

THE MAINE INQUIRY

Chief Interest Centered in Statements of Secretary Long.

REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY

The Secretary's Remarks Were Misunderstood.

Explanations Are Given Concerning the Reason for Attaching the Maine to a Buoy in Havana Harbor--The Cabinet Still in the Dark as to the Evidence Given Before the Board of Inquiry--Difficulties Encountered Securing Bodies That Have Been Buried on Spanish Soil.

Washington, March 1.--The chief interest today in connection with the Maine inquiry centered in a statement by Secretary Long following the cabinet meeting, that in his personal opinion any official participation by the Spanish government in the blowing up of the Maine was now practically eliminated from the situation. This statement was not a formal or official character, and was made by Mr. Long as he walked away from the White House. As usual the various cabinet members were besieged with inquiries as to the questions before the meeting, and in response to these importunities the secretary summed up the situation in a few words, stating that most of the time had been given to the outrages on colored postmasters in the south. Naturally the Cuban situation had been gone over, he said, but there were no actual developments and he felt that public excitement over the subject had materially abated. Then he added the statement in the same passing way, that any participation by the Spanish government in the blowing up of the Maine was practically eliminated in his judgment. This last remark was speedily given wide circulation. It immediately started much comment and discussion, and when Mr. Long returned to the navy department after lunch he found that what he had intended to convey was given the force of an official declaration that Spain's responsibility for the disaster had been eliminated. In order to make clear his meaning as a personal expression of opinion Mr. Long dictated the following statement:

"The main things we talked about in the cabinet were the outrages on the postmasters, one white man in Georgia and one colored man in South Carolina. "In regard to the Cuban situation I said I thought things were growing quieter every day and as far as my judgment went I was inclined to think that an official participation on the part of the Spanish government in the disaster was now practically eliminated."

REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY.

It was pointed out by persons bearing close relations to the secretary that the language used was "official participation" on the part of the Spanish government. This it was said had no bearing on the question of Spain's responsibility. The "official participation" of Spain was one thing; while the responsibility of Spain in case the disaster proved to be of external origin was quite another thing. The secretary's statement was restricted, it was explained, to expounding Spain from direct official knowledge, and participation in the affair. In case it was shown that the act was due to some fanatic or person connected with the government, the question of Spain's responsibility would be still open. Mr. Long was surprised that so much attention had been given to his passing allusion. Aside from this incident the day brought forth few developments of importance relating to the Maine. No dispatches from the steamer came from Key West, where the court of inquiry is sitting, were given out during the day, and as the rule of publicity is still in force, presumably nothing came from that quarter. The vessel movements mentioned during the day were devoid of significance. Orders went out from the navy department late this afternoon to put the ironclads Miantonomoh and Katahdin into commission on the 19th instant. They are now at the League Island navy yard, where they have been laid up for a day or two past. The Miantonomoh is a formidable double-turreted monitor, carrying four ten-inch guns. In addition to her main battery she carries a good secondary battery of rapid fire guns and her turrets are clad with 11 1/2-inch armor. Her commander has not yet been definitely selected, but the remainder of her officers will be as follows: Lieutenant Commander Wilson, executive officer; Lieutenants Underwood, navigator; Lieutenants

DOINGS OF THE DAY IN CONGRESS

Resolutions to Honor the Memory of the Dead of the Maine's Crew.

LOUD BILL, DISCUSSED IN HOUSE

Committee on Naval Affairs Agree Upon Items of \$1,000,000 for the Purchase of Smokeless Powder and Smaller Sums for Arms and Equipments.

Washington, March 1.--In the senate today a motion by Mr. Hoar (Mass.) to non-concur in the house amendments to the Hepburn bill drew a speech from Mr. Stewart (Nev.) in which he vigorously denounced the measure passed by the house. He declared it was an atrocious measure, diabolical in intent and could only result in grinding the poor debtor into more deeply into the financial mire. The Alaska homestead and railway right of way bill was under discussion during the greater part of the session, Mr. Rawlins (Utah) concluding his speech here yesterday in opposition to the bill. The resolution of Mr. Bacon (Ga.) providing for a bronze tablet to be erected in the capitol in memory of the officers and sailors who lost their lives in the Maine disaster was passed.

IN THE HOUSE.

