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MUCH TALK OF WAR

ON THE PART OF SEVERAL UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Senator Allen's Amendment to Consular Appropriation Bill Brings out Expressions From Both Parties—Regrets for Last Year's Blunder Expressed by Some.

While the United States Senate had under consideration the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill Wednesday a sharp debate on the Cuban resolution was parcipitated by Mr Allen, who offered as an amendment the resolution passed by the senate a year ago, recognizing the belligerent rights of the Cuban insurgents.

In the course of a reply to the preliminary statement by Mr. Allen, Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, said this country's relations with Spain at the present time were seriously strained and that intervention by the United States, which a year ago would have been inoffensive, would now be almost a cause of war. He expressed the opinion that the Cuban affair would eventually be submitted to the arbitrament of the sword between the United States and Spain, but he did not want war precipitated by rash acts of legislation.

Mr. Foraker, of Ohio, thought the day not far distant when the time for action by this country would arrive, and that the chief magistrate of the nation ought to rejoice that the legislative branch of the government was prepared to support him in asserting American rights.

Mr. Thurston, of Nebraska, counselled calmness and prudence, for he believed the country was rapidly drifting into a war with Spain. "We ought to have patience," said he, "and wait as a great and powerful people, not in fear, but in hope that some satisfactory conclusion of the present difficulty may be reached."

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, maintained that the floor of the senate was no proper place for angry discussions of international affairs, and that no senator ought to utter anything that might not well be uttered by the president of the United States.

Mr. Allen thought a statement was due the country. The amendment, he said, is practically a copy of two resolutions which have already passed the senate. Referring to the unfavorable report presented on the amendment by the foreign relations committee. Mr. Allen said it was a confession and avoidance that meant simply that the committee did not desire to act upon it. The truth was, he said, that congress was merely finding some excuse under which it could continue business and escape censure. His desire was to find whether congress could in anyway be induced, cajoled or kicked into putting the country in a dignified attitude on the Cuban question. Taking up the main issue involved he asserted that he had reliable information that no less than thirty three per cent. of the Cuban population or five hundred thousand people had perished in Cuba within the past three years as a result of Spanish cruelty.

"And yet," said Mr. Allen, "lest we the senate, a body of eighty-nine men, offend the house of representatives, consisting of 375 men, a point of order is to be made against this amendment and it will go the way of very much valuable legislation." Mr. Allen said that if the republican party could suffer to see the Cubans exterminated by starvation in plain violation of its platform and of the Christian sentiment of the country, the Republican senators ought to be willing to face the question on a yea and nay vote.

Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, said the senate had twice passed Cuban belligerency resolutions substantially as it was now offered, but both times it had been done openly and frankly. "We have no right," said he, "to make a declaration of war against Spain under cover and that is precisely what this resolution would mean. If this amendment were attached to the appropriation bill, Spain might well regard it as a cause for war. As I have before indicated, the conditions and situation in Cuba were entirely different when this resolution was passed by the senate." He asserted that between three hundred thousand and six hundred thousand people had been starved to death in Cuba.

"This awful condition of affairs," said Mr. Morgan, "makes our position on the Cuban matter extremely delicate. Intervention now of the kind proposed a year ago means war. It could mean nothing else.

"If, however, any senator believes in a declaration of war and will draw up such a declaration with sufficient and proper grounds upon which to base it I will vote for it."

At this point Mr. Allen interrupted Mr. Morgan to disclaim any intention of making a declaration of war against Spain. He expressed the opinion that his amendment could in no way be construed into such a declaration.

"If we should put this amendment on the pending appropriation bill," replied Mr. Morgan, "Spain would be fully justified in interpreting our meaning to be that we were offensively interfering in her affairs. However, I do not believe that any senator has in mind a declaration of war. It would not overtax the ability of any man to prepare such a declaration with proper and sufficient grounds upon which to base it. I will not, however, vote for any declaration of war in disguise. The Spanish are a great and powerful and proud people and they believe that their course is right. I do not wish to provoke them to a declaration of war. I have always believed and believe now that the war in Cuba could not be terminated without involving the United States in hostilities.

"I believe that the matter will eventually be submitted to the arbitrament of the sword. The whole world recognizes Spain's inability to conquer the Cubans and sooner or later we shall become, in my opinion, involved in the armed controversy. The pending amendment is little else than a declaration of war in disguise. If we mean to declare war let us do so like men and not endeavor to conceal ourselves behind so transparent a cloak. Those who are constantly seeking to benefit the sacred cause of Cuban liberty, particularly at such times as this, can not accomplish their purposes by such rash acts of legislation as is this amendment."

Mr. Allen made an extended reply to the arguments advanced against his position. He maintained that this was the first time the belligerency proposition had been presented to the senate when there was any chance of its being effective. The house would be brought face to face with it and it would be brought to a vote in that body. It could not be buried in a committee.

