

SUSPENSE IN THE NAVY

Anxiety Over the Coming Report of Court of Inquiry.

GUARDING THE DOCUMENT

May Postpone Publication for Several Days.

The Navy Policy is Receiving Some Criticism--It is Thought That the West Fleet Will Soon Be Distributed Along the Coast to Protect Valuable Ports--Large Contract for Projectiles Has Been Placed--Recruiting is Going on at a Lively Rate.

Washington, March 18.--An air of suspense was noticeable in the navy department today, due to the approach of the time for the delivery of the report of the court of inquiry. It is not known just when the document will come to Washington and, of course, in view of the reports of the determination of outside parties to obtain possession of it before the department receives the report, the officials, if they know, will not say how the papers are to be brought to Washington. All that is known definitely is that the president has suggested that the report be made as soon as possible and in consequence it is expected to reach this city in the course of two or three days. The cabinet today talked over the matter and the time stated was the general opinion of the members when they heard all that Secretary Long had to report on the subject. There is an impression that Lieutenant Commander Marx will bring the document, though it is within Admiral Ricard's power to choose any other officer. A cabinet officer expressed the belief that the report will require careful consideration on the part of the president and his cabinet before given to the public, which seems to postpone publication to some time about the middle of next week, although nothing is certain on that point.

The new navy policy embodied in the creation of another squadron to renege at Hampton Roads was also discussed at the cabinet meeting at length today and received unanimous approval. In fact some surprise was expressed at the delay on the part of the navy department in taking some steps to ensure the protection of the new vessels along the coast of the North Atlantic, the gathering of a useless surplus fleet at Key West being regarded in the nature of putting all of our eggs in one basket.

THE NEW SHIPS.

The San Francisco reported her arrival from Lisbon at Gravesend today. Under his orders the commander will divide his crew with the Amazonas and sail at the earliest possible moment for the United States coast. Beyond the Amazonas, her sister ship Abreuil, and the Mayflower, no purchases of ships have been made by the navy department. A number of fleet steam yachts owned in the United States are being offered to the department at prices which are some of these will be purchased. Secretary Long takes the view that failing to secure the torpedo boat destroyers he wants the best plan is for him to equip some of these speedy boats with torpedo tubes and light batteries and improve torpedo boats. The navy department is convinced that the Spanish government has not acquired possession of the Varese, the Italian armored cruiser. It would not, however, be a matter of deep concern if the report were true. The department itself had the vessel in mind as a possible acquisition but abandoned the idea upon learning that she could not be made ready for service in less than three or four months which practically put her out of consideration as an emergency purchase.

CABINET MEETING.

The entire session consumed in discussing Cuban Question. Washington, March 18.--Nothing of special importance was developed at today's cabinet meeting beyond the fact that the report of the Maine court of inquiry is not expected before the early part of next week. As has been the case at every cabinet meeting during the last month and more, the entire session was consumed in the discussion of the Cuban situation and it can be stated on good authority that no plan of action is possible which is decided upon pending the arrival of the report on the Maine investigation. Every phase of the several questions involved is being carefully and thoughtfully considered and it is believed that very soon after the report is received the president, possibly in conjunction with congress, will announce a definite policy. Until then nothing of a decisive character will be done or decided upon.

Senator Hawley, of Connecticut, today said that it was the intention to get through congress as speedily as possible the three battalion military bill which was introduced at the suggestion of the department in both houses yesterday, for strengthening the military arm of the service and providing for its increase to 104,000 men if necessary.

CAUSE OF DELAY OF THE FLOTILLA

Spanish Government Desires that a Cruiser Shall Join the Fleet.

GENERAL WEYLER DENIES RUMORS

Claims the Yarns Published in New York Papers are False--Blanco's Movements are Outlined--The Spanish Report Upon the Maine Disaster Will Not Be Published Yet.

Madrid, March 18.--The Imparcial today says that the orders to the torpedo flotilla to remain at the Canary islands are due to the government's desire that the squadron be escorted to Cuba by a cruiser and for no other reason.

General Weyler denies the authenticity of the letter published in a New York paper yesterday in which he is alleged to have said the United States would not have dared to send a warship to Havana while he was in command there. Knowing "the terrible punishment that awaited them."

It is asserted, the central and western provinces being poised, General Blanco is about starting on extensive operations, with eighty battalions and large volunteer forces, to destroy the insurgent power in Eastern Cuba.

General Blanco will direct his efforts especially to demolish what is described as "the more or less embryonic organization which has called the rebels to maintain the appearance of government."

It is understood that the report of the Spanish naval court upon the Maine disaster will be retained until the American report is published.

Senator Sargent, the reporter, says that the journal of the torpedo squadron, now at the Canaries to Havana has not been indefinitely postponed. The tone of the press is more hopeful, but financial circles are still uneasy.

