

COURT OF INQUIRY RETURNS TO HAVANA

Weeks May Elapse Before the Decision Is Given. Belief Is Firm That the Maine Was Blown Up by Design—The Divers Are Unable to Work with Much Despatch.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 28.—The naval court of inquiry began its sessions here to-day, with Lieutenant Blandin as the first witness. He was before the court about an hour.

The naval officers sat in Judge Locke's private chamber off the main court room. No marines were on guard but all the doors were closed.

The officers of the Maine lounged around the big court room until summoned to give testimony.

Those who were called as witnesses before the luncheon recess at 1 o'clock were Lieutenants Blandin, Hood, Jung and Blow and Cadets Bronson and Boyd. No enlisted men were examined at the morning session.

Lieutenant Commander Marix, who received the list of witnesses, said the inquiry was progressing well.

The United States cruiser Detroit sailed to the Tortugas to-day with provisions for the fleet.

The court reconvened at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Lieutenant Homah, who testified at Havana, was again called. Lieutenant of Marines Catlin gave his evidence quickly and was followed by Boatswain Larkin, Gunner Hill and Carpenter Holmes. The two latter were on shore at the time of the explosion and could tell little of value.

At ten minutes past three court adjourned until to-morrow morning at ten. Judge Advocate Marix said: "The stenographers have all their transcripts in record form and there is no use of our working longer to-day."

In reply to a question as to what would be done with a witness when no longer of service to the court, he said no decision had been reached on that point, but one would be shortly.

Captain Sampson seemed satisfied with the day's work but said nothing could be given out.

After the court room was cleared for the day Captain Sampson had a short interview with Rear Admiral Seward and returned to the Iowa. Captain Chadwick and Lieutenant Commander Potter were taken on board the New York.

Few knew more than was known this morning. An officer of the Maine, however, who had been examined by the court during the day, talked at length with the correspondent of the Associated Press.

"I can't tell you," he said, "what line of questioning was adopted; but the court will find, I believe, that the Maine was blown up by design, though I don't think it will be able to ascertain exactly how. The court's finding will be based on negative rather than positive evidence.

him by the International Fisheries exhibition in London in 1883.

Late today Captain McGee, of the tug Right Arm, received orders from the contractors to hire such lighters as are necessary to remove the debris from the wreck. This will facilitate the work of removing the dead and generally hasten operations.

Senator Proctor, who passed most of the day indoors, writing private letters and reading, says his visit will be too brief to make his observations of any interest in the public and therefore he has nothing to offer for publication.

BATTLE AT PUERTO PRINCEPE. La Lucha published late this evening an official dispatch giving an account of a battle in the province of Puerto Principe, in which the insurgents are said to have lost 181 killed and wounded.

According to the dispatch the battle took place February 15 and 19 in and near the mountains of Hinojosa Hills. The Spanish force, which was under the command of General Jimenez Castellanos, numbered 2,400 infantry and 400 cavalry. The insurgents numbered 3,000.

The insurgents lost 87 dead on the field. Among the killed were Colonel Alvaro Rodriguez, Commandant Angel Rocio and other officers. According to the dispatch the Spaniards lost one officer, Lieutenant Porajo, and seven soldiers killed and three officers and seventy-three soldiers wounded.

The Spanish troops are said to have captured many weapons, a large quantity of ammunition and thirty-four horses.

WORK OF THE DIVERS. It is Necessarily Very Slow—Many Difficulties Encountered. Havana, Feb. 28.—Little work was done today by divers from the tug Right Arm. Captain McGee, who is in charge, seems to lack authority from the wrecking people or others, and is indisposed to work on his own judgment, except in smaller details.

Captain Sigbee was on board the United States lightship tender Pe'n until 2 o'clock this afternoon. He waited for the Spanish divers but they did not appear.

Captain Sigbee thinks Spain has a moral and international right to make an independent examination and he will give the Spanish divers such facilities as are possible.

Captain Sigbee hopes the survey steamer Bache will return to the Tortugas tomorrow or the next day with all the Maine's wounded left here, and he also hopes to send on the Bache hereafter all the remains of the dead recovered in a condition making it possible to place them in coffins.

The difficulty experienced in recovering the bodies is not understood by any but the divers. The latter worked for three hours trying to bring out one body intact and one of the divers had a bad fall and several got their air tubes tangled. Even then they could not extricate the remains.

