

COURT OF INQUIRY NOT YET READY TO REPORT.

May Be Several Weeks to Come

Before Investigation Is Completed.

Will Return to Havana to Take More Testimony.

No Orders Given to Send Another Warship to Cuban Waters.

Secretary Gage Pronounces as False the Statement That He Is Making Preparations for a Bond Issue.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—At the close of office hours a telegram came to the Navy Department from Admiral Seward at Key West in the following terms:

"Key West, Feb. 28.—To the Secretary of the Navy, Washington: Court of Inquiry will commence session at Key West to-day. They must resume session at Havana to obtain evidence of divers after their work upon the wreck."

"SICARD." The important feature of this communication is the declaration that the court will return to Havana. It sets at rest the rumors that have been current for days past that the court was not to return to Havana, for the reason that it had discovered the cause of the sinking of the Maine, which was not an accident, and that they had consequently no further business in Havana.

One important deduction to be drawn from the message was that the report of the Court of Inquiry can scarcely be expected for several weeks to come. The court will be occupied at Key West for some days at least in taking the testimony of the survivors there. Then upon the return to Havana, it is expected that a good deal of time must elapse before the divers can get through the mud which now encompasses the lower part of the wreck of the Maine, and examine the bottom. After this is done the court must deliberate in order to secure an agreement upon their findings.

The prevalent belief at the Navy Department is that up to this moment the court has not once undertaken to compare notes and endeavor to reach such an agreement.

A Cuban mail was received during the day, and, with the candor which has so far characterized all his dealings with the public in this matter, Secretary Long caused it to be given to the newspaper reporters as soon as he had read it himself. It was made up of one letter from Captain Sampson, dated at Havana, February 23d, and dated at Key West, February 28th, and which had already been reported by telegraph one fact is significant, viz: the statement that the testimony of certain civilian witnesses before the court would be of no importance. His letter is as follows:

February 23, 1898.—Dear Sir: The court has taken the testimony of all the officers of the Maine still here. Tomorrow we will take such testimony as the divers have accumulated. The Right Arm arrived here this morning and reported to Captain Sigbee, according to orders.

"I trust some wrecking company will be given the entire job, as no other plan will be feasible.

"There are two citizens in the harbor who have signified their willingness to testify, although they have nothing important.

"After taking this evidence, and that of the divers, I propose to return to Key West and take the evidence of the officers and men there.

"It may be necessary to return here after further progress has been made by the divers. Very respectfully, W. T. SAMPSON. Captain U. S. N."

The reports that came from Key West about unusual activity and the observance of unusual precautions among the few soldiers quartered there was received with amusement at army headquarters here. It was said that no orders had gone forward from this city to explain the bustle, but there was the best reason to suspect that the commandant was simply brushing up the post and putting his best foot forward against the expected appearance there on his tour of inspection of General Merritt, the commanding General of the Department of the East.

The gunboat Wilmington sailed to-day from La Guayra for Barbadoes, traveling over the ground covered a few days before by the Cincinnati and Castine. All of the boats are slowly

not believed that they will suffer during their brief interment at Key West. The battleship Texas, which has been at Galveston, returned to Tortugas yesterday and joined the squadron. The Terror reported her arrival at Tompkinsville to-day. The Castine arrived at Port of France, in the West Indies, Captain Dickett, Assistant Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has gone to Norfolk. Contrary to some reports that have been circulated, his visit has nothing to do with war preparations. He went to inspect the old training ship Essex. This vessel has just returned from a long cruise with the apprentices, and the naval regulations require such an inspection as this upon the return of a ship to this country. It will be for Captain Dickens to ascertain simply that the vessel is in a healthful condition; that the boys have conducted themselves properly during the cruise, and generally to hear complaints and satisfy the department that the ship has been well handled.

Assistant Secretary Melkotehn returned to the city by the night boat from Port Monroe. He declares that his visit to the post had no warlike purpose, but that he simply went for rest and recuperation.