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusett, discussed the situation from the standpoint of an international lawyer, maintaining that the recognition of belligerency in ordinary circumstance was not a cause for war. It was not necessarily an unfriendly act. Mr. Hoar maintained, however, that before taking any action of that kind the United States ought to have a clear and unquestioned statement of the facts in the case. He expressed the opinion that the enactment of a belligerency resolution at the present time would be productive of war because of the friction that would be created by Spain exercising the right of search of United States vessels on the high seas.

Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, made a speech in favor of granting belligerent rights to the Cubans at once.

Mr. Hale made the point of order against the amendment that it was general legislation and had, under the rules, no place in the oill. The vice president sustained the point, and Mr. Allen took an appeal from the ruling.

Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, speaking in support of the ruling of the chair, drew from the galleries an enthusiastic round of applause which was quickly suppressed by the vice president. He said one of the greatest causes ever tried before the nations of the world was now being tried in Havana.

"Let us do nothing," said he, "that will in the least way embarrass those who are conducting that investigation. The wreck of the Maine now lies on the bottom of Havana harbor. The fact relating to the explosion are being sought earnestly and intelligently by a competent court of inquiry and we ought to do nothing that will in the slightest manner interfere with the progress of that work. What we desire is to know the facts. If it should be found that the explosion was due to an accident, we must know that. If, however, it should be disclosed that it was due to treachery the whole world will applaud the action of this country in holding to strict account the country in whose friendly harbor that awful disaster occurred."

Mr. Hale then moved to lay the appeal on the table and Mr. Allen demanded the yeas and nays.

Mr. Hale's motion was carried, those voting against the motion being Messrs. Allen of Nebraska; Cannon, of Utah; Heitfelde, of Idaho; Mason, of Illinois and Teller, of Colorado.

The senate then went into executive session and ten minutes afterwards adjourned.

A GRAND ALLIANCE RALLY.

President Wilborn Has Appointed the Day.

Wednesday President Wilborn issued the following, a call to the sub-alliances of the State to rally on the 13th of March for the purpose of discussing the ways and means of making each farm self-supporting. The tenor of his letter is that if the farmers will raise their own "hog and hominy" the question of cotton acreage will regulate itself.

While others think differently, Mr. Wilborn thinks that the farmers, one and all, have decided to reduce the cotton acreage. In several counties they have obligated to plant only so much to the plow, averaging from ten to twelve oaks. In addition to this is the very appreciable falling off in the sales of fertilizers.

Mr. Wilborn's letter to the alliances is as follows:

I have pledged the alliance of South Carolina to unity of action in the matter of cotton, its production, sale and marketing. Now, therefore, in order that the whole matter may be more fully discussed and active measures may be inaugurated looking to relief, the 13th day of March, 1898, is hereby selected, named and designated as Alliance Rally Day, where every sub alliance in the State is requested to meet at its regular meeting place on that afternoon there to consider the cotton situation and all other matters that may pertain to the good of the order.

The officers are urged to be on hand in due time and are directed to inform the members of their respective sub alliances of the rally day. This call to apply to every alliance that has ever been in existence in this State. The secretaries are requested to notify me of their action in all matters that pertain to the good of the order.

I would suggest that you make one of the leading questions for discussion at this meeting the efforts every South Carolina farmer will make to have his farm self sustaining, if he does this, the matter of cotton acreage will settle itself.

Be not deceived by the small advance in the price of cotton, just at planting time, with a crop like the one just marketed you cannot hope to get more than five cents per pound for it.

All alliance men are earnestly urged to co operate with the Cotton Growers organization in their efforts in this matter. J. C. WILBORN,
Pres. Farmers' Alliance of S. C.

For Colonization.

A special dispatch from Charleston to the Columbia State says Mr O'Callahan, the legal representative of the Philadelphia syndicate which recently purchased the property of the South Carolina Land and Lumber company is in the city for the purpose of securing possession of the titles to the property purchased. The property consists of fine farming and timber lands extending from New England City to Monck's Corner and covers about 18,000 acres. The company also owns the Berkeley railroad and it is understood that they will extend the line of road from Chicora, its terminus to Eutawville, a distance of 16 miles. Now that the titles to the property have been secured its new owners will begin at once to improve the property and colonize it with people from the north and northwest. Already much money has been spent in improving the property and the work will continue until it reaches a state of high cultivation.

Postoffice Robbed.

The postoffice at Dalton, Ga., was entered Thursday night, the safe was blown open, and eight hundred dollars in money and stamps taken therefrom. The thieves left behind them a big sledge hammer, a brace and long screw-driver. Bits of money and stamps were also scattered over the floor. The registered letters in the office were left unmolested. There is no clue to the perpetrators.

GRIM STARVATION.

WHAT THE OFFICERS OF THE MONTGOMERY SAW.

Perishing Like Flies—Conditions Reported Which Would Shock the Heart of a Savage—Spain Absolutely Helpless to Relieve.

