DAILY RECORD-UNION
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SACRAMENTO PUBLISHING COMPANY
Office: Third Street, between J and K.

Weather Forecast.

Northern California—Cloudy and unsettled weather Thursday, with showers along the coast; fresh northerly wind.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE MAINE.

The tragedy of the Maine is too awful for contemplation without overwhelming emotion. The American heart bleeds over the loss of the brave men of that devoted ship, and the tears of their mourning friends mingle with those of a nation.

Loss of life in battle is terrible, but its horror is mitigated by the reflection that the soldier or sailor is fighting valorously for home and country and their honor, and has at least a chance for life. The sentiment of heroism surrounding the soldier, of patriotic devotion by the sailor when in the field of war, reaches back into the homes of the land and softens the stroke of death. But such a catastrophe as that of the Maine paralyzes and agonizes beyond expression. The awfulness of the wreck; the horror of the instant destruction of hundreds of the nation's sailors and marines; the fearful thought of the suddenness with which death must have come to some, and the unutterable agonies of others who writhed in torture before mercifully released; the rending of human bodies, the scattering of limbs and parts, torn, mangled and burned—these things are unspeakable, unutterable for their fearful horror.

The whole nation is shocked to the soul; the men and women of America are stricken to the heart with grief. Beneath all there is waiting for the truth that is awful and significant. Was this massacre, assassination, or was the catastrophe accidental? If the first, then will come a sweeping and merciless reckoning. The blood of our butchered officers, blue jackets and marines will not smoke in vain. There will be such an accounting as will make treachery more hateful than any in this world have ever before esteemed it.

At this writing, at a late hour, no positive judgment has been arrived at as to the cause of the appalling disaster. Examination of the sunken hull of the Maine, it is believed, will reveal the truth. If, say experts, the plates of the hull at the point of greatest shock are driven inward, the conclusion will be legitimate that the assault was from without; if the plates are driven outward, the logical conclusion will be that the disaster was caused from within.

If the first is developed as fact, then by either of two methods the ship may have been wrecked; by accidental or purposeful explosion of a mine or torpedo. If the plates are driven outward, then the wreck may have been made by either of two causes, overheating of partition plates by which explosives in one of the magazines were discharged, or by the blow from without of a missile that, by concussion, caused stored explosives within to be fired.

This last is the least probable of all, since an exterior blow is difficult to deliver below the waterline, and because the magazines are surrounded by protective walls of coal-bunkers and ice chambers, and because explosives operated by concussion are never stored in contact with any wall or partition of the ship.

It is related that the Cincinnati was very near to destruction once from spontaneous combustion of coal that brought the magazine plates to a red heat. Fortunate escape of a thin line of smoke led to discovery of the fire in time to save the ship. It would seem that naval architects ought to be able to so surround magazines with constantly replenished water-jackets that heating by coal combustion would cause escape of vapor through an indicator on deck, and thus give timely warning of what did happen on the Cincinnati, and what may have caused the horror on the Maine.

On all these warships there are devices for indicating abnormal heat in the coal bunkers, but clearly they are not reliable or the Cincinnati would not have been imperiled, and the Maine would not have been lost—assuming that she was accidentally wrecked from heat within and not by treachery, or as has been hinted by an English paper by unforseen action of stored chemicals.

It is charged that the harbor of Havana is sown with planted torpedoes and mines connected by electric wires with Moro Castle. If so, why did not the Spanish authorities indicate to the commander of the Maine a safe anchorage? Why, also, did not the commander of the ship, who must be presumed to know of the torpedo plants in the harbor, positively assure himself of safe anchorage?

If it should develop that the wreck was caused by torpedo or mine, while the judgment of the people will point to Spanish treachery, it will still remain a theory that the torpedo may have been accidentally, not purposely fired. This, however, could scarcely have happened if the electrical apparatus was, as it should be, disconnected from the source of electrical energy, as ought to be the case in a harbor open to the entry of friendly ships, and into which steamers and vessels of commerce and peace daily pass.

