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The Tribune Building, New York City.
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Weather Forecast.
Northern California—Fair in the southern portion Monday; cloudy in northern portion; probably light rain early Monday morning; southerly changing to westerly winds.

THE MAINE DISASTER—THE CASE TO THIS DATE.
Pending the receipt of the official report of the Board of Inquiry, judgment concerning the Maine disaster must be suspended. But this by no means implies that silence concerning it should be maintained.

Very careful examination and noting of all dispatches of every character received and published in the newspapers of all classes having regular or special means of ascertaining facts and publishing news, justify these conclusions under present lights, and they include careful weighing of the opinions of naval and other experts, and the statements of Government officials.

First—There is no known torpedo that could possibly have directly caused such a wreck, no matter how placed on the exterior of the ship. But a mine of sufficient capacity could be planted so as to have produced the effects now visible at the wreck.

Second—A torpedo, or missile floating or carried, might have been placed under the Maine that would have caused explosion of one or more of her magazines and have produced the effects that followed the wrecking of the ship. It is a fact that the wreck of the Maine is sinking into the bottom of the small bay, which bottom is lined with mud and the waters are not of great depth. There is some significance in this in support of the theory that the explosion came from without and excavated or shattered the bottom beneath the Maine so that she is sinking rather than settling. So, too, it is a fact that at the time of the explosion the forward part of the ship was lifted, and that this tends to support the theory that the assault was from without and below.

Third—The Spanish Charge d'Affaires at Washington, with and by consent of his Government, has made an explicit and emphatic denial that the harbor of Havana was planted with torpedoes or mines. While this is not official denial by Spain, it is much the same thing. Spain declines to make an official statement directly, because any request for it would challenge the honor of the nation.

Fourth—It is a fact that spontaneous combustion of coal in ship's bunkers takes place, and that the burning may go on a very considerable time before discovery, or indeed, may not be discovered until too late. Also, generation of gases in coal bunkers by reason of abnormal heat might cause an initial explosion that would result in the setting off of one or more of the ship's magazines. Or excessive heat in the bunkers might fire a magazine. But against this the fact is established that the indicators on the Maine disclosed only normal heat in the coal bunkers.

Fifth—It would have been possible for an enemy to have deposited a bomb or similar missile in the Maine that would be sufficient to fire the magazines, one or more of them.

Sixth—The ship's boilers, it is reasonable to believe, from examination made to date did not explode. But if one of them did, it could not have caused such destruction on the Maine as did take place.

Seventh—There is not a particle of testimony thus far indicating, even remotely, that the Spanish Government was privy to or had any knowledge of the explosion. There is some reason to suspect that Spanish Cuban volunteers, who bitterly hate the United States, or a Spanish fanatic, or even a fanatic Cuban insurgent may have sent against the Maine a destructive missile sufficient to cause secondary explosions capable of wrecking the ship.

Eighth—It has not been shown as

yet that any of the magazines of the Maine exploded. Nor has it been definitely determined so far as the public has been reliably informed, that one or more of the magazines did not explode. Nor has there come from reliable sources any information that the Government divers have ascertained from exterior examination what caused the wrecking of the ship.

Ninth—The United States Government is making more than usual effort to strengthen coast defenses and to prepare the navy for emergencies, and these efforts extend beyond the activities recommended prior to the loss of the Maine.

Tenth—There is some reason to believe that the Government officials have not made public all the information conveyed to them concerning the blowing up of the ship. But there is no good reason to believe that they have falsified when they say that they have given out all the information received by them, which has been reasonably established as truth.

While it is a fact that the keel and double bottom of the forward part of the ship were cast upward to the waterline, thus buckling the bottom of the ship through the hull, it is not settled that such a result could only follow application of exterior force, though the opinions of experts are quite one, that an internal explosion would not be to produce such a peculiar and significant effect.

For the following stories given to the public by the sensational press, which seems to be striving to stir the blood of the people to a fever heat, there is no such warrant as to justify the Government officials in giving them attention, namely: That the President has been informed of the truth regarding the destruction of the Maine. That if it was brought about by three merchants of Havana who hired a band of braves to place a cluster of torpedoes beneath the ship, for the sum of \$10,000. That General Lee has reported to the State Department that it has been shown positively that the explosion was from without, and was due to treachery. That Spanish officials were cognizant of the scheme to blow up the ship. That the explosives were built and placed at the buoy where the Maine was anchored after the Spanish warship, that was moored there a few weeks ago had been removed. That a map in the Library of Congress shows that Havana harbor was sown with torpedoes.