SPENDING THE \$50,000,000

President Wants to Report Just How Every Dollar Has Been Spent.

Washington, March 18.--Some idea of the activity prevailing in naval circles is given by the statement that the payroll of the construction department, only one of several departments in the Mare Island navy yard for March was \$80,000. This great expenditure for the month, it is said, was not equalled during the late war.

It is said to be the purpose of the president and his advisers to keep a separate and distinct account of all funds expended from the \$50,000,000 congress appropriation made by congress for the national defense. In accordance with this intention a separate form of requisition has been prepared and all amounts allotted from the fund are made upon the direct order signed by the president himself.

OUR NEW CRUISER.

Transfer of the Amazonas at Gravesend--A Simple but Impressive Ceremony.

Gravesend, England, March 18.--The cruiser Amazonas was formally transferred from the Brazilian flag to the stars and stripes here today. The ceremony was simple and dignified. Lieutenant Commander Colwell, United States naval attaché, and Commander Corres, acting respectively for this country and Brazil.

SPANISH FLOTILLA.

List of Boats in the Fleet En Route from Spain.

Washington, March 18.--Secretary Long went to bed at 9 o'clock with strict orders not to be disturbed and Assistant Secretary of State Day spent the evening at the theatre, stopping for a few minutes only at the White House, where he had a talk with the president in the presence of the other members of the family. The navy department has the following list of the Spanish torpedo flotilla now halted at the Canary islands.

IN CONGRESS.

Washington, March 18.--The House sent today the bill only disposed of two pages of the bill. Most of the day was devoted to a debate on the merits of pneumatic tube mail service.

MINERS UNEASY.

Stormy Meeting Held at Pittsburg. The Diggers of Mercer Threaten to Strike.

Pittsburg, March 18.--The Pittsburg coal operators held a stormy meeting today and as a result the Chicago agreement may be repudiated.

The meeting today was attended by all the big operators and was for the purpose of ratifying the action of a committee sent to Columbus last week to arrange the day and dead work scale under the Chicago agreement.

When the committee's report was read it became apparent that an additional three cents a ton for drilling in machine mines would be required of the Pittsburg operators. This new condition was a hard job for those present and all declare that the Chicago agreement does not require such a payment.

An operator said this addition would give Ohio operators an advantage of nine cents, as under the old differential a new conference between Ohio and Pittsburg operators will be necessary and should it not solve the difficulty, the question will likely be referred to arbitration.

Mercer, Pa., March 18.--Twenty-six delegates representing nearly 5,000 coal miners in Mercer, Butler and Lawrence counties, met here today to confer with the operators for the purpose of harmonizing the new conditions called for by the Chicago agreement.

M. E. CONFERENCE.

Meeting of Layman's Association at Philadelphia--Officers Elected.

Chester, Pa., March 18.--The laymen's association of the Philadelphia Methodist Episcopal conference held the largest attended meeting in the history of the association this afternoon, over 700 delegates being present.

The following officers were elected: President, Hon. John F. Field, of Philadelphia; secretary, J. G. Francis, Berwyn; treasurer, S. W. Tunnell, Germantown; vice president, north district, George L. Horn, Frankford; northwest district, William H. Maxwell, of Pottstown; Bishop Goodsell, H. K. Carroll, editor of the New York Independent, and Charles H. Harding, of Philadelphia.

The Rock river resolution, which provides that the laity shall have equal representation with the clergy in the conference was endorsed, and a memorial was adopted to be presented to the conference on Monday asking that body to adopt the resolution.

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

Discipline was the Question Discussed at the Third Day's Session.

Danville, Pa., March 15.--The third day's session of the thirtieth annual session of the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Episcopal church was called to order by Bishop E. W. Andrews. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. W. A. Stearns.

The fifth question of discipline was then taken up, and Rev. D. Y. Brouse, D. N. Miller, were continued in first year's studies, and Rev. Robert J. Allen, W. V. Rothrock, J. J. Reah, Conroy, W. Dickson, S. J. Sarver and Fred G. Sleep, were conditionally advanced to the studies of the second year without conditions.

The class was then called, which was to be admitted into full membership. After an address by the bishop, the questions being satisfactorily answered.

CHINA'S APPEAL IS MADE IN VAIN

Russia Refuses to Modify Her Demands.

AND CHINA MUST SUBMIT

No Alternative, Says a Pekin Dispatch, but to Agree to Them. France Wants a Freuchman Made the Director of the Imperial Post-office, and a Coaling Station at Kwang-chou in Addition to the Other Demands--A Reply Within Eight Days Required.

London, March 18.--It is announced today in a despatch to the Times from Pekin that the mission of Shu-King-Chen, the Chinese minister to Germany, who was sent to St. Petersburg in an effort to prevail upon Russia to modify her demands upon China, has been unsuccessful, and it is added, there is no alternative but to agree to the Russian demands.