The principal efforts of the divers are not directed toward clearing the upper wreckage, smoke stacks, decks, gun hatches, bridges, cranes and gratings. They do not before, all the dead can be removed.

Captain Sigbee continues to receive letters in great numbers. All the queries about the men who lost their lives when the Maine was blown up are answered as far as possible if there is anything to be told.

One of the saddest letters received by Captain Sigbee was from the brother of a dead man, who wrote that when death was claiming the victim his friends at home were celebrating his birthday and wishing him many happy returns of the day.

Chaplain Chadwick has been commended by Captain Sigbee as a man, a priest and an officer. He is always cheerful and is doing the most effective work possible.

Senator Proctor and his companion, Colonel Parker, with Consul General Aze paid their respects to Captain General Blanco today. They were cordially received.

The senator has not yet witnessed the distribution of the relief under the auspices of the Red Cross society of the United States, but will do so today or tomorrow. Miss Barton's latest additions to her staff are men who have been in the Red Cross society's services for years and who have been in Armenia and elsewhere.

FOR THE NAVAL MILITIA. Allotment of the Sum Appropriated by the Government. Washington, Feb. 28.—The navy department has just completed the allotment among the states of the appropriation of \$50,000 made for the equipment of the naval militia organizations. The allotments are smaller this year than heretofore, owing to the fact that while the appropriation remains stationary the organizations are increasing in numbers, hence the effort now being made to secure from congress an increase of the appropriation to \$60,000. The allotments are as follows:

tion in power means much at the present juncture, for it was on the advent of the Sagasta regime that General Weyler was recalled, the reconcentration of the Spaniards and the adoption of a plan of autonomy put in force. The policy now being pursued by General Blanco in Cuba is an entire reversal of that under the Conservative regime of Canovas and his successor, and it is for this reason that the Sagasta ministry is no less at stake than the ministry itself in the outcome of the present elections.

Senor du Bose, the Spanish charge d'affaires, has not received official notification of the dissolution of the cortes, but he says this was expected, as the work of the present cortes was concluded. Under the laws of Spain, forty days must elapse before the election of the new cortes occurs. Mr. du Bose, States himself a Liberal, and a warm supporter of the Sagasta ministry, says there is no doubt the result will be the return of a Liberal majority in the cortes and the consequent continuance of the present ministry. All parties of state have given loyal aid to the Liberal ministry and its policy toward Cuba and the present time is regarded by Mr. du Bose as auspicious for a calm campaign, which he asserts will continue the present authorities in power.

He says there is no significance in the dissolution at this time. In other quarters it is felt that the Conservatives may take this opportunity to regain the reins of government by making a campaign against the Cuban policy of the Sagasta regime. Weyler's election another notable fact of Spanish affairs, and it is expected that the Weylerites either will cast their influence with the Conservatives, who sent General Weyler to Havana, or else make their appearance as a distinct group, representative of the army and navy and the martial spirit in general.

WAR CLOUDS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. Affairs at Costa Rica and Nicaragua Claim Attention. AROUSE SERIOUS APPREHENSION. They Threaten to Draw All the Central American Republics into an Armed Conflict—The Trouble Between Chile and the Argentine Republic.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The condition of affairs between Nicaragua and Costa Rica is beginning to arouse serious apprehension in official circles, as it is said to threaten to involve not only these two countries in war, but also to draw all of the Central American republics into an armed conflict. The diet of the Greater republic including Nicaragua, Honduras and Salvador has submitted a demand on Costa Rica for an explanation of the entrance of an armed force of five hundred men from Costa Rica into Nicaragua. No reply has been given so far as is known by officials here. Nicaragua asserts that the 500 armed men entering from Costa Rica were not an unauthorized force, but were acting with the knowledge of the president of Costa Rica. If Costa Rica gives no explanation in response to the demand of the diet, it is feared serious trouble will follow. The real controversy between Nicaragua and Costa Rica is over the territory adjacent to the interoceanic canal. A recent incident has intensified the feeling of the Costa Ricans over the boundary matter. This was the arrest of Mr. Bache, the Costa Rican consul general to Nicaragua, on the charge of selling a rebel. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment but subsequently escaped. It is not generally known that Secretary Sherman intervened in this affair and requested President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, in the interest of peace to release Bache. President Zelaya promptly assented and in a decree announced that Bache would be liberated in accordance with Mr. Sherman's request if the tribunal convicted him of a revolutionary movement.