The presumption must be, therefore, until overcome by proof to the contrary, that there are no torpedoes planted in Havana harbor, or, if there are, that they are wholly disconnected from any source of the electrical current.

But while all these and other speculations will be indulged in, let the American people justify their sense of right and conviction of justice, by suspension of judgment until official investigation develops the truth.

English sailors testify that they saw Apprentice Epps of the United States ship Olympia murdered in Nagasaki harbor. His assassins were arrested and promptly discharged by the Japanese authorities. A mate of the English ship Saint Enoch declares that from the deck of his vessel he saw the young apprentice while in the sampen en route to the flagship struck over the head with a boat hook in the hands of one of the Japanese oarsmen. He heard the cries of the wounded man for help, and finally saw the body pitched overboard. The mate did all he could to go to the aid of the apprentice, but he was too late. One of the crew of the Saint Enoch confirms the mate's testimony, and there are circumstances which go to sustain it, one being the character of the wound on Epps' head. Now then, here is an opportunity for the United States Government to assert itself and demand of Japan the rearrest of the murderers and their full trial. If we do not protect our blue jackets and naval apprentices when in foreign waters, we will presently secure no more Americans to tread the decks of our ships and maintain the honor of the nation at the point of the cutlass.

NOT ENTITLED TO SYMPATHY.

The Hongkong "Telegraph" says that the Japanese employed on English vessels are causing a great deal of trouble. They are mutinous, domineering and brutal. Recently they held up the liner Hakata Maru, defied the officers, assailed the passengers, beat the chief engineer cruelly, and while half drunken held a revel on board driving all the passengers and officers to the bridge for safety.

This is not unexpected news. The Japanese underlings are becoming possessed of the idea that their nation is supreme and the Japanese so foremost that they can do pretty much as they please wherever they may be. But we have little sympathy for the steamship people. There are tens of thousands of their own nativity who need employment, but are displaced by these overbearing Orientals who have become, wherever they are, much too important and self-sufficient.

The English have least of all any reason for the employment of sailors and ship employes other than their own people, since British sailors are plentiful. With the English it is probably a matter of gain. They can secure the Japs at a less wage rate, and thus the English sailor is sent to the rear. What applies in this regard to the English is equally applicable to the people of any other nation. They can if they will, man their ships with sailors who are of their own blood—at least man them with seafaring men of a higher type than the sailor class of Japan can supply.

When ex-Minister De Lome heard of the blowing up of the Maine he was greatly disturbed, and declared that he loved America next to his own country, that he held for Americans the profoundest regard and sincerest love. As for any Spaniard doing the deadly work to the Maine, that was impossible. He was agitated to tears, and protested how much he loves us all. But if De Lome is sincere he waited until late to manifest his regard. Not so long ago he wrote disparagingly of Americans and the American system. But one thing the ex-Minister did say that we can accept as clear truth, namely, that Spain as a mere matter of policy cannot afford to go to war with the United States.

The "Oregonian" says that a living language is in perpetual flux. True. But while words change in significance, take on new meanings and by common consent do turn themselves about, there is no reason in custom, change of conditions, needs of expression or the demands of communication, that call for corruption of the tongue. Certainly not at the rate now going on. The manufacture of new words, regardless of roots, the law of derivatives, or the fullness of expression, is one of the most vulgar of all modern offenses. It is one thing to broaden, render more expressive, beautify, enlarge and stiffer language, but quite another to vulgarize and degrade it.

Our local columns announce that the new Chief of Police proposes to enforce the anti-fouling-of-the-sidewalks ordinance. Well! Well! There is such a law, 'tis true, but really most people had forgotten it. The late municipal administration was never able to discover it. Down with your probe, Chief Dwyer, and you may find a whole nest of ordinances disregarded, laws defied and regulations unobserved. More power to your arm, too, as you thrust in the scalpel.

If such procedure as has marked the progress of the trial of M. Zola in Paris prevailed in American courts we would find all the press of Europe resonant with criticism about American courts and the rude and crude methods of justice among the people of the United States.