Pekin, March 18.--The French demands upon China, in addition to those cabled from Pekin last night, include that the director of the Imperial post-office be a Freuchman, evidently with the view of separating it from the control of Sir Robert Hart, the director of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs; and the cession of a coaling station at Kwang-chou is demanded on the same terms as Kiao-Chau Bay ceded to Germany, with a railroad concession to include exclusive mining privileges.

Eight days are allowed China in which to reply to the French demands, and threats are interpreted to indicate the French occupation of the Province of Hain-Nan unless the Chinese comply.

THE DEMAND.

The demands made by Russia recently upon China include, according to a despatch from the Pekin correspondent of the Times, published March 7, foreign rights over Port Arthur and Tientsin for the same period and on the same conditions as in the case of Germany at Kiao-Chau. In addition, Russia demands the right to construct a railroad and to operate the same on the Trans-Manchurian railroad, from Putina, on that line, to Kwang-Chung-Tau, Mukden and Port Arthur. Five days, it appears, were allowed China in which to reply, and in the event of her non-compliance, Russia threatened to move troops into Manchuria. Action, however, was postponed in view of the desire of the Chinese government to intercede directly at St. Petersburg, for which purpose the Chinese minister at Berlin was sent to St. Petersburg.

According to dispatches from Pekin last night France had demanded that China shall not cede any portion of the four provinces of Kwang-Tung, Kwang-Si, Yun-Nan and Kwei-Chow, that the railroad from Lung-Chow-Ting, on the northern frontier of Tonquin shall be extended via Hase-Siam into the Yun-Nan province and that a coaling station be granted to France at Lel-Chou-Fu, in the Hen-Chou peninsula, north of Hain-Nan.

GROWTH OF TRADE.

Neither Peace Nor War Reports Can Change the Outward Current of Business.

New York, March 18.--R. G. Dun & Co's weekly review of trade tomorrow will say: Neither peace nor war reports have changed the outward current of business. Orders for more than \$2,500,000 gold from Europe have blocked the way toward a base six into the money and treasury receipts of about \$1,100,000 per day have kept in check anti-question about the currency, while exports of products have continued and the demand for products of the great industries shows steady expansion.

The balance of the situation is the excess of merchandise exports, again more than \$41,000,000 in February, with an increase of \$2,000,000 in miscellaneous products, \$2,100,000 in provisions, \$4,500,000 in cotton, and \$7,000,000 in breadstuffs compared with last year and \$15,100,000 in all products. In two weeks of March exports have been 16 per cent larger than last year, and imports have gained but 8.7 per cent, although especially swelled by receipts of India rubber, sugar and hides. The outgo of cotton surpasses all expectations, though the price was stronger last week, and the export demand apparently paid no attention to market fluctuations. Receipts from plantations continue much greater than at the corresponding date from the largest crop heretofore produced, so that guesses about the future crop are now the main reliance of speculators.

Wheat also moved in spite of all speculation. Atlantic exports, flour included, have been 1,824,569 bushels against 1,233,390 last year, and from Pacific ports 1,371,825 bushels against 262,505 last year, making for three weeks from both coasts 10,659,125 bushels gainst 4,528,441. The price has varied with conflicting reports, but closed 4c. higher for the week. Wool shows no change in quotations, though eastern markets are extremely dull, and the indifference of manufacturers has made transactions only 2,062,300 pounds, against 10,981,900 for corresponding week last year, and 5,988,360 for corresponding week in 1896. The London market is rather higher and holders in the interior are expecting a material advance in prices.

CASE OF MARRY OR GET SHOT.

Miss Goslino Has Her Zealous Wooer Put Under Bonds. Bristol, Pa., March 18.--On the startling and singular charge that Dr. J. M. Burley, of Newportville, Bucks county, had persistently made love to her, and threatened to shoot her if she would not marry him, Miss Lizzie P. Goslino, of the same village, today had the doctor arrested, brought before 'Squire Booz here and put under \$500 bond to keep the peace.

MINING EXPLOSION.

Madrid, March 18.--A terrible explosion took place today in the Santa Isabel mine, at Belmez, province of Cordova. Seventy corpses have already been recovered and many men are as yet unaccounted for. Five of those rescued alive died later.

THE HERALD'S WEATHER FORECAST.

