



TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

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WARNS SPAIN TO PREPARE FOR WAR

Significant Language Used by One of the Leading Newspapers of Madrid—Woodford Gives a Banquet—Every Effort Made by Representatives of Both Governments to Hold the War Feeling in Check—No News of Importance Received at Washington—Court of Inquiry Is Practically Though Its Labors at Havana—Telegrams from Captain Sigbee.

Madrid, Feb. 24.—The queen regent presided today at a cabinet council which discussed the relations between Spain and the United States. The United States minister, General Stewart Woodford, gave a banquet today in honor of the new Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Polo y Bernabe. In addition to the latter, the guests included the Austrian, Russian, French, German, Italian, Turkish, Dutch and British ministers or charge d'affaires and their wives, and the Duke of Veragua, the lineal descendant of Columbus, who was the guest of the United States at the time of the Chicago fair, and the premier, Senor Sagasta. Much political importance was attached here to the incident, and the banquet, "coupled with peaceful utterances of President McKinley," according to a semi-official report, have been optimistically utilized by the ministerial press.

truth in the report that he had asked Captain General Blanco to dismiss from Cuba a certain newspaper man for sending sensational stories to the United States. On the contrary, General Lee has never interfered with the American newspaper men in any way. Today the principal streets and buildings are gaily decorated with flags and bunting in honor of the Spanish soldiers, 2,029 infantry men under the command of Jose Amador, who arrived this morning by the steamer Montevideo, from Barcelona. General Solano, the chief of staff, today returned on board the Mangrove the visit of the court inquiry, acting as the representative of the governor general, Admiral Monteroza personally returned the visit paid to him by the court. The Thursday receptions of General Blanco were resumed this evening.

INSURGENTS ACTIVE.

The insurgents have raided the Smith and Fischer plantation on the Canamabo, in the Trinidad district, and killed one and wounded five of the defenders, who numbered only seven. They burned all the buildings but the dwelling of Mr. Smith, according to the Spanish account of the affair, took away or destroyed \$200,000 worth of provisions and merchandise and got \$4,000 in money. United States Consul Walter B. Barker, at Sagua la Grande, is reported ill. It is said that he is threatened with pneumonia.

COURT OF INQUIRY AT WORK.

Expected Soon to Depart from Havana for Key West. Havana, Feb. 24.—The court of inquiry held its usual session today. Captain Sampson reported that Captain Chadwick was examined as to his personal experiences at the time of the disaster to the Maine, and that the testimony was taken of the captain of a British bark in the harbor and the superintendent of the West Indian Oil works, across the bay at Regla, both of whom witnessed the explosion. Mr. Rolf, the British engineer of the floating dock in the harbor, wrote a letter to the court, but, it is said, did not add anything material to what was known. At the afternoon session the divers were examined more fully than before. Their testimony is taken from day to day. The court expects now to finish here tomorrow and to sail for Key West, where the other officers and men will be examined. The wrecking tug Right Arm did not go north, as was expected yesterday. She is now moored beside the poop of the wreck and will save the smaller portions as far as possible in advance of the arrival of other tugs with better facilities for heavy work. The hoisting apparatus must be capable of raising scores of tons in the effective work to be accomplished. Captain Chadwick reports that all the wounded here are doing well except Frederick C. Holzer of New York, who may die at any moment.

DECLINE TO TALK.

Neither the officers of the court of inquiry nor the witnesses will give the slightest indication of the testimony or the conclusions deducible from it, and all say that the men employed on the wreck have been warned to observe an equally strict reticence. This course is regarded as eminently wise by the American and all intelligent Spanish officials, as there is no telling what passions might be aroused or what results might be brought about by talking freely on official matters in the present state of public feeling in Havana. Thus far Americans are treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness, and it seems to be the especial care of the residents of Havana to show friendliness.

assigned to the duty of inspecting the wrecking operations it was not necessary to observe this suggestion.

TELEGRAM FROM SIGSBEE.