While the United States cruiser Montgomery was at Mantanzas recently a board of officers was appointed to inquire into the condition of the people of that province. Although the exact terms of the report are not known it may be said that in substance it sets forth that there are 14 000 people absolutely without food and clothing within the city limits. About 3,000 of these live in small huts of palm branches These huts form three separate villages beyond the built up portions of the city The other 11,000 unfortunates live in the streets of the city and are absolutely without homes or shelter.

These 14,000 people are of the laboring class who have been driven in to the cities from their country homes which have been destroyed in the war operations. Most of them are women and children and they are all emaciated, sick and almost beyond relief unless they can have the benefit of regular treatment in the hospitals As it is they are dying in the streets for want of food

According to statistics gathered from the best sources, the number of deaths in the province of Mantanzas from starvation is 59,000 and the number of starving people at present in the province is estimated at 98 000, out of a total population of 253 616 in December, 1897, and the number of starving people is rapidly increasing.

In the city of Mantanzas alone there have been about 11,000 deaths during the past year and the number is increasing daily. The death rate at present averages 46 per day, as shown by the reports from the cemetery. The increase in the death rate is due to the fact that the distress is no longer confined to the laboring class, most of whom have already perished. It has now extended to those people who before the war were in moderately comfortable circumstances. Those who are now begging in the streets were in the large part, well to-do people. In addition the citizens of the city of Mantanzas themselves are beginning to suffer for the actual necessity of life, having drained their resources in order to supply the needs of the laboring class who have been thrust upon them.

The citizens of Mantanzas have an organized system of relief for the starving people, but it is entirely inadequate and is daily becoming more glaringly so, for the resources of those who were well-to do are rapidly diminishing, while the demand for food is constantly increasing

At one of the relief stations the board of officers found 100 starving people, this being the actual number of persons for whom the citizens had been able to provide rations there. In a room across the court yard of the building were 100 tin pans and as many spoons. These pans were filled with a cooked mess of rice and fish and were arranged in rows ready for distribution among the famishing people who were in waiting in another part of the house, but, as already said, the three relief places in the city of Mantanzas do not begin to adequately supply food to the 14,000 people who are starving in the streets, for the citizens are only able to issue food three times a day at each place and then to only about 300 at a time. Consequently only about 900 of the destitute receive food once a day.

It should be added that a large number of the citizens of Mantanzas have fed the starving in the streets in front of their homes, but the citizens themselves are feeling the pinch of privation, and unless assistance soon comes to them they will be compelled in self protection to cease the work of charity in which they are engaged and which are seemingly the only salvation for the starving.

The only other relief issued at Matanzas is that given to the poor sick children by the management of the emergency hospital, which is under the direction of the volunteer fire department at Matanzas There are about 80 children treated daily and are furnished with nourishment under the direction of the city physicians.

These statements are the conclusions, facts and figures arrived at by United States naval officers. When the United States naval officers landed they were constantly followed by clamoring crowds of starving men, women and children, who importuned them in the most heart rending manner for a little food, for the want of which they were slowly dying.

The United States consul at Matanzas has done everything possible under the circumstances, but when the Montgomery left there, in the first days of February, the consul had only enough rations remaining to last about two weeks, after which the fund appropriated by congress would have been exhausted, and when the sufferers of Mantanzas would include the American citizens at that place, who have hitherto received relief through the United States consulate. At that time the consul had received a petition, signed by the American citizens of Mantanzas, setting forth in detail the need in which they stood of immediate relief from the dangers of starvation.

So far as the board of officers of the Montgomery could ascertain, Matanzas at that time needed a supply of food for 14,000 people for at least one month in addition to supplies of condensed milk for invalids and medicines of all kinds. The people of Matanzas are also in urgent need of clothing, most of them being in filthy rags.

The Spanish authorities, it may be said in conclusion, have rendered all the assistance which it seems possible for them to provide. On two occasions they have given $100,000 to the fund for the relief of the destitute; but so far as the board could learn this was all the government was in a position to contribute to the relief of the 14 000 starving, dying people in the streets of Mantanzas

Ready to Move Troops.

A dispatch from Atlanta says all the railroad leading to that city are furnishing the government, on application, estimates of the number of men and munitions of war they can move in a given time.

FIGHTING STRENGTH

of the Navies of Spain and the United States.