New York, March 19.--In the middle states and New England, today, cloudy to partly cloudy; warmer and fresh southwesterly winds, followed by rain, light or moderate and by haze or fog on the coasts.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

- Weather Indications Today: Probably Rain. 1 General-Anxiety of the Navy Department. Wanamaker's Hot Speech. Russia Refuses to Modify Her Demands on China. Spanish Flotilla Desires an Escort. The Tribune's Popular Want Columns. Financial and Commercial. Local-One Woman's View. Editorial. Comment of the Press. Local-Religious News of the Week. Social and Personal. Local-Semi-Centennial of the Lackawanna Lodge of Odd Fellows. Report of License Court. Poor Board in Session. Local-West Side and Suburban. Lackawanna County News. Andrew Jackson as Myth and Man. Havana as It Is Today. Sunday-School Lesson for Tomorrow. Liers Who Think They're Not Liars. General-Days of Waiting at Cuba's Capital.

WANAMAKER'S HOT SPEECH

Uncle John's Eloquence Electrifies the Citizens of Ephrata.

THE ANTI-QUAY SENTIMENT

The Main Theme of His Spirited Address.

He States That Two Wars Threaten America--Spain and Quay--The United States Cannot Embark in War Without Involving Pennsylvania and the Republican Party of Pennsylvania Cannot Engage in Battle Upon Fundamental Principles Without Involving the Republican Party Wherever It Exists.

Lancaster, Pa., March 18.--Hon. John Wanamaker continued his campaign in this country when he addressed a big mass meeting in the borough of Ephrata tonight. Mr. Wanamaker, accompanied by Rudolph Blankenburg, G. Harry Davis and J. A. Van Valkenburg, arrived in Ephrata at 6.45 this evening. The party were received by a local committee, consisting of D. B. LeVre, candidate for the legislature on the anti-Quay ticket at the primary election which is to be held tomorrow; Justice of the Peace W. K. Seltzer, J. B. Eshleman and Jesse Jones. At 8 o'clock the hall in which the meeting was held was jammed to the doors and hundreds were turned away. D. B. LeVre called for their attention to the speaker, George L. Bard, of Hinkletown, was chosen temporary chairman and W. K. Seltzer, of Ephrata, permanent chairman. Each made a brief address filled with anti-Quay sentiment. When the chairman introduced Mr. Wanamaker there was great enthusiasm. The candidate in his opening remarks dissected the Quay circular distributed at the close of the Wanamaker meeting in this city last Wednesday night in which he was designated as a member of the "Liberators' syndicate." He said he employed 7,700 workmen and if any one should show that circular to any of these, such person would be in danger of being mobbed.

Speeches were also made by Rudolph Blankenburg, Senator C. C. Kauffman, who is a candidate for re-nomination at tomorrow's primary, and G. Harry Davis, of Philadelphia. After the meeting Mr. Wanamaker held a public reception at the Hotel Cocalco, where hundreds called to pay their respects to the visiting party. He will leave for Philadelphia early tomorrow morning. In the course of his address, he said:

SWALLOW'S BOOM.

The Doctor Receives a Petition Duly Signed Urging Him to Become a Candidate for Governor.

Philadelphia, March 18.--A formal request from a committee representing signers of a petition asking the Rev. S. C. Swallow, D. D., to stand as an independent candidate for governor, was sent this evening to Dr. Swallow from this city. Signatures to the petition have been received from all parts of the state. Dr. Swallow is at present at Danville, Pa., and a copy of the letter asking him to be a candidate was sent there, and also to his home at Harrisburg. The letter is as follows:

We, the undersigned members of an executive committee formed for the purpose of promoting your candidacy, earnestly call upon you to stand as a candidate for the governorship of Pennsylvania on the platform for honest government, with the rally cry, "Thou Shalt Not Steal." We pledge ourselves to your support and we believe that we speak for thousands from every section of the state who will rally to this standard.

Among the signers of the letter are Herbert Welsh, Charles Richardson, George Strawbridge, George Burnham, George Burnham, Jr., Peter Boyd, Warren Kelsey, Philip C. Garrett, chairman of the former committee of one hundred; Finley Acker and Howard Comfort.

UNIVERSITY PENNSYLVANIA RACES

Schedule Arranged by the Track Committee for 1898.

Philadelphia, March 18.--The track committee of the Athletic association of the University of Pennsylvania has arranged the following schedule for the track team for the coming season:

- April 2--Columbia vs. Pennsylvania, one mile relay race. New York. April 16--First annual inter-class championship games, Philadelphia. April 20--Annual inter-collegiate and inter-scholastic relay races, Philadelphia. May 7--Georgetown vs. Pennsylvania, dual track games, Washington. May 21--Cornell vs. Pennsylvania, dual track games, Philadelphia. May 28--Inter-collegiate championship games, New York.

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ALYX COX DEAD.

New York, March 18.--Allyn Cox, one of the best known railroad men in the United States and long identified with the Vanderbilt interests, died suddenly today at his office in this city. He was 63 years old. Mr. Cox was secretary and treasurer of the New York, Chicago and St. Louis railway, better known as the Nickel Plate; treasurer and assistant secretary of the Canada Southern and secretary of the Beech Creek railroad.