The only exact information received by the navy department from Havana during the past few days is in Captain Sigbee's telegram, as follows: Havana, Feb. 24.—Lone, secretary of the navy: Wrecking tug Right Arm arrived. Begins work today. Much encumbering metal must be blasted away in detail. Navy covers down the seven days, forward four days. Bodies of Jenkins and Merritt not found. Two unidentified bodies of crew found. After comparing files with detached, broken and buoyant furniture and fittings, mud and confusion. Spanish officials continue offers of assistance and offers of money and dead. Everything that goes from wreck to the United States should be disinfected. Wrecking company should be provided. Surgeon of Maine, after consulting with others, recommended that all bedding and clothing should be abandoned. Might go to the hospital. Useless fittings and equipments might be towed to sea and thrown overboard. Will take all immediate responsibility, but invite department wishes. Shall old metal of superstructure and like be saved? Friends of dead should understand that work in the tropics. Captain Chadwick, charged with all matters relative to the dead. His conduct is beyond all praise. Don't know what reports are being printed, but the intensely active representatives of the press here have been very considerate of me and my position. (Signed) Sigbee.

SUGGESTIONS APPROVED.

Secretary Long immediately answered Captain Sigbee, approving all his recommendations. He was directed to have Lieutenant Wainwright, the executive officer of the Maine, make arrangements with the wreckers for the disinfection of everything sent to the United States. The information that all bedding and clothing be abandoned, and if need be given to the acclimated poor, was approved without comment. The same approval was given to the suggestion that useless fittings and equipment be towed to sea and thrown overboard. It being left to Captain Sigbee's judgment to determine how far this destruction should be carried on. To the captain's inquiry as to the saving of old metal and parts of the superstructure the answer was given that such material should be sent to the bureau of equipment. It was left to Captain Sigbee to say what of this shattered material was worth preserving. His statement that much blasting will be required to clear away encumbering material indicates that it is not a simple matter. The upper portions of the wreck in order to get at what is more valuable beneath.

WORK OF DIVERS.

Captain Sigbee's statement that the divers have been down at seven days and forward four days, gave the navy department the first information of the time that the divers had been in the vicinity of the "zone of explosion," as he termed it. The divers continued the forward part of the ship, and while the divers have been down at for the last week their work forward in the vicinity of the larger magazines has been in progress only four days, which presumably began on Monday and included today. The statement in Captain Sigbee's dispatch that "friends of the dead should understand we are in the tropics" is understood at the navy department to refer to the urgent pleas of relatives of the dead to be brought to the United States. These appeals continue to be received here, and while they excite the deepest sympathy of officials, no hope can be held out that the dead can be brought back. One of these appeals makes a pitiful plea against the burning of the dead "by alien hands in an alien country."

DISPOSING OF REMAINS.

There are circumstances which, if they could be made known, would excite appeals and would show that the department has not been wanting in a desire to bring the remains to this country. These circumstances have been withheld, mainly through a desire to save friends and relatives from the pain which would be caused by a full disclosure of the effect of the explosion. The press reports have given in part the terrible mutilation of the bodies, but it is feared this has not been fully realized by friends and relatives. The men were sleeping on the berth deck, with metal floors and ceiling, which by the force of the terrific explosion were ground together into a confused mass. Knowing this, there is little hope that many of the bodies still missing will be found, or if found will be in a condition to be brought to the United States.

NAVAL MILITIA.

The navy department today gave out the figures showing the strength of the naval militia in this country. It shows a total force of 4,445 officers and enlisted men, which is a gratifying increase from the 3,763 shown by the last report. The number of officers and men by states is as follows: California 366, Connecticut 165, Florida 178, Georgia 225, Illinois 523, Louisiana 262, Maryland 196, Massachusetts 441, Michigan 384, New Jersey 364, New York 1,142, North Carolina 239, Ohio 236, Pennsylvania 236, Rhode Island 29, South Carolina 152, Virginia 41. Total 4,445.