**BLOWN UP BY DESIGN.**

**An Officer of the Maine Thinks the Court Will So Report.**

KEY WEST (Fla.), Feb. 28.—The United States court of inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana on February 15th began its session here this morning. The officers and civilians here who believed the report that Havana was the scene of the court had already decided that the loss of the Maine was due to treachery; but they have apparently changed their minds, for to-day the universal question is, "What has the court found?"

While yesterday one heard all around, "When will we see the face of the court," brought face to face with the court, men realized for the first time how unlikely it will be for the court to allow any inkling of its conclusions to be known out of due season.

An unusual bustle pervaded this little town from the early morning hours. The Spanish divers, who were sent to the New York and brought to shore Captains Sampson and Chadwick and Lieutenant-Commander Porter, Lieutenant-Commander Marx, the Judge Advocate, who is staying on the island with Commandant Forsyth, was already at the Federal building, directing the preparation of the United States District Court for the sessions of the court of inquiry. A small crowd gathered outside eagerly watching for developments.

Long before the officers were ready to go to the court room the men saved for the court room, the officers were waiting at their temporary home in the military barracks. It was not known when any of them would be called, but all preparations were made so that the court should not be delayed in its work.

The court opened shortly after 10 o'clock. Lieutenant Blandin was the first witness. Testimony will be taken according to its relative importance, and not according to the rank of the witness.

Lieutenant Blandin was before the court at 10 o'clock. Before the court were called as witnesses before the luncheon recess were Lieutenants Hood, Juncion and Blow and Cadets Bronson and Boyd. No enlisted men were examined at the morning session. Lieutenant-Commander Marx, who received the day Captain Sampson held a short interview with Admiral Seward, and then returned to the Iowa. Chaplain Chadwick and Lieutenant-Commander Porter were taken on board the New York.

It is known more than was known this morning. An officer of the Maine, however, who had been examined by the court during the day, talked with the correspondent of the Associated Press.

"I can't tell you," he said, "what line of questioning was adopted, but the court will find, I believe, that the Maine was blown up by design, though I don't think it will be able to ascertain exactly how. The court's findings will be based on negative rather than positive evidence. By this I mean that a lot of the testimony heard so far has, bit by bit, upset the theories of those who think the explosion was an internal origin. This negative evidence is so strong and so general that I see no possibility of the court deciding that the explosion was internal."

"The only alternative then left for the court is to fall back on evidence which points to the intentional blowing up of the Maine. This, I think, will be done unless the court formulates a theory of its own, or declares that it does not know how the disaster occurred, both of which conjectures I think improbable."

As bearing on the value of the opinion of the officer in question, it must be borne in mind that he was before the court for about fifteen minutes only, and that he has at all times expressed himself as confident that the explosion was not due to an accident. Members of the court, who were present at the interview was broken up by the attention, declined to have anything to say.

All the high naval and military officials here, when asked crucial questions, politely refused ignorance.

The order forbidding soldiers to go into town was rescinded this afternoon. No explanation has been furnished, and there seems to be some mystification at this alleged unprecedented occurrence. It appears that the order not only forbade the enlisted men from leaving the reservation, but it confined them to their quarters.

At the regular muster and inspection held early in the day particular attention was bestowed by the post commander on the men's marching kits.

All the Maine's dead that remain buried will be laid to rest in Key West. Orders were received from the Navy Department yesterday, and the coast survey boat Bache will bring here any bodies found. Fifty coffins

have been ordered from Key West undertakers. The Navy Department order is said to have been issued under the pressure of public sentiment against burying the remains of the sailors on Spanish soil.

Admiral Seward and his staff have charge of the funeral arrangements.

**WORK OF DIVERS.**

**Only One Body Recovered From the Wreck Yesterday.**

HAVANA, Feb. 28.—The day promised well for the divers who are at work securing bodies from the wreck of the battleship Maine and making salvage there. Including the Spanish divers, there are probably eight men below the water simultaneously.

Great preparations are on foot among the Spaniards here to give a hearty welcome to the cruiser Vizcaya, when she arrives at this port. General Weyler's street is arched with bunting and the Casino is gay with color.

It is hoped that the election of the autonomist delegates set for March 23rd will be postponed until April 27th, to correspond with the election for Deputies to the Cortes in Spain. The postponement, however, has not yet been officially announced.

