

The Scranton Tribune

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TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 26, 1898.

In another place in this issue appears a clear and comprehensive review of the Maine disaster...

The New Navy is Safe.

Had the Maine blown up in any other harbor than Havana there would undoubtedly have been an instant and general clamor...

Keep Cool.

It were futile to attempt to deny so palpable a fact as that the war spirit in the United States is rising...

Exasperation at Spain undoubtedly prevails. It is the outgrowth of much provocation and it will demand satisfaction before it shall subside...

Let everybody, then, keep his thought-bunker cool and avoid spontaneous mental combustion. It will be time to explode when all milder methods have failed.

The Wrong End First.

An interesting publication has been issued by a committee of the national conference recently held in New York city to consider the subject of purifying primary elections...

It is evident from the contents of this pamphlet that there is little hope of an early agreement among primary reformers upon a specific plan of action...

On the contrary, a finding that the Maine was sent to her doom by malice or by the negligence of those not connected with her navigation and management would make imperative the taking of measures to replace her and incidentally to carry onward the work of navy building...

If Cuba is to be purchased at this stage of the game, the buyers should insist that all the discounts be allowed.

Come One! Come All!

The assertions quoted below are made by the Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer, a paper reputedly conducted in the political interest of ex-Congressman Leisenring.

A determined effort will be made to defeat Congressman Connell for the delegation in the Lackawanna districts. W. A. Stone's followers are there now. They are setting up the local delegates and raising the A. P. A. and secret society cries.

It was stated some months ago in one of the papers—at present we forget which one—that Mr. Leisenring had received assurances that he could carry Lackawanna county in the delegate elections against Mr. Connell.

Some of the New York banks have recently been tendering gold in payment for checks presented at their counters. The explanation given for this proceeding is the fact that gold has been accumulating so rapidly in the

treasury and the banks during the past eighteen months that it is becoming a burden and the officials are endeavoring to get rid of a portion by placing it in circulation whenever an opportunity is offered.

Various Phases of the Maine Disaster

From Town Topics. A SIDE from its terrible features of death and destruction, the blowing up of the Maine was an incident unique in the naval history of nations. No precedent or parallel case can be recalled.

This naturally suggests the all-important subject of the precautions that could and should have been taken to protect the vessel from harm from without. The recognized precautions to be taken by an anchored vessel against a hostile force moving torpedo boats are outlying picket boats, torpedo nets surrounding the ship and due vigilance on the part of those on board.

Against fixed submarine mines there are only two precautions: dragging or countermining and avoidance of the spots where their presence is suspected. Of course, Captain Sigbee could not have undertaken dragging or countermining, which would have been hostile act not to be tolerated.

All familiar with the Maine, her officers and crew, was admirable at all times. Her people could have been at quarters and her guns commenced firing in less than two minutes from the sounding of the call to general quarters to battle.

There are a variety of agents that might have caused the tragedy. If produced by design, the most likely of these were a submarine mine of great explosive power, which could have caused the explosion directly.

Let us first go upon the assumption that the vessel was blown up by a submarine mine of great power. That such were planned in Havana harbor is not to be denied.

Let us first go upon the assumption that the vessel was blown up by a submarine mine of great power. That such were planned in Havana harbor is not to be denied. The mine could have been exploded by an electric current from shore turned on at will, or else automatically, by the vessel striking the mine.

accident should be the one directly beneath the Maine. A Spanish authority has claimed that a submarine mine exploded the harbor would have been strewn with dead fish, which was not the case.

The explosion of a small mine or a torpedo against the vessel's hull would, of itself alone, not cause damage of the magnitude actually observed. It would merely blow a hole which would have caused the vessel to sink at once, no doubt, but it would not have rent the hull so tremendously as the actual explosion.

The same reasoning that applies to the explosion of a torpedo or small submarine mine may be used in the consideration of an infernal machine, time bomb or something of the sort inside the vessel.

The consequences of the disaster now confront us. If the investigation of the board of naval officers decided that the calamity was due to accidental internal causes, its next step will be to fix the blame, if it cannot be attributed to anyone in the navy, such will be reported and the only consequences will be the adoption of steps to prevent its recurrence.

If the explosion should be traced to the Spanish government, war—force and immediate—is inevitable. If it should be shown that the deed was the act of an individual, or a few individuals, the Spanish government could not be held strictly accountable unless it were proved that it countenanced the act or did not exercise reasonable precautions to prevent it.

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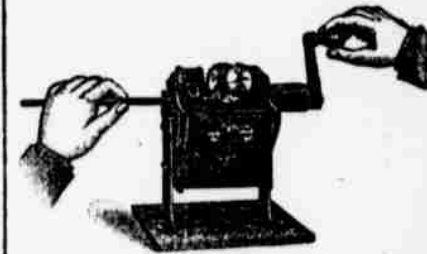
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