VALUABLE AUXILIARY.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt says in this connection that Illinois leads the list with forty-three commissioned officers and 423 petty officers and enlisted men. The adjutant general of that state recently made a request that the United States steamer Michigan be assigned for the use of the Illinois brigade for one month during the coming summer. During Mr. Roosevelt's tour of the lakes last summer he was much pleased with the showing made by the Illinois and he has recommended to Secretary Long that the request for the Michigan be granted.

swell the total to much larger figures at an early day. The organized force is under the immediate direction of Lieutenant Gibbons, U. S. N., whose energy has accomplished much in securing state organization, and in the harmonizing of the bodies into one compact force, capable in emergency of co-operating with the regular navy. In his last report, Mr. Roosevelt said that the state naval militia, in the event of a sudden emergency, could be utilized at once for manning the smaller national vessels. He said, as a second line of defence, and also used in placing mines and the establishment of signal stations for coast defence. The appropriation of \$50,000 made by congress to aid the work of the naval militia has been authorized among the states in a few days.

WASHINGTON SAFE.

Thanks to the promptness and efficiency of the chief engineers and the chief ordnance of the army, the city of Washington is now regarded as being well high safe and secure from attack by water. The fortifications at Fort Washington and Sheridan Point, on the opposite side of the Potomac, are sufficiently advanced to be able to repel an ordinary fleet of invaders, and in case of necessity they could be vastly strengthened in a comparatively short time. These defenses are considered sufficient to keep all hostile vessels from the range of gun shot of the national capital. Moreover, the river has been blocked off and prepared for mines and torpedoes at a point below the fortifications already mentioned, so that it is probably a safe cause of the disaster to the Maine, it can be stated on the highest authority that absolutely nothing of a disquieting nature has been received at the White house, nor is important news of any character expected from the court of inquiry has completed its investigation and submitted its report. It can also be stated upon authority not to be questioned that the public has been fully informed as to all matters connected with the disaster to the Maine which have come to the knowledge of the government. Nothing has been withheld of the least public interest, and this policy will be continued until the problem has been solved and the whole truth brought to light. It is known that the government has not received any information from official sources tending to show with any degree of certainty that the explosion was the work of enemies.

QUIET ON THE POTOMAC.

Late reports from Havana have not changed in any degree the views of the officials of the government as to the probable cause of the disaster to the Maine. It can be stated on the highest authority that absolutely nothing of a disquieting nature has been received at the White house, nor is important news of any character expected from the court of inquiry has completed its investigation and submitted its report. It can also be stated upon authority not to be questioned that the public has been fully informed as to all matters connected with the disaster to the Maine which have come to the knowledge of the government. Nothing has been withheld of the least public interest, and this policy will be continued until the problem has been solved and the whole truth brought to light. It is known that the government has not received any information from official sources tending to show with any degree of certainty that the explosion was the work of enemies.

AT SPAIN'S LEGATION.

At the Spanish legation much interest is manifested in the developments attending the Maine inquiry, and the earnest hope is expressed that the active judgment will not be influenced by reports which by the Spanish legation are regarded as trustworthy. Mr. du Bose and his staff of the legation are maintaining a calm attitude and are seeking to allay everything which might excite a reaction when a full disclosure of the effect of the explosion today by Mr. Barrett, of Massachusetts, authorizing the secretary of the navy to place the frigate Constitution, now lying at the Boston navy yard, as far as possible in the same condition as to hull and rigging as when in active service, provided necessary money be raised by the Society of the Daughters of the War of 1812.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

High Tribute Paid to the Workers in This Country. Cleveland, O., Feb. 24.—The second day of the student volunteer convention began with a forenoon session at the Gray's armory. Professor J. Ross Stevenson, of McCormack Theological seminary, Chicago, conducted devotional exercises, and Rev. Dr. Daniels, of the American board of foreign missions, offered prayer. The principal event of the morning session was the reading of the report of the executive committee by the chairman, Mr. John R. Mott. Mr. Douglas M. Thornton, fraternal delegate from the Students' Volunteer union of Great Britain and Ireland, said there were now 1,460 student volunteers in the British Isles and that the greatest activity prevailed in the medical schools. Mr. Thornton acknowledged American aid toward the movement and paid a high tribute to the workers in this country who introduced the movement in Great Britain.

