINE VICTIMS. Legislative Provision Agreed Upon Yesterday Afternoon. Washington, Feb. 22.—Legislative provision for the relief of the victims of the Maine disaster occupied the house committee on naval affairs all day, a general measure being agreed on late this afternoon, similar to the relief measure that followed the Samoan disaster in 1889. The resolution will be finally passed on at a special meeting of the committee tomorrow morning and will be immediately reported and its passage expedited. Though based on the precedent of the Samoan bill, approved February 19, 1890, it will ignore the differentiation then made between the injured and uninjured survivors, and its terms are to be general instead of aiding individuals. Any losses sustained by the survivors will be made good to the extent of not exceeding twelve months' pay, and provision is to be made for bringing the remains back to this country at the discretion of the naval authorities. The relief funds are to be paid first to the wife or child of the

WAR CLOUD IN WEST AFRICA

France Protests Her Innocence, but England is Serious. FRENCH HAVE NOT ENTERED SOKOTO

War Rumors Concerning the Possibility of a Conflict—French Battleships Sails for the Far East. Opinions of the European Newspapers on the Subject.

Paris, Feb. 21.—A semi-official note issued this afternoon says it is quite untrue that French forces have entered the Sokoto region, and that the story is merely a revival of an exploded rumor. In an article expressing the views of M. Hanotaux, minister of foreign affairs, the Journal des Debats says that both the French and English governments have instructed their officers and agents in West Africa to abstain from anything that would possibly bring about a collision. The consensus of opinion in Paris is that the possibility of a conflict arising from the Niger dispute is absurd.

The French battleship Vauban, with Admiral de Beaumont on board, sailed from Toulon today for the far East. London, Feb. 22.—Replying to a question in the house of commons today, Mr. Chamberlain, secretary of state for the Colonies, said that he received yesterday a dispatch from Lieutenant Pichey, commanding at Lokoh, stating that she had received information that four French European officers, with 100 men, had arrived at Argungu, on the Sokoto river, in West Africa, and within the sphere of British influence. Mr. Chamberlain added: "I cannot believe that, pending the negotiations, the French government can have authorized this invasion of territory over which our rights have been recognized by the convention between Great Britain and France."

REGARDED VERY SERIOUSLY. The St. James' Gazette this afternoon, commenting on the subject, says: "If the invasion of Sokoto is directed from Paris, it admits but of one interpretation, and the seriousness of the situation is increased when it is remembered that the invasions of British territory must have been planned weeks before the present ferment in Paris over Dreyfus. It would appear that the French cabinet, foreseeing the revelations which should be caused by the trial of M. Zola, had determined to bring affairs in West Africa to a crisis to secure a renewal of its popularity."

The Times says: "We cannot allow them (the French) to strangle our colonies at Lagos and on the Gold Coast as they have strangled them at Gambia and Sierra Leone."

JARUCO'S AWFUL STATE. Terrible Situation Found by Clara Barton—Three Hundred Patients in the Hospital with \$1.80 in Spanish Silver to Feed Them.

Havana, Feb. 22.—Miss Clara Barton reports that she found the reconcentrated at Jaruco, Havana province, in an awful condition of starvation and misery. She says that she could not believe it was possible to witness a human suffering and more appalling spectacles of distress than those she had already seen in Cuba, and yet they did not compare with what she found in Jaruco.

Miss Barton found that the entire contents of the so-called hospital in that place were \$1.80 in Spanish silver. "That is all I have," said the doctor to her, "to feed and treat over 300 patients." Besides, there was not a single pill in the pharmacy of the hospital. The doctor had no surgical instruments to make any operations and no attendants to care for the rooms of the poor sick. In one room Miss Barton found a dead man's body, which had been kept there for three days. She visited the jail of the town and saw similar carelessness and filthiness. Two pounds of rice and two ounces of sausage were the only food in the whole building. An immense crowd followed her to the church, and the poor people knelt and gave thanks to God for sending Miss Barton to them. She was appointed by unanimous vote of the city council "adoptive daughter" of Jaruco. She left a good hospital in the place, and has greatly relieved the general misery.

BIG GUN CARRIAGES. To Be Used on United States Battleships for Thirteen-Inch Cannon.

Cleveland, Feb. 22.—Work on the big government contract is now under rapid headway at the Otis Steel works. Five enormous gun carriages are being constructed there. They are for 13-inch guns to be used on United States battleships. A similar carriage was completed some time ago and shipped east, where it met with the approval of the naval department. General Manager Bartol said today that orders had been received to complete five more carriages. The great Gatling cast steel gun will be returned to the Otis works within a few days from the Cleveland city forge to be reamed out in readiness for the rifling which is to be performed in the east.

STRANGE BOX FOR ALDERMAN. Looked Like an Infernal Machine, but Was Harmless.