The house today entered upon the consideration of the Loud bill relative to second class matter. The bill is identical with the bill passed at the last congress but Mr. Stewart (Nev.) gave notice of an amendment permitting the transmission at pound rates of sample copies up to ten per cent. of the bona fide circulation of the newspaper periodicals. This amendment removes much opposition to the bill. Mr. Loud made an exhaustive speech in its favor, claiming that the government practically paid a subsidy of \$46,000,000 to proprietors of publications which now got access to the mails at a nominal rate. The cost of transporting mails and its handling averaged eight cents per pound. Mr. Moon (Dem. Tenn.) spoke in opposition to the bill and Mr. Perkins (Rep. Iowa) in favor of it. The debate will continue until Thursday when the vote will be taken at four o'clock.

FOR ARMY EQUIPMENT.

The house committee on naval affairs this afternoon agreed on items of \$1,000,000 for the purchase of smokeless powder; \$2,000 for the erection of buildings on government ground for the manufacture of smokeless powder with the necessary machinery and equipment and \$300,000 for outfitting the Naval Militia. The latter item is an increase of \$100,000 over the estimates of Secretary Long and provides for the arms, accoutrements, signal outfit boats and their equipments and the printing of the necessary books and pamphlets for the Militia of the several states under navy department regulations. The item for the purchase of smokeless powder is identical with the estimate. Several other items of less importance also were passed upon.

CABINET MEETING.

Government Still Without Definite News of the Maine Inquiry.

Washington, March 1.--The meeting of the cabinet today at which all of the members were present disclosed the fact that the government is still without news regarding the cause of the disaster to the Maine. Up to this time the court of inquiry has not indicated in any way the trend of investigation. The president and the members of the cabinet are as completely in the dark as to what the evidence so far disclosed shows as they were on the day after the explosion. The truth of this statement is vouched for on authority not to be questioned. It is explained that under the peculiar circumstances of the case Captain Sigsbee was ordered to bring all his theories or knowledge of the facts to any one except the court conducting the inquiry. Consul General Lee would be guided by the same considerations. In any event neither of these officers has communicated with the government regarding the vital question at issue. The court itself has been equally uncommunicative and nothing is expected from this source until the inquiry is completed and the findings sent to the secretary of the navy. Nor has any intimation been received as to the probable time when the inquiry will consummate. At today's meeting the cabinet discussed a number of theories which have been advanced as to the cause of the explosion but nothing approaching a definite conclusion was reached. Consul General Lee has made a further explanation of the difficulties in the way of relatives who seek to secure the removal to the United States of remains of such victims of the explosion as have already been interred. Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, requested the state department to obtain permission for the exhumation and removal of the bodies of young Keyes and the request being submitted to General Lee with the following response: "Most bodies buried some weeks ago unrecognizable. Against Spanish law to exhume until expiration of five years. Neither steamers nor authorities permit shipment of bodies unless at once embalmed and in metallic cases. Cost of embalming and encasing from \$600 to \$800 each."

SAGASTA LOOKS FOR NEWS.

Spain Decides to Reduce Import Duties on Grain.

VISAYAS AT HAVANA.

The Spanish Cruiser Warmly Welcomed--Proctor Calls Her Blame.

Philadelphia, March 1.--Meetings of sub-committees on organization, legislation and finance of the American Maize Propaganda, a national organization to promote the larger use of Indian corn in the United States and foreign countries, were held in this city today. The organization and mature plans for further action among those present were Colonel Clark E. Carr, president; B. W. Snow, secretary, both of Illinois; Andrew Langdon, of Buffalo; Herbert Merrick, editor of the American Agriculturalist, New York, and W. W. Gibbs, of Pennsylvania.

OLEO FIENDS IN TROUBLE

Wilkins and Butler Convicted of Violating Laws Regulating the Sale of Boarding House Butter.

WOMAN BRUTALLY MURDERED.

Miss Annie L. Edwards' Head Is Bitten to a Shapeless Mass.

TRIAL OF GENTNER.

The Bogus Citizen-Maker Is Before United States District Court.

CARPET COMBINE.

The Manufacturers of Ingrain Have Organized.

Gen. Gobbie at Atlanta.

Will Inspect Indian School.

AMERICAN MAIZE PROPAGANDA

Organization to Promote the Use of Indian Corn.

THE PUBLIC WILL BE EDUCATED

In Order That the People May Be Brought to a Realization of the Virtues of Indian Corn the Propaganda Will Conduct Immense Corn Cooking Schools at Various Expositions.

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WOMAN BRUTALLY MURDERED.

Miss Annie L. Edwards' Head Is Bitten to a Shapeless Mass.