While this question is bound to arise in the public mind it is well to note that the Maine, although costing the government somewhere in the neighborhood of $2,500 000, does not appear in the catalogue of our first-class battleships. Since its total displacement aggregated only 6,682 tons, its proper designation is that of a second-class battleship. Our first class battleships, with the tonnage in each case, are nine in number, as follows: The Kentucky, 11,525 tons; the Kearsage, 11,525 tons; the Illinois, 11,525; the Alabama, 11,525; the Wisconsin, 11,525; the Iowa, 11,410; the Oregon, 10 288; the Indiana, 10,288, and the Massachusetts, 10 288

To summarize the fighting strength of the white squadron, it includes nine first class battleships, two second class battleships, two armored cruisers, thirteen protected cruisers, one armored ram, six double turreted monitors, thirteen single turreted monitors, ten gunboats, six composite gunboats, three special class gunboats, twenty two steel torpedo boats, one wooden torpedo, five iron cruising vessels, eleven sailing vessels, six tugs, eight wooden steam vessels and six wooden sailing vessels. In the aggregate there are 141 different naval places in the white squadron, only fourteen of which are obsolete and unfit for service in the event of war. So far as the resistive power of our battleships is concerned, it is safe to say that in spite of the disastrous experience of the Maine, there is no country on the globe which can boast of superior engines of war. Of course, such countries as Great Britain and France are provided with more of them, but they are not of better workmanship.

But what of Spain's naval outfit? This question is certainly pertinent in this connection. Most of Spain's naval engines are out of date. She has only one first class battleship which is worthy of the name—the Pelaya—and even this falls considerably short of our smallest one, its displacement being only 9,900 tons. One apparent advantage which Spain's fleet has over ours is in the number of armored cruisers. While her fleet contains seven of these cruisers, ours contains only two, viz, the New York and the Brooklyn; but this advantage is partially overcome by the superior equipment of our cruisers. The New York and the Brooklyn carry seventy four monster guns; the Spanish cruisers carry 208 smaller and inferior ones. On good authority, the statement is made that Spain has no sea going coast defense ships, while this country has six, carrying thirty heavy guns and fifty two light guns. Of non sea going coast-defenders, Spain has only two, while this country is credited with fourteen. Of protection and non-protection cruisers, Spain has only five while the United States has sixteen. In the number of gunboats, torpedo boats available for use in the event of hostilities, the United States is also ahead of Spain.

From this hasty review of the two squadrons, it is evident that the United States possesses every advantage over Spain, and that if war comes, as now seems emminent, it will be the latter power which will have everything to lose.—Atlanta Constitution.

Well Said, Mr. President.

To a senator who called upon him in order to ask some serious questions as to the policy of the administration, President, McKinley, with the utmost frankness, has uttered the following words:

"I do not propose to do anything at all to precipitate war with Spain. Up to the present I do not think war is either necessary or inevitable. I would be lax in my duty, however, if I did not prepare for the future. The situation is grave and the policy of the administration will be determined almost entirely by the course of events from time to time. There is no necessity of alarming the people, but congress must be ready to assist the administration without making so many inquiries as to the course of current events."

These words of McKinley were given by the senator in question to the correspondent of the Chicago Tribune and reported in that paper. There is now no doubt of the fact that the government of the United States is actually preparing for war with Spain. It does not follow that war will come, but the activity in both the war and navy departments is too unmistakable to be concealed. At no time since the close of the late war has the military branch of the government been so active as it is now.

Getting Ready at Charleston.

Work on the new fortifications at Charleston is being rapidly pushed. The big guns are being mounted for action, but some of these are not yet ready for service. There is little or no powder on hand for firing the 800 pound projectiles, but it is said the ammunition is to be shipped at once. The New York force is kept busy putting the guns in shape for war. The officials in charge believe the forts would be able to protect the city from hostile ships. In Fort Sumter a torpedo tube which commands the entrance to the harbor is prepared for work. The garrison, consisting of eighty-five men, on Sullivan's Island, is ready for any orders that may be sent from Washington.

Buzzards Hover About.

Persons who have just returned from Havana say that the Maine was horrifying from the evidence the wreckage bore of the power of the explosion and the carnage wrought. Buzzards hung about the wreck, the Spanish officers making no effort to drive them away, though their presence was sickeningly offensive. Spaniards who rowed about in boats did not conceal their satisfaction at the American warship's fate, and sometimes were seen shaking their fists at the flag that hung at half mast above the bulk.

Government Buying Coal.

The United States government is buying large quantities of coal. One of the largest coal dealers at Pittsburg Pa., has closed a contract with the navy department for the delivery at Key West, Sand Keys, Dry Tortugas, Savannah, Charleston and Fortress Monroe of 250,000 tons of Pocahontas coal. The stipulations of the contracts just placed are that the coal so ordered shall be delivered at the designated coaling stations as soon as it is possible to do so, and that the utmost secrecy be observed about the matter.

IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.

THE MAINE BLOWN UP BY A SPANISH MINE

There is Little Hope of Proving the Maine Disaster the Result of an Accident—Spanish Army Officers Continue Their Anti-American Expressions.

Pepper, the Havana correspondent of the Washington star cabled his paper as follows on Wednesday:

"Inquiry into the Maine disaster progresses along definite lines. The results so far may be summed up in the statement that the probabilities that it was an accident seem to decrease with the progress of the investigation. The most intense anxiety is shown by the Spanish officials here, who are in constant communication with Madrid. They realize that the relations with the United States were never so much in danger of rupture as now. This is the general feeling.