WORK ON WARSHIPS.

A Number of Government Vessels Being Rapidly Completed. Baltimore, Feb. 24.—Work on a number of government vessels is being completed at the Columbian Iron works, where a force of 500 to 600 men is kept busy. The submarine torpedo boat Plunger has been finished and turned over to the engineers of the John P. Holland company for steam trials, and the torpedo boat McKee will be launched in about two weeks. Work is progressing rapidly on the new triple expansion engine for the torpedo boat Rodgers, which is to be the place of the one recently injured by the breaking of her crank shaft.

THE MINNEAPOLIS LAUNCHED.

No Special Activities in Progress at League Island. Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—The United States cruiser Minneapolis was successfully floated out of dry dock at the League Island navy yard at high tide this afternoon. The floating of the cruiser was witnessed by nearly a thousand persons. The Minneapolis has been in dry dock since last December, partly to avoid the ice in the river and also to have necessary repairs made to her bottom. The schooner Saratoga will be placed in dry dock for repairs. Notwithstanding all reports to the contrary, there is no unusual activity at the navy yard beyond the extensive improvements that are being made to the ship.

NEGRO POSTMASTER SHOT AND BURNED

Reward Offered by Government for Detection of Criminals. BABY ALSO WAS ASSASSINATED. Remainder of the Family Maimed. Racial Hatred in South Carolina Culminates in Shocking Mob Violence at Lake City.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The postmaster general has offered a reward of \$300 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who burned the postoffice at Lake City, S. C., on Monday night, and a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who murdered the postmaster at the same place. Details of the crime are as follows: Frazer B. Baker, colored, was the postmaster whom Senor Tillman has for some time been trying to have removed on account of his color, and the agitation against him has been at white heat for several weeks. The postoffice was kept in a wing of Baker's log cabin. The mob, 400 or 500 strong, began to gather Monday night from all sections of the community by arrangement, but its movements were so carefully guarded that the negroes friendly to Baker were kept in total ignorance of the tragedy contemplated. Masked men began to gather around Baker's home about midnight, and shortly afterward the outside of the house was sprinkled with oil and the torch applied. When the flames had enveloped the house so that escape seemed impossible the members of the family were aroused by the shouts and the call to open the doors. They rushed to places of exit shots were poured into them from all sides. By this time the whole community was aroused, and the members of the mob left the scene. Baker's wife, two daughters and son were rescued but fell to the ground from wounds and exhaustion. Baker and his infant child had been instantly killed and their bodies were burned in the house. Baker's wife says a ball which passed through her arm killed the child, which she held while trying to escape.

STORY OF MRS. BAKER.

She says the first noise the mob made aroused her and her husband, and they quickly realized that the house was on fire and that the mob was outside. They aroused their children in another room and she caught up the baby. They rushed to the only two doors in the house, and were met by a volley of shots from the front and rear. Baker was appointed postmaster eight months ago, over the protest of every white man in Lake City. It is charged that he boasted of his political preference over white Republicans of the community, and insisted on his wife and daughter, illiterate as they were, to discharge governmental duties, and that they did so in a manner that offended the residents of the town. In addition to this, it is asserted, the postoffice was moved from the old office to Baker's home, a mile from the business section of the town. Baker was moved here from Florence, S. C., after making an application for the Lake City postoffice. He had actually been a resident of Lake City only one week, it is asserted, when appointed postmaster. In January the section of Baker's home in which he conducted the postoffice was burned and all the mail matter was lost. There was no way of telling how the fire originated, but valuable mail had been expected for several days, it is alleged, and was never received.

MURDER TWICE TRIED.