THE LONDON STANDARD ADMIRES HIS STATESMANLIKE MODERATION. The London Standard admires his Statesmanlike Moderation. London, March 1.—The Daily News commenting editorially this morning on the relations between the United States and Spain says: "Spain can expect no support, moral or otherwise, of England against the United States. She has ruined Cuba, as she has ruined or lost every colony, by the grossest corruption, cruelty and maladministration, and she must be left to settle the account for it with those whom it may concern without any sympathy on our part."

CHILE AND ARGENTINE REPUBLICS. Washington, Feb. 28.—In diplomatic circles it is said that the reports that war is imminent between Chile and the Argentine republic are not well founded and that, on the contrary, arbitration by the British government has been agreed upon as a means of settlement of differences. The boundary delimitation has been a source of serious difference for some years, and this has caused much agitation and talk of war. Some time ago, however, the countries agreed to submit the entire boundary question to the decision of Great Britain.

THE CARNEGIE COMPANY PURCHASES THE CARRIE MILLS. Pittsburgh, Feb. 28.—The Post tomorrow will announce the sale of the Carnegie mills to the Carnegie Steel company, limited, by the Messrs. Fowkes. The sale was a cash one and while no figures are given the plant was valued at \$600,000.

SEVEN YEARS FOR BREDER. Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—Judge Butler today in the United States district court sentenced Cyrus E. Breder, former cashier of the Citizens' Bank, to seven years' imprisonment. While sentence was being imposed Breder almost collapsed and was taken to a room in tears. He pleaded for a reprieve on Monday to enable him to see his wife and children. He disappeared from Bethlehem, Pa., on his way to jail and was arrested in St. Clair, Mich.

JEFFRIES A QUICK WINNER. Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 28.—The Goddard-Jeffries fight ended in the third round tonight when Goddard's second throw up the sponge. The referee let the fight go until the fourth round when he declared in favor of Jeffries. Goddard was badly punished.

ZOLA COMMENDED. Chicago, Feb. 28.—The Chicago Press club today passed resolution upholding Emile Zola in his defense of Dreyfus, and declaring for the free expression of thought, and open trials for all accused men.

CIGARMAKERS FAIL. Reading, Feb. 28.—Executions aggregating \$1,500 were issued against Glasser, Frane & Co., cigar manufacturers, this afternoon, and the place was closed by the sheriff. The cause of the failure was depression in the cigar trade.

CHIEF JOHNSON SUSPENDED. Camden, N. J., Feb. 28.—Samuel V. Johnson, chief of police of Stockton, was today suspended by the town council of that place pending the result of his trial for connection with an attempt to bribe the Shaw murder jury.

CLERK GEARHART'S SUCCESSOR. Harrisburg, Feb. 28.—Secretary of the Commonwealth Martin announced the appointment of George D. Thorne, of this county, to be chief clerk in the state department to succeed the late Wilson A. Gearhart.

SHOT A SPORTING MAN. New York, Feb. 28.—Emil T. Gulzman, a Jewish salesman, shot and instantly killed Nicholas Pontus, a sporting man, on the street today. Gulzman said there were family reasons for the deed, but he would not say what they were.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS. New York, Feb. 28.—Cleared: Trava, Bremen via Southampton. Liverpool-Sailed: Etruria, New York. Gibraltar-Sailed: Kaiser Wilhelm II, Genoa and Naples for New York.

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

1 General-Maine Court of Inquiry Returns to Havana. War Clouds Rise in South America. Doings of a Day in Congress.

2 Local—New Line of Study for Scranton Schools. Local—Arguments for a New Judicial District. Annual Statement of the County Commissioners.

3 Editorial. Comment of the Press. Local—Joint Estimates Committee Cutting Down the Appropriations. Democratic Disruption on the Board of Control.