"The commercial classes here are hopeful of American intervention on peaceful lines, but what they base their hopes upon is unknown. The insurgents continue to win minor military successes. The autonomists are restless, and some of the leaders seem to be on the point of breaking away from the government Army officers continue to show an anti-American sentiment. They are apparently the only class that does not look for an early crisis.

The outlook in Cuba does not grow more promising. The exact statement is that the government officials were never so much disturbed as today. Local developments justify the serious view General Blanco and his associates are said to take of the probability of fresh complications.

The statement that the divers have penetrated the forward part of the Maine and found nothing in the magazines there to indicate an explosion seems to be verified. Attention is also given to testimony regarding vibration under water before the Maine went to pieces. Evidence as to this fact is emphatic. How far it justifies the belief that the explosion came from underneath the ship, experts may be left to determine.

The point has not been reached where a definite opinion can be formed regarding submarine mines. Outside evidence has been brought forward regarding the construction of such a system, but it has not been sifted. Spain's officials were surprised at the firmness with which the Washington administration declined to admit them to share in the investigation.

"At this writing divers are developing important results. From examination of the interior wreckage, they have secured evidence which seems conclusive that the explosion came from underneath the ship.

"Some of the smaller magazines may have exploded. The main 10 inch magazine did not explode. The condition of the interior of the ship shows further probability of the wreck having been due to outside force.

"The further the investigation progresses the more untenable becomes the theory which the Spanish government adduced to show accidental causes. It is evident the Spanish case will be based on the claim that a fire preceded the explosion.

"Capt. Sampson and his colleagues of the naval board may have outside evidence offered regarding a torpedo float producing the explosion.

"Said one diver who had been engaged in the work of getting bodies out from under the hatch: "God may be merciful to the men who blew those poor fellows to eternity, the United States should not."

This was long before Long's order prohibiting officers from talking. This diver evidently thought the explosion was not an accident. He had an expert's capacity and opportunity for judging. The Havana public is not permitted to communicate the intensity of public sentiment in the United States. Only meagre details are permitted to be known of what happens in Washington. Congress is watched with excessive anxiety by palace officials, but the populace knows nothing of what is liable to happen. Evidence of ill feeling toward American people and exulting over the Maine disaster does not lessen.

NO LONGER ANY DOUBT.

A dispatch from Havana to the New York Herald says: There is no longer any reason to doubt that the explosion which wrecked the Maine came from underneath the vessel and that her magazines had nothing to do with the initial explosion and played a much smaller part in the general disaster than was at first supposed.

The evidence that has served to convince the board was obtained by Ensign Powelson, an officer attached to the Fern.

Mr. Powelson was formerly in the construction corps and took a two years special course in the Glasgow school of naval architecture. He is therefore a competent witness. What he discovered was that the forward part of the keel of the Maine, with its ribs and plates was stove upward so far that parts of the shattered double bottom show out of water and in places sections of the green painted outer hull are visible.

Corroborative of evidence given by Ensign Powelson and of equal significance and importance is the result of the close examination made by the divers. What they found indicated that the explosion came from a point beneath the keel. A plumb line dropped from a point just forward of the conning tower would have laid the lead exactly on the spot where the explosion occurred that drove keel, plates and ribs almost to the surface.

The main force of the explosion seems to have been exceedingly slight on the port side of the vessel. This is consistent with the facts hitherto ascertained.

Collectively, these now indicate that the contents of the reserve six inch magazine were exploded by the initial blast and there was no explosion in either of the other two. In the reserve magazine was stowed 2,500 pounds of powder in copper tanks, each of which contained 200 pounds.

Seven of the tanks have been found by the divers, all in crushed and shapeless masses. It is important to note that in the six-inch and ten-inch tanks recovered the excelsior used for packing the charges shows no injury from flame or gases.

The powder stowed in the six-inch reservoir magazine was for saluting purposes only. The magazine itself appears to have been utterly destroyed, only a few traces being left to show the point where it was once located.

BEYOND REPARATION.

The United States board of enquiry sent to Havana to enquire into the wrecking of the Maine have about concluded their work there and have returned to this country. The court has decided against any attempt to raise the ruined battleship. The members are convinced that it would be useless as she could never be kept afloat, and the Spanish authorities here will be informed that if they wish the wreck removed from the harbor they must attend to the work themselves. This decision gives a better idea of the terrible havoc wrought in the Maine than columns of description could do.

A FEW PLUMS GIVEN OUT.

Governor Ellerbe Names Supervisors of Registration.

Gov. Ellerbe made the following appointments of supervisors on Thursday:

Dorchester—H. A. Jamison, Summerville, and J. R Patrick, St. George's.

Horry—J. C. Blum, Little River, and Malcolm J. Granger, Wannamaker.