For five days after the fire Baker made no attempt to deliver the mail but he continued to perform his duties, and that they did so in a manner that offended the residents of the town. In addition to this, it is asserted, the postoffice was moved from the old office to Baker's home, a mile from the business section of the town. Baker was moved here from Florence, S. C., after making an application for the Lake City postoffice. He had actually been a resident of Lake City only one week, it is asserted, when appointed postmaster. In January the section of Baker's home in which he conducted the postoffice was burned and all the mail matter was lost. There was no way of telling how the fire originated, but valuable mail had been expected for several days, it is alleged, and was never received.

IN THE HOUSE.

The house devoted itself strictly to business today and disposed of forty additional pages of the sundry civil appropriation bill. An unsuccessful attempt to increase the appropriation for the suppression of epidemic diseases by \$200,000 led to considerable debate on the advisability of establishing a national quarantine. The fact that the government is preparing for contingencies was recognized in the house today when Chairman Cannon, who has been laboring to keep down appropriations, accepted without a word of protest an amendment to increase the appropriation to care for the United States military and the Springfield arsenal. Mr. Gillette explained that the necessity for using this machinery might occur at any time. Resolutions which were objected to a few weeks ago for the appointment of two ex-naval cadets to positions in the engineer corps of the navy were also adopted. One of them will fill a vacancy caused by the death of Lieutenant Merritt, of the Maine.

SLOWLY STARVING TO DEATH.

An Appeal Issued by New England Cotton Mill Strikers. New Bedford, Mass., Feb. 24.—An important appeal was issued today by the council of cotton mill strikers in this city, and upon the nature of the response, it is said, will depend whether or not the mill hands will return to work under the recent reduction of wages. The appeal is addressed to the "men and women of New England" and asks for financial assistance to maintain the strike. It sets forth that about 400 families, comprising 2,000 men, women and children, are slowly starving to death.

APPOINTED BANK RECEIVER.

Disposition of an Embarrassed Baltimore Banking Institution. Baltimore, Feb. 24.—Judge Sharp today appointed Simon P. Schott, receiver for the Bank of South Baltimore. The assets are estimated at \$120,000, and the liabilities at \$170,000. There is a cash shortage of \$4,700 and an obvious deficit of \$9,700. The larger portion of the deposits, amounting to some \$130,000, are by poor persons.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

- Weather indications today: Fair; West to Northwest Winds. 1 General—Spanish Cabinet Considers Spain's Relations With Uncle Sam. Work of the Maine Inquiry Board. The French Premier Says Peace Must Prevail. Lake City, S. C., Postmaster Shot and Burned. 2 General—Espereate Fight with a Better Prospect. 3 Local—Suit Against the Blue Ridge Coal Company. Changes in the Base Ball Rules. Farmers' Institutes. 4 Editorial. 5 The City Government at the Nation's Capital. Wise and Otherwise. 6 Local—Board of Trade's Efforts for Better Facemasks. A. G. C. Gossip About the City Hall. 7 Local—Ell Whitehouse Shoots His Wife. Work of the Hampton Institute. 8 Local—West Side, South Side and Sunburban. 9 Lackawanna County News. 10 Trial of the Lattimer Shooters. The Markets.

REV. DR. DIXON CALLED TO A BOSTON PULPIT

Asked to Become Pastor of the Warren Avenue Baptist Congregation, One of the Most Influential in the City. Special to the Scranton Tribune. Boston, Feb. 24.—At a largely attended meeting of the members of the Warren Avenue Baptist church this evening it was unanimously voted to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Joseph K. Dixon, of Scranton, Pa., to take the pastorate of the church left vacant January 1 by the resignation of the Rev. Robert MacDonald. Dr. Dixon is spoken of as a man of fine appearance, excellent address, scholarly in his habits while in the pulpit, and with a full appreciation of the requirements of pastoral work. Critics here speak of him as having a convincing way of putting the old truths and as a speaker of remarkable power. At the meeting several letters were read from clergymen and others who have known Dr. Dixon through his ministerial life. The committee hopes he will be able to take up the work the first Sunday in April. The Warren Avenue church is one of the oldest and most influential Baptist churches in Boston.