Cape May, N. J., Feb. 22.—A suspicious-looking box came by express to Alderman Sandgrain this morning, and for a time created considerable consternation. State Senator Hand, tax-postmaster Richardson and Game Warden Hilton happened in at the time and Hilton displayed nerve enough to examine the thing, while the others remained at a safe distance. The box was found to contain a lot of cunningly arranged springs and wires, but perfectly harmless. Who was the perpetrator of the joke is a mystery.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING. Weather Indications Today: Partly Cloudy; Variable Winds.

- 1 General—Court of Inquiry at Havana. War Preparations. Cuban Autonomists Charged with Treason. Africa's War Cloud. 2 State—Testimony for the Defense in the Martin Trial. Enthusiastic Reception to President McKinley at Philadelphia. 3 Local—Superior Court Opinions. Companies A and C Condemn the Old Armory. 4 Editorial. Comment of the Press. 5 Spain's Rise and Fall. 6 Local—Deadlock in the Board of Control. 7 Local—Celebration of Washington's Birthday. Board of Charities Indignant at the Attacks on the Society's Agent. 8 Local—West Side and Suburban. 9 Lackawanna County News. 10 Whitney's Weekly News Budget. Neighboring County Happenings.

CUBA OCCUPIES THE SENATE

Terrible Condition of the Reconcentrados is Considered—Bill Providing for Two Regiments Passed.

Washington, Feb. 22.—As soon as the reading of the historical farewell address was concluded by Mr. Lodge (Mass.) in the senate today, Mr. Hawley (Conn.), chairman of the military affairs committee, called up the bill providing for the enlistment of two additional regiments of artillery for service in manning the heavy coast defense batteries which congress has provided during the past two years. There was no factional opposition to the measure and it was passed by a vote of 52 to 4. Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, offered and secured the adoption of a resolution instructing the committee on naval affairs to inquire and report to the senate whether a war ship to be named the George Washington, and to be equal to the most powerful in the world could be constructed within twelve months.

Cuba usurped the place of Hawaii in the executive session and was under consideration for an hour or more. This procedure was based upon a document presented by Senator Morgan, of Alabama, as the result of an interview between himself and a Mr. Koop, of Boston. The document consisted of questions by Senator Morgan and replies by Mr. Koop, and dealt with the terrible condition of the reconcentrados.

There was some comment upon the document by Senators Morgan, Gallinger and Mason, but no official action was taken. Senator Mason said he had expected to hear, and Senator Gallinger declared that the picture drawn was a deplorable one. He said that two months ago he had advised that the United States should intervene to deliver a warship to the reconcentrados. It seems probable that the bill to create two additional regiments of artillery will pass the house without much opposition, if it is reported while the house is in its present temper. The military affairs committee has jurisdiction over the bill and Chairman Hull is now absent at his home in Iowa. No opposition is likely to be encountered from the appropriations committee.

Washington's birthday was celebrated in the house after a motion of Mr. Bailey to adjourn had been voted down, with a vast deal of political speechmaking, and it was also signaled by the firing of the first gun in opposition to Hawaiian annexation. An address was made by Representative Mr. Johnson, of Michigan, who delivered a speech that electrified the house and the galleries in denunciation of what he termed as an attempt to cut loose from the traditional policy of the United States and enter upon a scheme of colonization that had proved the ruin of empires and of nations. He used some very strong language, but his remarks were enthusiastically applauded by the minority, and many Republicans joined in the demonstration. He declared that he did not believe the proposed scheme to annex the Sandwich Islands could be carried out. The crucial test of a contest, either in the senate or house, he declared that while he had denounced at the time the statement that the Hawaiian monarchy had been overthrown with the aid of American citizens that he now firmly believed it was true. The speech coming entirely unheralded produced a deep impression. The general debate on the sundry civil bill was concluded today and tomorrow the bill will be taken up for amendment.

BADE EVANGELIST FAREWELL. Scene in Cape May's Railroad Station as Jennie Smith Left.

Cape May, N. J., Feb. 22.—A remarkable scene was presented in the station of the West Jersey and Seashore railroad this afternoon when Jennie Smith, the evangelist who has been conducting successful revival services here, started to leave the city. A large crowd gathered at the station to bid her farewell and an impromptu service was held. Experience of converts were told, addresses made and hymns were sung till the warning whistle of the locomotive gave notice that the train was about to move. Waving of handkerchiefs and other demonstrations of regard were kept up till it was out of sight.

One Thousand Men Ready. Reading, Pa., Feb. 22.—The city executive committee of the American Protective association met today and Deputy State President Taylor sent a telegram to Washington offering the government the services of the entire membership of one thousand in this district in the event of hostilities. Organization of four military companies has been under way here during the past twenty-four hours.