Doylstown, Pa., March 1.--Miss Annie L. Edwards, of Jamison, this county, was brutally murdered last night in a bedroom. Her body was found in a bed room. The head had been beaten almost to a shapeless mass while about the room there was every evidence of a struggle. There is no clue to the murderer, but the evidence as to the exact time of the crime. The motive is believed to have been robbery. Miss Edwards lived alone in the house and was last seen alive on Friday night. From the appearance of the room it is thought the weapons used were a chair and a water pitcher. Both of these were found covered with blood and matted hair. The news of the murder has created considerable excitement in the community, as it is the first homicide reported in this county since the death of a man by the name of Weaver from \$300 to \$500.

TRIAL OF GENTNER.

The Bogus Citizen-Maker Is Before United States District Court.

Philadelphia, March 1.--The trial of Charles R. Gentner, ex-member of the state legislature and well-known Democrat politician, on charges of conspiracy with Richard W. Merrick and Eugene J. Lindsay to issue fraudulent naturalization certificates and aiding and abetting Richard W. Merrick in issuing the same, was commenced this afternoon before Judge Butler in the district court. The contention of the United States is that Gentner was furnished naturalization certificates for a number of aliens to city hall where Lindsay made out first papers in naturalization for them. That a week or ten days afterwards the aliens went to Gentner's saloon and upon payment of a balance Gentner was furnished naturalization certificates. The amount paid for naturalization by aliens in some case it is said run as high as \$25. Some of these people who were naturalized said that they were never in the postoffice building and therefore never appeared in the United States court to be properly naturalized.

Engineer Rutherford Dead.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 1.--William H. Rutherford, chief engineer of the United States navy, died here today. He entered the navy in 1849 and served during the Civil war and until 1874 when he was retired for disability incurred during the war. He was born in Philadelphia in 1828.

Noted Preacher Dead.

Reading, Pa., March 1.--Rev. Dr. Z. Weiser, aged 99 years, pastor of the Goshenhoppen Reformed church at East Goshenville for 30 years, and one of the leading preachers of his denomination, died this afternoon. He was well known as an author.

Coal Company's Receiver.

New York, March 1.--Samuel S. Slater was appointed receiver for the Natalie Anthracite Coal company today by Justice Price in the supreme court. A judgment was obtained against the company by George W. Mark on Jan. 29 for \$4,641.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

- Weather Indications Today: Fair; Variable Winds. 1 General--Topics of the Maine Inquiry, Sheriff Martin Testifies, American Maize Propaganda, Work of National Legislators. 2 General--Sheriff Martin on the Stand in the Latimer Trial (Continued). 3 Local--Ministers Meet in Wyoming Church. 4 Editorial. 5 Comments of the Press. 6 Local--Four Board Candidates to Take Action Looking to the Quating of the Present Board. 7 Local--Receiver for Grocery Firm of Gilmore & Duff. Wyoming Seminary Dedicates a New Gymnasium. 8 Local--Methods of Adjusting City A Real Law Suit. 9 Local--West Side and Suburban. 10 Lackawanna County News. 11 Whitney's Weekly News Budget. The Markets.

REPRESENTATIVE FORD'S OFFER

Is Willing to Serve Without Compensation at an Extra Session of the State Legislature.

Pittsburg, March 1.--The Pittsburg Dispatch will tomorrow publish a special telegram from Harrisburg, which says Representative Thomas J. Ford, a leader of the last house, has sent a letter to Governor Hastings which will verify the idea that the capitol mud-brawl is in such a shape that an extra session of the general assembly to straighten out matters would be desirable. Realizing that the cost of such a session would be a principal objection to it, he expresses the belief that the legislature would agree to serve for a few days without salary and makes an offer to that effect, setting the example. A constitutional amendment for an extraordinary session of legislature says that Harrisburg estimated that an extra legislative session would cost the state \$200,000, and such an expense could of course be justified only by a very extraordinary circumstance indeed. But if a session could be arranged for at a cost much less than the figure named would not the extraordinary and complicated situation in regard to the construction of the state capitol justify such a session. It was provided by an act approved April 14, 1887, that a commission be appointed to erect a new capitol building and said that commission should consist of the governor, auditor general and a state treasurer together with the president pro tem of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The commission was committed to the expenditure of \$500,000 for the erection of a building which was to be ready for occupancy not later than Nov. 15, 1888. Without calling to your attention details with which you are more familiar than myself I think it is entirely safe to say that it is now the general opinion that the purpose of the capitol building act will not be realized unless a new capitol building is erected. If the situation in your opinion justifies action, I believe the problem of expense is one that would be solved in a patriotic spirit by the members themselves. Meeting with but one object in view, and that already thoroughly discussed throughout the state, an extra session called for the purpose of arranging for capitol construction should not be a lengthy one. Speaking personally, I am ready to agree to serve time as may be needed without compensation. There are 254 members of the general assembly. Full salary for each one for an extra session would be \$185,000, exclusive of mileage, and there would be other expenses making a large sum. If each one will serve for actual expenses, a session might be held for less than \$50,000. I would therefore respectfully suggest to you the advisability of an extra session if it appears that the state capitol cannot be completed within the time limited by the act aforesaid and from an inquiry majority of each house is in favor of repeal of the Act of April 14, 1887, and if they will serve the necessary time for actual expenses incurred. Very respectfully yours, Thomas J. Ford.