For this much from that severe critic the New York "Evening Post" thanks. Speaking of the De Lome incident it says that in the whole affair the President has acted with propriety, dignity and appears sincerely desirous of maintaining peace—"or, at any rate, of putting Spain in the wrong, if possible."

If Vice-President Cabrera has suppressed an incipient rebellion in Guatemala, as is reported, by offering to Morales, its head and front, a Cabinet position, he has taught diplomatists a new trick in their art. The story is that Cabrera has done just that thing. Cabrera is a success.

First Los Angeles with her School Board scandals; then San Francisco with her School Directors selling positions; now comes San Jose, with her Councilmen peddling out places on the police force for spot cash and likewise on the installment plan. Next.

It is now well established that the Mahdi and the Negus of Abyssinia are in alliance with each other to aid the French advance down the Nile. No wonder that the Khedive and the English are disturbed over the conditions in that section.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL EXPRESSION.

State and Coast Opinions on Subjects of Living News Interest.

Los Angeles Express: The Yukon country is doubtless very rich in gold, but it will not, cannot, supply fortunes to all who go there. It is estimated that at least 100,000 persons are making arrangements to go to Alaska this spring, and on how many of these will fortune smile? We predict that not 5 per cent. will come back with any gain at all. Consider the record of the past season. There were a few among the first arrivals from Dawson City last summer who had in two or three more years' time, and with great toil and hardship acquired comfortable fortunes, but these may be counted upon the fingers of one's hands, almost. The amounts brought down by succeeding arrivals steadily dwindled. The great majority had a few thousand dollars or nothing.

GONE BACK.

Fresno Republican: Hero Decker, chief of the "rescue" department of the Yellow Journal Syndicate, is reported to have returned to Cuba. As there are no American citizens under arrest in the "ever-faithful" isle, Mr. Decker might turn his hand to rescuing Captain-General Blanco from his embarrassing position.

OUR CIRCULATING MEDIUM.

Humboldt Standard: It is a favorite pastime of the free silver advocates to talk very learnedly about the small amount of money in circulation. Some tells us that it is not more than $9 per capita. That is about the circulation per capita in gold. In 1873 when that "crime" was committed of which free silver men talk so constantly and so inconsistently, we had practically no gold in circulation outside of California; probably less than $1 per capita in the country. Now we have about $9 per capita circulation in gold, and more than twice the circulation of money, taking gold, silver and paper, that we had in the year 1873. Instead of decreasing, the money circulation of the country has steadily increased, and is now $4 more per capita than it was in 1873. The most reliable statistics to be had show that the money in circulation in the United States on January 1, 1898, was $214,665,674 in excess of the amount in circulation when the Chicago convention adopted the free-coinage platform in 1896. The official figures of the Treasury Department showing the money in circulation in the United States give the total for July 1, 1896, $1,506,434,966, and that for January 1, 1898, $1,721,100,640. Nearly $100,000,000 of this increase was in gold, about $10,000,000 in standard silver dollars and nearly $50,000,000 in silver certificates.

This is a very good showing and flatly disproves the main contention of the Bryanites, who claimed that no increase in the circulation could come save by free coinage, and that no increase in the price of farm products would be seen until we had gone to the silver basis by the free-coinage route. Money is not so scarce as it was when Bryan was nominated for President and the circulating medium is increasing faster than the population.

TO BE TRIED.

Colusa Sun: Referendum is to be tried in San Francisco to a limited degree and in a way that will add no credit to the plan. When an ordinance has been passed granting a franchise of any sort 15 per cent. of the voters at the last election can by petition have the whole matter submitted to the vote of the people. Now we hold that a petition of 15 per cent. ought to have any measure submitted that has been passed by any Legislature or by any city or town council, but the matter to be submitted is the most trying on the plan of any that could possibly be brought up. It is safe to say that there will be no franchise renewed or granted that will not have the 15 percentage of voters petition for the submission, and then what a time for papers that get pay for "fair treatment"! What a margin will have to be left for the political rounders! There will be a glorious distribution of "corporation money"!

THAT'S SO.