Edgefield—J. Trapp McManus, Edgefield, and Luther R. Brunson, Cleora.

Marion—Henry Berry, Marion, and A. R Oliver, Centenary.

Marlboro—A. C Pearson, Bennettsville, and T. R. Easterling, Bennettsville.

Berkeley—E. S. Wilson, Honey Hill, and D. L. Shuler, Monck's Corner.

Georgetown—H. L. Carter, Georgetown, and S. S. Dusenberry, Georgetown.

Greenville—W. A. Nesbitt, Batson, and C. O. Goodwin, Lima.

Beaufort—W. E H. Dopson, Beaufort, and S. E. Blount, Beaufort.

Darlington—W. C. Gandy, Dovesville, and P. R. McIntosh, Darlington.

Newberry—William Kibler, Newberry, and W. D. Halfacre, Newberry.

Abbeville—J. D. Carwile, Abbeville, and W. A. Lanier, Abbeville.

Barnwell—Ashley Stansell, Elko; B. J. Hammett, Blackville, and John K Suellings, Barnwell.

Orangeburg—Thos. F. Stokes, Rowesville, and James H. Fanning Orangeburg.

Saluda—Walter H. Shealy, Batesburg, and F. H. Hempson, Huggin's Ferry.

Pickens—J. H Hennemur, Pickens and J. Alonzo Brown, Cateechee,

Lexington—W. H Meetze, Lexington, and George W. Pound, Gaston.

Bamberg—R. W. D. Rowell, Denmark, and Isaac Carter, Ehrhardt.

Chesterfield—W. C Baker, Chesterfield, courthouse; C. W. Teal, Chesterfield courthouse, and W. C. McCreight, Chesterfield courthouse.

Charleston—Joseph G Martin, Charleston, and Lee Royal, Charleston.

York—D. C. Clark, Yorkville, and James E Baumguard, Clover.

Laurens—R D Boyd, Austin, and J. D. Sullivan, Laurens.

Aiken—G. C. Moseley, Aiken, and H. M Sawyer, Monetta.

Colleton—Thomas S. Ackerman, Cottageville; Joseph A Roger, Walterboro, and C. T. Worsham.

Clarendon—C. D Hodge, Manning, and Edward B. Gamble, Manning.

Williamsburg—Charles Lesesne, Greeleyville, and W. G. Cantley, Brown's.

Richland—M. A. Bridges, P. B. McCoy and Joab J. Roach, all of Columbia.

Lancaster—J. Mont. Caskey and Robert J. Flynn, both of Lancaster.

Union—J. D. Epps, Maybinton and J. P. Thomas, Jr., Carlisle.

Fairfield—Thomas W. Sligh, Ridgeway, and John H. Neal Winnsboro

Chester—Joseph S Hardin, Chester; A. W. Love, Chester, and John Rose, Cornwall.

Greenwood—W. A. Sanders, Ninety Six, and L. Shepperd, Greenwood.

Oconee—H. L. Vandiver, and W. H. Barron, both of Walhalla.

Anderson—Walter L. Anderson, Anderson, and Charles M. Barrett, Corinne,

Kershaw—Mannes Rabon, Camden, and Alexander Brown, Camden.

Sumter—Jno. M. Knight, Sumter, and Thomas B. DuBose, Bossard.

Our War Ships.

President McKinley could in a few days concentrate a powerful fleet to meet the Spanish war ships in Cuban waters should the occasion arise to demand them. Of the torpedo flotilla the Ericson and the Cushing are engaged in dispatch work between Key West and Havana, and the porter and Dupont are at Mobile, and the Foote and Winslow are at Norfolk. The Texas and Nashville are at Galveston, the Marblehead at New Orleans, the Detroit en route for Mobile, and the Vesuvious at Brunswick Ga. In the Caribean Sea are the Brooklyn, Wilmington, Newport and Montgomery. In reserve are the Puritan and Terror at Norfolk, and the Columbia and Minneapolis at League Island, while the training ships are as widely scattered, the Essex and Amphitrite being at Port Royal, S. C.; the Alliance at Portsmouth, N. H.; the Annapolis at St. Thomas and the Vicksburg at St. Kitts. The Cincinnati and Castine are steaming fast for Bahia. The Bancroft, San Francisco and Helena are at Lisbon. This disposition of the fleet shows the mobilization of the vessels, save those in reserve and abroad, would be a question of only a few days, while all the other vessels could be assembled in less than two weeks. The table shows that twenty-eight vessels are available, and that at least six torpedo boats could be by the same date prepared for work. At the present moment Spain's ships in the West Indies are mostly unimportant vesssels of the gunboat type or very small gun vessels of no importance, intended for use in the creeks of Cuba. It would probably be not less than a month before Spain could gather her best vessels off the coast of Cuba.

Vultures Eat the Dead.