4 Local—West Side and Suburban. 7 Lackawanna County News. 8 Progress of the Lattimer Trial. The Markets.

MR. SINGERLY'S FUNERAL. It Will Take Place on Wednesday. The Clergymen and Pall-Bearers. Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—The sudden death yesterday of William M. Singerly has brought to the family of the deceased many telegrams and letters expressive of condolence and sorrow from men prominent in political and business life in all parts of the country. Many of them announce their intention to be present at the funeral of the deceased, which will be held at the residence of the deceased on Wednesday afternoon next. Services will be held at the residence and will be in charge of Rev. Francis T. Robbins, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Greenfield, Mass., and Rev. John H. Converse, rector of the Protestant Episcopal church at Gwynedd, Pa. Both clergymen were intimate friends of Mr. Singerly for many years. Interment will be at Laurel Hill cemetery.

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BILLS PASSED IN CONGRESS. Sudden Change of Sentiment Regarding Paris Exposition. HOUSE PRAISES ITSELF. Henry W. Corbett Is Turned Down by Senate.

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CAPTAIN RANDLE DECORATED. New York, Feb. 28.—The agent of the Holland-American line received a cablegram today stating that the queen of Holland has decorated Captain W. G. Randle, of the American liner St. Louis, with the order of Orange-Nassau, for rescuing the crew and passengers of the steamer Freedom, which was wrecked on the coast of Newfoundland, in the month of August, 1897.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS. Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—Among the orders and judgments filed today by the Supreme court was the following: Per curiam—Commonwealth vs. Mitchell, quarter sessions. Somerset county: petition for allowance of an appeal from the Superior court to the Supreme court. Upon due consideration followed in petition, allowance refused.

CAPITOL COMMISSION INJUNCTION. Harrisburg, Feb. 28.—Attorney General McCormick and Deputy Attorney General Reeder will tomorrow present the argument to the Supreme court in Philadelphia in behalf of an injunction restraining the new capitol commission from awarding a contract to erect the new building. Counsel for the commission will contest the issuing of the injunction.

THE VOTE AGAINST HIM WAS 50 TO 19. Mr. Shattuck and Mr. Green Indulge in Debate Regarding the Interest of Railroad Officials in Matters of Concern to the Country—Mr. Fox Explains Bryan's Defeat. Washington, Feb. 28.—The house passed the sundry civil appropriation bill today after four days' debate. The most important action today was the elimination of appropriation for our representation at the Paris exposition, on a point of order. The sudden change of sentiment in the house which is often witnessed when members go on record, was illustrated today. On Friday last the house, in committee of the whole, where there is no record of the vote, knocked out a provision in the bill for an appropriation to pay those who furnish the government with information leading to the conviction of the violators of the internal revenue laws and today, in committee of the whole, the provision was voted for by a majority of 50 to 19. Several minor bills were passed after the sundry civil bill was disposed of.

During the debate on the sundry civil bill, Mr. Shattuck (Rep., O.), who was for thirty years connected with the management of railroads, took occasion to answer an attack made upon the railroads some time ago. He had never known a railroad manager, he said, who was a calamity hawker.

"Why should railroad men be called 'calamity hawkers'?" asked Mr. Green (Rep., Neb.) "when they plunder the whole country?" "That statement is absolutely false," returned Mr. Shattuck, "and the gentleman who makes it knows it is false."

INDIANS WERE INNOCENT. Victims of an Oklahoma Lynching Could Have Proved an Alibi. Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 28.—Ever since the burning of the two Indians by the mob in the case of the late lynching of Mrs. Laird at Maud, I. T., it has been asserted that Lincoln McCaskey, the younger of the two, was innocent. The evidence brought out at the hearings has served to corroborate this assertion.

AT BROOKLYN NAVY YARD. New York, Feb. 28.—It was said at the Brooklyn navy yard today that the rapid fire guns received yesterday had been examined and found to be in excellent condition and to be attached to their arrival at this time. Work is being rapidly pushed forward on the cruisers Chicago and Annapolis and also on the dry dock. More activity was observed at the navy yard today than has been seen for a week past and the consequent excitement was commensurate with the activity. A large crowd gathered at the gates and speculated as to the prospects of war.

HURDERED AND HOBBERED. Cincinnati, O., Feb. 28.—John Abernethy, aged 55, was murdered in his room on Ann street, Newport, Ky., early today and robbed of a purse of \$50. The noise of an altercation aroused Fred Ducter, who occupied adjoining rooms. He heard a pistol shot. Rushing to Abernethy's room he saw James Katic