Biggs Notes: Sacramento is out for the conventions, and she ought to have them. She not only ought to have the conventions, but the convention ought to nominate men for State offices who will live at the Capital after they are elected.

POLITICAL COWARDICE.

Alameda Argus: Here is another man who thinks the liberties of men are to be preserved by a secret society—J. R. Sovereign of the Federation of Labor. He wants men bound togther with awful oaths, sworn to in darkened rooms to slow music, "as an adjunct to the silver cause and to prevent intimidation at the polls." The trouble about this is that a man who hasn't the courage to vote as he wants to would be afraid to be blindfolded while he rode the goat in the lodge room. Such labor leaders as Mr. Sovereign are always coming forward with some quack theory to brace mankind up. They do not seem to understand that the only real way is for every man to brace himself up, have a stiff upper lip, be a good American and get over thinking if he is inclined that way, that the Government is a personal guardian to watch over him to see that he has a good time. Government, when it protects all men in their rights, does all it ought to do. The man must do the rest, and the rest is easier in this country than in any other if the man takes hold of it with a will.

OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

San Diego Union: One of the most encouraging signs of better times is the very marked revival in the shipbuilding industry. The activity in the shipyards of both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts is now greater than at any time since the Harrison administration of 1889-93. The outlook is especially prosperous on the Delaware, where the Cramps are laying the keels for several new West India liners, and the other yards are well employed. At Bath, in Maine, where this historic industry has been suffering for two or three years past with something very near to paralysis, there is a brisk resumption of activity. A New Bedford whaling merchant who lately visited Bath to place an order for a new steam whaler for the Arctic, declared, after a tour of the busy yards: "Your shipbuilders in Bath have too much work on hand, and it looks as if I shall not be able to get my craft built here." In other New England shipyards much the same conditions are reported. No doubt the demand for vessels, already built, for the Alaskan trade, has something to do with the revival of shipbuilding. But the Klondike rush is not responsible for all the activity. Under more favorable conditions the American merchant marine is preparing to regain its lost prestige.

"GENTLE READER DON'T FORGET."

Tulare Register: Gentle reader, while you are remembering things remember a little American history also, remember that the ratio between silver and gold established in 1792 made 15 ounces of silver worth as much as one of gold so that the silver of Spain and Mexico was brought to New York and exchanged for gold which went to Europe, leaving America on the silver standard until 1834 when Congress adopted the ratio of 16 to 1 which caused gold to be brought to America and exchanged for silver, which was undervalued as badly as gold had been so that all the silver left as fast as coined, leaving the United States on a gold basis from 1840 to 1898 and this country has not had theoretical bimetallism for a single year in all its history, never had gold and silver circulating freely and constantly side by side except when gold was the standard and silver was a subsidiary coinage and overvalued. This is history.

ALASKAN LAW.

Fresno Republican: The administration is taking a wise step in preparing to preserve law and order in Alaska. The human wave which is sweeping in upon that territory will undoubtedly carry with it a very large number of criminal and desperate characters, and it is quite apparent that none other than military protection will be sufficient to preserve life and property. That a force of considerable size will be required to accomplish this purpose is also apparent, and it cannot be too soon placed in position where its services are most likely to be needed.

THE REVENUE INCREASING.

Humboldt Standard: The receipts of the Government under the Dingley law continue to steadily and rapidly increase. The January receipts will be about $30,000,000 in the thirty-one days of the month. As the expenses of the Government (aside from the Postoffice Department, which is practically self-sustaining), amount to about $365,000,000 a year, or an average of a million dollars a day, it is thus quite apparent that the new law has almost reached the line of providing sufficient funds to meet current expenses. Treasury officials express confidence that February and March receipts will exceed the expenditures of those months, and that the year 1898 will show a handsome balance on the right side of the ledger.

ONLY FOOD TO EAT.

Alameda Argus: There is nothing to eat upon the Klondike but food. The relief expedition has been lost in the shuffle. Everybody who has come out from the frozen region says there is no danger, and yet the United States authorities go on fetching over reindeer, with their horns sawed off, and unwinding endless lengths of red tape preparatory to starting its expedition with food for the relief of the Klondikers at Dawson City, who do not need relief. If the expedition ever gets started it cannot begin to overtake the hordes that are now pushing their way into the country. The Dawsonites are sure to get fresh supplies from gold rushers long before they do from those specially sent to their succor.