QUIET DAY IN CONGRESS.

One Fact in the House Proceedings Showed, Though, That Its Tension Was Great—Senator Allen Back Tracks. Washington, Feb. 24.—A feature of the senate's session today was the speech of Mr. Spooner (Wis.) on the right of Henry W. Corbett to a seat in the senate from Oregon under an appointment of the governor. Mr. Spooner made a constitutional argument in favor of seating Mr. Corbett, and had no success. An effort was made to obtain consideration of the Alaska homestead and railway right of way bill, but to a parliamentary technicality it went over. The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Allen to appoint a committee of four senators to investigate the Cuban situation was withdrawn by its author when it was laid before the senate.

WILL FORCE PEACE.

"The present agitation must cease in the interest of the army, in the interest of public tranquility, and in the interest of our external safety, and in the interest even of those who embarked so foolishly and audaciously in this campaign, which might take us back to the age of intolerance." WILL FORCE PEACE. "The government," continued the premier, "intended to impose peace upon all, and will take the measures which the circumstances demand. No one after yesterday's session could raise the discussion in good faith, and if the present laws do not suffice, the government will ask the chamber for another vote which will prove that when patriotism is involved divisions among us disappear." (Prolonged applause.) M. Coulon moved that M. Melles's speech be posted throughout France, and the motion was adopted. M. Cavaignac, the former minister, then reproached the government with not uttering the whole truth at the trial and with insufficiently defending the officers. He also said he wanted a powerful army, but one subordinate to civil power. The debate was then closed, and several motions were presented. The premier accepted a vote of confidence in the government by 415 yeas to 10 nays, and approving of the declarations of the government. The government has dismissed M. Lelouis, one of the witnesses for M. Zola, from the position of deputy mayor of the seventh arrondissement of Paris.

ZOLA APPEALS.

Maitre Laborie, counsel for M. Zola, today lodged a notice of appeal on behalf of M. Zola from the sentence imposed on him yesterday of one year's imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Quebectown, Feb. 23.—Sailed: Teutonic, New York. Arrived: Britannic, New York for Liverpool and preceded. Genoa—Sailed: Kaiser Wilhelm II, New York. Naples—Arrived: Normanna, New York. Bremen—Sailed: Gudmund, New York. Cherbourg—Sailed: Havet (from Bremen and Southampton), New York. Carter to Write a Book. Chicago, Feb. 23.—Mayor Carter H. Harrison announces that he will write a book on the free silver question. It is devoted to the white metal. Pennsylvania Postmaster. Washington, Feb. 23.—R. W. Allison has been appointed postmaster (fourth class) at Stroudsburg, Pa. The Herald's Weather Forecast. New York, Feb. 25.—In the middle states and New England, today fair weather and slowly falling temperature will prevail, preceded by light local snow in New England, with fresh southwesterly and westerly winds.

PEACE MUST NOW PREVAIL

Otherwise The French Premier Threatens to Use Force.

MAILED HAND REVEALED

Asserts that the Army of France is Implicate.

THE PREMIER REPLIES.

M. Melles replied: "Popular democratic justice has given a verdict after a military court and the country will accept it. General Billot (the minister of war) gave no order to the general summoned to testify before the tribunal of the court. The general has been accused on account of his utterances. Undoubtedly he spoke a word too much, but you must remember the frightful charge thrown in his face." "If after yesterday's session," the premier further remarked, "the agitation continues, we shall know that the matter has been made a party question. Enough injury has already been done to the nation. The life of the nation has been arrested. A portion of the foreign press has gathered the ill we have been saying among ourselves. It will always be punishment for those who speak ill of France to receive foreign applause." "The present agitation must cease in the interest of the army, in the interest of public tranquility, and in the interest of our external safety, and in the interest even of those who embarked so foolishly and audaciously in this campaign, which might take us back to the age of intolerance."

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