A dispatch from Havana says: Thus far the sharks have given no trouble, but the vultures have left scarcely anything but the skeletons of those who were entangled in debris very near the surface of the water. The bodies were not noticed by any one until the foul birds had completed their ghastly work. From the hand of one, Captain Chadwick removed for identification, a deeply chased gold ring.

A HORRIBLE CRIME.

THE NEGRO POSTMASTER AT LAKE CITY, S. C, KILLED.

His Infant Child Shot Dead in its Mother's Arms, and the Same Bullet Maimed the Woman—The House and Bodies Burned.

One of the most horrible and brutal crimes occurred at Lake City in Williamsburg county on Tuesday night of last week. The negro postmaster and his infant daughter were killed and their bodies burned, and his wife and three other children, two of the latter grown, were horribly shot. The affair is undoubtedly one of the most horrible that ever was prepetrated in South Carolina.

Frazier B. Baker, a black negro, was appointed postmaster at Lake City by President McKinley last August. He was at that time a resident of Florence county, but moved to Lake City to take charge of the office. Shortly afterwards he was shot and slightly wounded. Some time later his assistant was shot but not seriously hurt. In January the postoffice with its contents was burned. A few weeks ago the negro re established the office in a rude hut about a mile from town.

One night week before last a mob attacked the building and several shots were fired into it, but Baker held on to his job and the next day spoke in a braggadocia manner about not being scared, and said that he would have to be killed to get him out of the postoffice. The tragedy Tuesday night is the sequel. Baker lived with his family, consisting of a wife, three daughters and one son, in the rear of the rude hut used also as the postoffice.

The coroner's inquest brought out the following facts: Baker's wife was aroused about 1 o'clock this morning by some unaccountable sounds. Upon arising she discovered that the house was on fire and immediately awakened her husband. Just as she did so, there was a volley of rifle shots fired upon the building and the bullets came clear through the walls and made things hot for the occupants.

By this time the entire household was aroused and efforts were made to check the flames. All this time the firing outside was kept up, when the man saw that there was no chance to check the fire. He told his family to follow him and he rushed to the front door of the house. Just as he opened the door he was shot down. Instantly the woman, the three girls and the boy were shot. A ball passed through the baby who was in the mothers arms and struck the woman's arm, breaking it.

The little fellow was dead and the mother's fractured limb could no longer support it, so it fell. The dead father fell upon the dead body of the child. Those of the household who were still able to walk ran from the burning building right into the faces of the assassins. The mob quickly dispersed.

The next morning the charred remains of the postmaster and the baby were found and examinations by physicians showed that the woman was shot in the left arm and in the right thigh. The oldest girl was shot through the groin and her right hand is shot off. The other girl was shot through the left elbow and may lose her arm. The boy was shot through the abdomen and through the right arm. He and the oldest daughter may die. None of the family recognized any one in the mob. It is said that several hundred shots were fired into the burning building. The wounded negroes are receiving the best of treatment at the hands of the white people of the town. Food, raiment and medical attention are being given them gratis.

The coroner's jury was adjourned for a few days and they will make every effort to get some clue to the assassins. The people of Lake City seemed to be awed by the dreadful occurrence.

At first it was thought that the body of the baby was entirely consumed by the flames but further search developed the fact that the remains of the child were directly underneath the charred remains of its father.

The surviving members of Baker's family are: Luvenia, his wife, gunshot wound in left arm and leg.

Roselle, eldest daughter, gunshot wound in left arm and leg.

Cora, next eldest daughter, gunshot wound in right hand.

Linkum, eldest son, gunshot wound in left arm and abdomen.

They are all doing as well as can be expected.

Sarah and Willie, still younger, escaped unhurt.

The white as well as the colored citizens of the town are contributing liberally to the necessities of the surviving members of the Baker family.

The citizens of Lake City are now sending and receiving their mail from Scranton, S. C., which is three miles away.

Wednesday the negroes made threats of burning, etc., but up to this time everything has remained quiet and now there seems to be no further trouble anticipated.

The parties who committed this atrocious crime, so far as your correspondent can learn, are yet unsuspected.

UNCLE SAM TAKES ACTION.

A dispatch from Washington says the postoffice department will send an inspector to the scene of the tragedy at once to investigate and make a full report of the case to the department. When this is obtained the department of justice will be asked to prosecute the persons engaged in the crime. Baker, who is said to have been a respectable colored man and who had previously taught school, was appointed to the office in July last. It is said that he was a man of quiet, unobtrusive habits and had filled the position a short while only before threats of personal danger were made against him. There was no place in the city to be had for keeping the postoffice and it was removed to the schoolhouse in the suburbs. The citizens boycotted the office with some degree of success. No serious complaint had been received concerning the condition of affairs very recently, and it was hoped that the prejudice against the postmaster had died down. The postmaster general has offered a reward of $300 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who burned the postoffice.