EASY ENOUGH.

San Diego Tribune: A Grand Rapids, Mich., paper prints a howl from the people of that city because they are being cheated with frosted oranges from Southern California. The fruit is fair in appearance, on the outside, but attempts to eat it cause disgust. And now the question is, how can honest shippers in the orange belt protect themselves against the unscrupulous fruitmen who are thus injuring the Eastern market?

THE LOUD BILL.

Chico Record: If the weekly press desires to be utterly destroyed and their means of usefulness blotted out, they should urge their members of Congress to vote for the Loud bill now pending for passage. The effects of the bill if passed into law, will simply destroy the weekly press. It prohibits the sending out of sample copies; gives any Postmaster where any paper is published the right to investigate the books of the newspaper, and pending this investigation to hold up the issue and prevent it from going into mail, and many other similar features, which absolutely destroy the independence and liberty and benefits of the weekly press, and denying their rights under the postal laws of the United States.

THE LOUD BILL.

Placer Republican: Mr. Loud proposes to make the book publishers and country newspapers make good the deficiency in the Postoffice Department. In his speech he said he "would have every pound of mail matter pay postage." Then why does he not propose that all departments pay the same postage as private citizens? Why not have the Postoffice Department issue stamps for the use of the various departments and Congressmen, to be paid for by the heads of each department and distributed upon requisition of those having the franking right? We believe that with no other change in the present law, the letter rate might be reduced to a 1-cent rate and still show a surplus. The bill now is a premium on illiteracy.

THE FRENCH FARCE.

Los Angeles Times: They do things queerly in la belle France, judging by the cabled report of the Zola trial. Here is a sample: "More than 200 barristers in their robes gathered at the public entrance and indulged in horse play. When the presiding Judge ordered them not to obstruct the passage, the barristers made a demonstration against the Judge." Fancy a lot of American lawyers "making a demonstration against the Judge" without getting a chance to spend a term in jail. The dispatch referred to, after reciting the fact that the military was called in, resulting in a "violent affray," says: "The barristers rushed upon the guards and struck them. One of the young lawyers was arrested, but after quiet had been restored he was released. General Gonz refused to testify. A scene followed and the court was cleared." All this sounds to us, who are familiar with the decorum and dignity of our courts, like a scene from one of McNally's most idiotic farce-comedies; indeed, it resembles, in many particulars, the last act of "Courted Into Court." Our courts may fail lamentably in some things, but they certainly do not permit the rabble to run them, nor do they placidly sit by and hear witnesses refuse to testify without exerting their authority. If the Zola trial is not a screaming farce, our Gallic friends ought to take in their sign.

INSANE? OF COURSE.

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat: After having confessed the truth, in reference to killing his brother and sister by poison, it occurs to Frank Bellew that he is very, very insane. Insane? Why, of course Bellew is insane. Any man who imagines the law will speedily punish a murderer, even on his own admissions when corroborated by conclusive evidence, must be a lunatic of the most violent type.

HAS HAD ENOUGH.

Charles Heisen Settles His Portion of an Old Indemnity Bond.

The levying of an attachment yesterday by Alfred Spinks on property of P. Kelly under an execution for $595 issued jointly against him and Charles Heisen, recalls a bit of litigation that has some rather novel features.

Several years ago a horse and phaeton were attached by Constable Frank Swift under an execution in favor of W. E. Severn and against George W. Ellery. Mrs. Ellery recovered possession of the property by replevin, claiming it to be hers and not her husband's.

A bond had to be given, of course, to indemnify the Constable, and Heisen and Kelly qualified as the sureties in the sum of $330. Severn did not give up his fight for the horse and phaeton, however, and subsequently recovered judgment therefor. But he couldn't get the horse, for the animal had in the meantime gone to the boneyard, and even what Severn got of the phaeton and harness was worth little more than old junk.