It turns out, by the way, that this last story is worse than a fake. It is a cruel and unmitigated falsehood. The map was published by a sensational paper of New York on Saturday, showing the torpedoes in place and a cluster of them directly beneath the Maine. When the map was examined by officials of the State Department, it was discovered that the torpedoes are all fiction, and were falsely placed in its illustration by the conscienceless newspaper referred to.

Nor have we been able to find any warrant for belief in the stories published that General Lee has ever advised Americans to leave Havana: that he has been threatened with assassination; that Spanish naval small boats have swarmed about the wreck and impeded the operations of the Board of Inquiry; and so on with a score of similar alarming and sensational statements.

The fact is, so far as the public mind is concerned, it has no reason as yet for forming any judgment that the Maine was purposefully blown up, or that it was not destroyed treacherously and malignantly. But we are justified in concluding without any reservation, that if the ship was not destroyed from internal cause, purely accidental, then the United States was justified in calling upon Spain to answer, because the latter Government by consent and invitation to our ships to enter Spanish waters, assured them of reasonable safety. Hence, the burden of obligation will be upon Spain to show that the Maine had the usual and required assurance of immunity from danger, because of her entry upon the waters of a Spanish harbor.

Mr. Towne who is making speeches to revivify the 16 to 1 issue is declaring that Jefferson and Jackson were champions of the cause he is boosting. But history does not sustain him. Jefferson in the American State papers is quoted as declaring that: "The proportion between the values of gold and silver is a mercantile problem altogether." Jefferson found no objection to adopting the ratio the world's business settled upon. There was no 16 to 1 in his financial philosophy. Jefferson favored "the proportion between gold and silver recognized in the markets of the several countries with which we are, or may be, connected in commerce." Jefferson wished to use both metals, but he did not propose to act alone in adapting the use to our needs. It was Jefferson who suggested (1792) the ounce of silver as the unit to show that its value depended on the metal and that alone. Jackson's first report in 1830, showing that no country could have both gold and silver in circulation under a scheme of perfect free coinage. He favored in so many words a single standard, and said that there could be but one. The proposition to make gold the standard was formulated in a bill introduced by Thomas H. Benton in 1834. It passed Congress and was approved by President Jackson and in a later message Jackson dwelt upon "the beneficial effect of the change," and the law became known as "The Administration Gold Bill." That was the genesis of the establishment of the gold standard, as the records of American history disclose. These facts the Portland "Oregonian" recently with much elaboration collated, sustained by copious references and extracts from official documents, the whole dedicated "to Mr. Towne of Minnesota," winding up with the question whether Mr. Towne knows what he is talking about when he calls on the shades of Jefferson and Jackson.

It is predicted that 250,000 persons will flock to the Klondike region just as soon as spring navigation opens. It is also predicted that the world stands some walk home with gold, but it is the intention of the Government that it

shall be first in war," says the San Jose "Mercury."

Not so sure of that. It is a grave question whether the Government should construct any more battleships. The idea is gaining ground in naval circles that small war boats, swift, formidable and costing comparatively little, are far more effective. The loss of one of these small craft involves less sacrifice of life and money; ten small boats heavily armed are infinitely more difficult of resistance by a battleship or a fortress. They attack from many points simultaneously; they flee swiftly; they approach with less liability of discovery. Cruisers we will need all ways for voyaging, and in case of war to prey on the commerce of the enemy—but battleships? That is a question for debate.

It is not yet three ripe moons since the New York "World" declared with emphasis and assumed indignation that under the present Administration our export of manufactured articles was declining and would fall off to stagnation. That prophet has failed in its own country. The official reports are now at hand and show that under the present law the exports of manufactures has steadily increased and now exceed in value the total exports of 1896 by \$25,000,000, while the net gain of all exports exceeds \$93,000,000. The "World" remains to be heard from.

It has been a poor news item from Havana to the lurid press the past ten days that has not been contradicted and knocked in the head within twenty-four hours thereafter.

CHINA'S JOB.
Oakland Tribune: China seems to be trying to not only carry water on both shoulders, but a bucketful on her head.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.
The appointment of Governor Griggs of New Jersey, as a member of President McKinley's Cabinet, left a vacancy in the Governor's chair. Since they have no Lieutenant-Governor in that State the succession falls to the President of the State Senate. This position is held by Foster M. Voorhees, an active young man who has made quite a record in the years of his service in the State.

How little the members of the Senate and House of Representatives know about the practical bearings of the questions they are discussing was illustrated to-day, when a telegram was received at the Treasury Department asking whether persons who were paid interest on bonds were allowed to elect what kind of money they should receive. From five to fifty thousand dollars are made every day. It is also a stock question that has to be answered several hundred times every month whether the interest or principal of the public debt has ever been paid in silver or greenbacks, or whether gold is used. 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