Generel Gary has issued an order to discontinue the office at Lake City from this time. Mail intended for Lake City will hereafter be sent to Scranton, the nearest postoffice, where it can be called for by the people of the former place. Attorney General Griggs has telegraphed United States Attorney Lathrop instructing him to co operate with the State authorities, and if possible secure the arrest of the parties for destroying the postoffice building and for other felonious acts in connection with the murders done in violation of the statutes of the United States.

THE GOVERNOR OFFERS A REWARD.

The Columbia State says in official and political circles in Columbia great condemnation of the act of the Williamsburg county mob was heard upon all sides. It seemed hard to believe that people in South Carolina could be guilty of such an act. Some vigorous expressions were heard. Governor Ellerbe, when seen, expressed himself very vigorously about the affair, but declined to say anything for publication. He simply made the announcement that he had promptly offered a reward of $500 for the apprehension and conviction of the parties unknown who had committed the deed. In addition to this the announcement is made that through the attorney general's office Solicitor Wilson has been instructed to proceed to Lake City and take charge of the case in behalf of the State.

DEPLORED IN WASHINGTON.

A special dispatch to the State from Washington says the outrage has created a good deal of excitement in Congress. An investigation will be made by the postoffice department and an effort will be made to get the parties into the United States court as the United States mail was destroyed. It is thought in Washington that the outrage will not help the contested congressional seats from this State and that both Congressmen Stokes and Elliott will be outsted in consequence of it.

A BOARD OF INQUIRY.

Resolution Creating One Introduced by Senator Allen.

In the United States Senate Wednesday Senator Allen introduced the following resolution:

"Whereas, it is the established doctrine of the United States that the western hemisphere shall be dedicated to republican forms of government recognizing the political equality of human beings, and

"Whereas, the principles of the Monroe doctrine or the doctrine of national self preservation, is as applicable in wresting any portion of this continent from the grasp of foreign countries as in preventing them obtaining additional territory; and

"Whereas, the island of Cuba, by reason of its location and close proximty to the United States, should by right, be dedicated to republican form of government; and

"Whereas, a republican form of government is, and has been for nearly three years maintained in said island by force of arms, and

"Whereas, it is alleged that five hundred thousand persons on said island have died of starvation by reason of being concentrated by the Spanish government at various points; without being fed or afforded an opportunity to provide food for themselves, and hundreds are daily dying, and

"Whereas, the dictates of humanity require the intervention of the United States in such case, therefore,

"Resolved, That a select committee of five Senators shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to make a thorough investigation and inqure into and report on the following subjects:

"1. To what extent the work of concentrating the inhabitants of Cuba has been carried on by the Spanish government and how many persons on said island have in the last three years died as a result of starvation, or for lack of sufficient food, and diseases incident thereto, and to what extent concentration is being practiced there by Spanish authorities and the conditions of the people concentrated.

"2. Whether the concentrated Cubans have been adequately sheltered, clothed and fed by the Spanish government, or by others, or have been permitted to obtain food and clothing for themselves.

"3. What lawful steps, if any, are necessary and can be taken by the United States to bring the war in Cuba to a speedy termination, on grounds honorable alike to Spain and Cuba, and which will result in the kingdom of Spain relinquishing its hold on the island and in the establishment of a republican form of government there.

"4. To what extent Spanish barbarity and cruelty have during the war now in progress on the island of Cuba, been practiced toward the inhabitants of Cuba and what has been lawfully done by the United States if anything, to ameliorate the condition of the Cubans.

"And to these ends and for these purposes said committee may sit at such times and places as they may see proper during the sessions of congress and in vacation and shall have the right to visit and take testimony in Cuba, if deemed proper to do so. All testimony taken shall be preserved, and the finding of said select committee, together with all testimony shall be reduced to writing and reported to the senate at as early a date as practicable."

A Bloody Tragedy.

A bloody tragedy was enacted in a wagon yard on Rock street, Little Rock, Ark., Wednesday morning, the principals to the affray being Dr. J. H. Hartsell, a physician of some prominence, and William K. Elliott, proprietor of the yard in which the shooting occurred. The tragedy grew out of family affairs, in which Mrs. Hartsell was involved and which, it is alleged, led to that lady's suicide, which occurred about a month ago. Dr. Hartsell fired three shots at Elliott, when only five feet away. Two of the bullets took effect, one in the abdomen and one in the chest. Elliott sprang upon Hartsell and wresting the revolver from him, turned it upon Hartsell and fired two shots, one of them striking Hartsell in the cheek. Physicians pronounce both men mortally wounded and their death is hourly expected. According to the statement of witnesses Elliott made improper advances to Mrs. Hartsell during the doctor's absence some time ago and a tragedy was narrowly averted at that time. The Hartsell's finally separated and later Mrs. Hartsell committed suicide on account of her trouble.

February has been trying to assure us that the backbone of winter has not yet been broken. And we feel assured that such is the fact. But we are not complaining; its coolness was tempered with a fair degree of moderation.