British Ship Asia Wrecked. Boston, Feb. 22.—There is scarcely a doubt that the British ship Asia, commanded by Captain G. M. Dakin, bound from Manila for this port, was wrecked near Nantucket during the gale of the past few days and that her entire crew of twenty men have perished.

THE ASPECT AT MADRID

A Gloomy Tone Pervades Political Circles at Present.

CRISIS MAY BE AT HAND Split in the Cuban Ministry is Threatened.

The Autonomists Are, It is Believed, Secretly Treating with the Separatists—Opinions of the Press—The Ministry in Great Danger.

Madrid, Feb. 22.—A gloomy tone pervades political circles on the reports of a split in the Cuban ministry. The Autonomist Senor Sigberg and Senor Amblard, are, it is believed, secretly treating with the Separatists in the direction of independence for Cuba. Senor Govin, the Cuban secretary of the interior, is accused of treason by the Imparcial which publishes a facsimile of a letter from Senor Govin to a friend in which the former says: "How could you think that Sagasta, a man inferior to Canovas and Liberal only in name, has inspired my attitude and not my ideas and sentiments whether I am a Spaniard. Long live our country and liberty."

The Imparcial adds that it predicted a weak ministry in Cuba and warned Senor Moret, the Spanish colonial minister, of what was likely to be the outcome of his autonomy scheme. "Spain should treat with the rebels direct rather than tolerate the traitor Govin," said El Correo Espanol asks: "How will Senor Moret, the patron of Govin, stand now that Govin is a traitor to his country? Whoever supports a traitor is likewise a traitor." The official press, on the other hand, counsels prudence and confidence in the patriotism of the Cubans.

SHOPLIFTERS BY WHOLESALE. Young Women Had a Carriage Full of Merchandise.

Bridgeton, N. J., Feb. 22.—Two well-dressed, respectable-looking young women were caught in the act of shoplifting in one of the city's stores this afternoon and placed under arrest. They gave the names of Ada and Rosa Hewitt, of Fairton. They had driven to town in a buggy, and after their arrest the buggy was found loaded with goods, packages and trunks. The same young women plied their vocation in Rosenthal's store last Saturday afternoon, but a bright young daughter of the proprietor detected them and suddenly threw open a large cape which one of them wore. She found it stuffed with goods. There were stockings, towels, pins, combs and other articles, while further search showed that the visitors had concealed goods in their stockings. They disengorged without a murmur, and, strangely enough, were allowed to depart. Later in the day they were seen driving from the city with the front of the buggy crowded with goods. They evidently returned to town for another load today, but fell by the way.

SON WITH A POKER SAVED HER. Mrs. Carey's Terrible Experience in a Bury Negro's Hands.

Delmar, Del., Feb. 22.—Mrs. William Carey, wife of a prominent young farmer, was called to the door of her home about 9 o'clock Saturday evening by a negro, who seized her by the waist and threw her down. Mrs. Carey a frail woman, but fought her burly assailant so fiercely that her 7-year-old child was attracted by the noise, and came to her aid with a poker, with which he belabored her assailant about the head until he desisted in his assault. Mrs. Carey, who is a member of the church, has been burly assailant so fiercely that her 7-year-old child was attracted by the noise, and came to her aid with a poker, with which he belabored her assailant about the head until he desisted in his assault. Mrs. Carey, who is a member of the church, has been burly assailant so fiercely that her 7-year-old child was attracted by the noise, and came to her aid with a poker, with which he belabored her assailant about the head until he desisted in his assault.

OBJECTED TO DR. STEARNS. A Jersey Presbyterian Church Dismisses Its Superintendent.

Phillipsburg, N. J., Feb. 22.—James L. Lomerson, superintendent of the First Presbyterian Sunday school, has been requested to resign by the session of the church because he circulated tracts in the Sunday school yesterday which contained the lessons of Rev. Dr. D. M. Stearns, pastor of the Reform Episcopal Church of the Attonment, of Germantown, Philadelphia. These lessons, the session held, are not in thorough accord with the Presbyterian doctrine. Mrs. Lomerson, who is a Sunday school teacher and prominent worker in the church, has also resigned, and the affair has caused trouble in the congregation.

Burned by Gas Explosion. Wilkes-Barre, Feb. 22.—Mrs. Edward Spencer and daughter, Elizabeth, who were buried in a gas explosion in the cellar of their house at Mill Creek last week, died today from their injuries.

The Herald's Weather Forecast. New York, Feb. 22.—In the middle states and New England, today, cloudy, unsettled weather. Light to fresh variable winds will prevail with slight changes of temperature and light rain or snow, the winds mostly southwesterly and westerly in the interior and northeasterly on the coast, followed by partial clearing and colder conditions in the southern parts.