SQUADRON AT HONG KONG.

U. S. Warships in Position to Attack the Philippines.

London, March 1.--A special dispatch from Shanghai says: "The United States squadron is concentrated at Hong Kong with a view of active operations against Manila, Philippine Islands, in the event of an outbreak of war between the United States and Spain. The United States squadron, which is powerful, includes the cruisers Olympia, Boston, Raleigh, Concord and Petrel." Steamship Arrivals. New York, March 1.--Cleared: La Bretagne, Havre; Germania, Liverpool; Nordland, Antwerp; Paris, Southampton; Sailed: Trave, Bremen via Southampton. Liverpool--Sailed: Nornadid, New York; Antwerp--Arrived: Westernland, New York; Bronhead--Passed: Majestic, New York for Liverpool.

Harry Meredith Dead.

New York, March 1.--Harry Meredith, the actor who has played in all the principal cities of the United States, died here today, aged 68 years, of paralysis.

The Herald's Weather Forecast.

New York, March 2.--In the Middle States and New England today fair to partly cloudy weather will prevail, with slightly lower temperature and fresh northerly to easterly winds, followed in some sections by snow or rain in the afternoon. The wind on the coast is increasing decidedly in force tonight. On Thursday in both of these sections partly cloudy to cloudy weather and lower temperature will prevail, with snow in the northern and brisk easterly to northerly winds high on the coast, followed by clearing in the western part of the day.

MARTIN TELLS HIS STORY

The Sheriff of Luzerne County on the Witness Stand.

TELLS OF THE TRAGEDY

An Interesting Story of the Events at Latimer.

Detailed Account of the Gathering of the Deputies and Efforts on Part of the Sheriff to Keep the Peace--He Gave the Deputies Express Orders Not to Shoot Unless Their Lives Were in Danger--When the Officer Was on His Knees, Being Roughly Handled by the Mob, the Shooting Began.

Wilkes-Barre, March 1.--Lewis Melrose, a blacksmith at the Harwood breaker, was the first witness in the Martin trial today. He testified that there was no work at the blacksmith shop from Sept. 3, when the Harwood men were driven out, until Sept. 10, the day of the shooting. Thomas Harris, paymaster for the Calvin Pardee company at Latimer, said that he was sworn in as a deputy and armed with a Winchester rifle loaded with fifteen ball cartridges. On Sept. 7 he, together with William Kulp, was guarding the railroad approach to the breaker at Latimer. When the strikers approached Kulp fired his gun in the air and the strikers broke and ran, at the same time a striker fired a revolver and shot at the witness. "You've got us today, but we'll come back tomorrow several thousand strong." Continuing, the witness said: "Some nine or ten of us followed the fleeing strikers," and he added on cross-examination, "shooting and yelling and making more noise than did the strikers." "We chased them back to the road," said the witness, "and they then went home." The witness did not see the shooting on September 19, being stationed some distance away from the general line of deputies. He ran up as soon as he heard the shooting. The cross-examination was quite lengthy and brought out the fact that Mr. Harris had extra copies of his rifle at Latimer. He could not tell, however, how many rifles had been furnished by that company or where they were obtained. Asked if the Pardee men were paid anything extra for their work on that day, he said: "Not that I know of." George Thompson, superintendent of the Lehigh Traction company, told how he had run a special car to West Hazleton for the deputies and took them from there to Latimer. At West Hazleton he said the strikers seemed determined and violent. He also said that he understood that deputies Hess and Price acted as captains under Sheriff Martin.

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