But while all this was going on Constable Swift died and was succeeded in office by George R. Martin, who took up the gauge of battle where Swift had been cut down. As the horse was dead and the phaeton and harness valueless, Martin naturally fell back on Mrs. Ellery's sureties, Heisen and Kelly, whom he sued for the amount of their bond.

This suit hung fire for a long time, and wearying of ever reaching a final decision Martin gave up the struggle and was laid to rest in the cemetery.

Then it was that Spinks succeeded to the office of Constable, and among the legacies that fell to him was the Severn-Ellery-Heisen-Swift-Martin-horse-and-phaeton unfinished litigation. Not knowing just how soon he might be called on to follow those who had been laid away by loving hands since the litigation was first begun, Spinks went at the task with energy, and about a year ago he obtained a judgment against Heisen and Kelly for the amount of their indemnity bond, which, with accruing costs, etc., amounted to the snug sum of $595.

The bondsmen manifested no haste to settle with him, and Spinks has since been working on the two capitalists of I street in the hope of eventually getting the money without being obliged to resort to harsh measures. As they were still diffident about parting with the $595, and not wishing to die without having wound up the litigation, Spinks threatened to enforce the payment of the money.

Then Heisen paid his portion of it. "I didn't want any more lawsuits over that case," said the capitalist yesterday to a "Record-Union" reporter, "so I just paid up. There's no use fighting these things in court, and I'm tired of litigation. I've paid my share of the money and left Kelly to fight it out or not, as he pleases."

Mr. Heisen said that Judge Armstrong was one of the lawyers in the case, and he too has gone to his rest. All in all, it has been a remarkable piece of litigation.

SIMPLE ASSAULT.

The Jury Deals Kindly With an Afflicted Youth.

The jury in the case of Claude Barnes, the youth charged with assault with a deadly weapon on Adele Lebreville, a resident of lower L street, were out but a few minutes yesterday, when they returned a verdict of guilty of simple assault.

Young Barnes is by many regarded as an incompetent, and it is not unlikely that he will eventually have to be committed to some institution where he can be restrained from doing violence during the attacks of epilepsy to which he is subject.

Breaking Up Poolselling.

Nearly all the pool gamblers now trudge over to the Yolo Monte Carlo across the river. The espionage that Chief of Police Dwyer has established over the Seventh and K streets poolroom is evidently having its anticipated effect, and it looks as if the end of business in that quarter is close at hand.

TO BE RECALLED.

The Congregationalists Want Rev. J. B. Silcox Back Again.

There was a very large meeting of the members of the Congregational Church last evening, the object being to consider the matter of an expression as to the choice of the congregation for a pastor to succeed Rev. H. N. Hoyt, who has accepted a call to a church in the suburbs of Boston.

The congregation voted almost unanimously in favor of the recall of Rev. J. B. Silcox, who preceded Mr. Hoyt in the pastorate of the church. After the first expression the vote was made unanimous.

Mr. Silcox has occupied the pulpit of the Leavitt-street Presbyterian Church of Chicago, where he has been remarkably successful, but it is intimated that he would probably respond to a call from his old parishioners in this city.

Glenn Wants a New Trial.

John T. Harrington, counsel for the defendant in the case of Colusa against Glenn County, recently decided here in favor of the plaintiff, has filed notice of a motion for a new trial.

Ten Eycke—The Turks believe that there are no women in heaven.

En Peque—I wonder if the last steamer for Constantinople has sailed.—New York Truth.

Sitter (jocosely)—I suppose you want me to look pleasant?

Artist—Unless you prefer a perfect likeness.—Exchange.

Irritation of the throat and hoarseness are immediately relieved by "Brown's Bronchial Troches." Have them always ready.

Try McMorry's 35c tea. 531 M. *

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"I received your Belt in good condition, and it is wonderful the effect it is having on me. It has done me a world of good in one month. The drain upon my system is nearly stopped, and my varicocele is almost gone already. I think that in three months I shall be as well as ever," writes C. C. Marvin, Norman, Cal., Jan. 15th, 1898.

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