Another tug belonging to the Merritt & Chapman, Derrick and Wrecking Company, with powerful apparatus, is expected from the north at any time.

There were showers of rain late in the day, and cloudy weather interfered somewhat with the diving. The weather, however, promises to clear, and hopes are entertained that the bodies of quite a number of dead will be recovered. Chaplain Chadwick hopes to recognize many of the bodies when he receives descriptions taken from the enlistment papers which are on file at Washington.

The Spanish divers will not make their examination to-day. Captain Sigbee expected them and probably will be advised to-day as to when they will begin their work.

Local work was done by the divers from the tug Right Arm. Captain McGee, who is in charge, seems to lack authority from the wrecking people or others, and is indisposed to work on his own judgment, except in smaller details.

Captain Sigbee was on board the United States lightship tender Fern until 2 o'clock this afternoon. He waited for the Spanish divers, but they did not appear. Captain Sigbee thinks Spain has a moral and international right to make an independent examination, and he will give the Spanish divers such facilities as are possible.

Captain Sigbee hopes the survey steamer Bache will return to the Tortugas to-morrow or the next day with all the Maine's wounded left here, and work to make an independent examination, and he will give the Spanish divers such facilities as are possible.

The difficulty experienced in recovering the bodies is not understood by any but divers. The latter yesterday worked to make an independent examination, and one of the divers had a bad fall and several got their air tubes tangled. Even then they could not extricate the remains.

The principal efforts of the divers are directed toward clearing the upper masts, smoke stacks, decks, gunwales, hatches, bridges, cranes and gratings. Then, if not before, all the dead can be removed.

"La Lucha" publishes late this evening, an official dispatch giving an account of a battle in the province of Puerto Rico, in which the insurgents are said to have lost 181 killed and wounded.

According to the dispatch, the battle took place February 18th and 19th in and near the Santa Inez and Hinojosa Hills. The Spanish force, which was under the command of General Jimenez Castellan, numbered 2,400 infantry and 400 cavalry. The insurgents left eighty-seven dead on the field. Among the killed were Colonel Rodriguez, Commandant Rocco, and other officers.

According to the dispatch, the Spaniards lost one officer, Lieutenant Parajo, and seven soldiers killed, and three officers and seventy-three soldiers wounded. The Spanish troops are said to have captured many weapons, a large quantity of ammunition and thirty-four horses.

**DUTY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.**

**Patriotic Words of Father Malone to His Congregation.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—In the Church Saints Peter and Paul, in Williamsburg, Father Sylvester Malone spoke to a large congregation on the possibilities of war between the United States and Spain. He said in part:

"I go for war, if war is declared—not only as an American, but as a Catholic priest. If your country's honor is at stake, give your life, if necessary, to sustain it. That is the true American and Catholic principle. I do not desire to see a war, but if it comes we must abide by the Government's decision and show our spirit as American citizens. Whether it is war or peace, we must do our duty. We must support the Government and its President whether he may be a Democrat or a Republican. Throw aside all party affiliations, and act with your brothers as a unit."

"People should be calm and wait for the decision of President McKinley. His reputation for coolness stands high. If the Maine was destroyed by design we should strike the blow, if justified, or demand indemnity."

There were present at the sermon the Rev. Dr. E. Homer Wellman of Brooklyn, referred to the war talk last night in his sermon. He said in part:

"Never since the days of the Spanish Invasion have such terrible deeds been countenanced as have been in Cuba. There surely must be something wrong with a nation that would do such things. War would be barbarism, but it must be resorted to to stop a worse kind of barbarism. The discipline on the Maine was beyond question, and the calamity could not have been due to

carelessness on Sixth Page.

in the course of the discussion of this proposed amendment, Rawlins of Utah antagonized the entire measure, charging that it was artfully drawn in the interest of speculators and not in the interest of the public.

Interrupting Rawlins, Carter of Montana, a member of the committee reporting the bill, said there was really no foundation for the charges he had made, as every point he had referred to had been carefully considered by the committee.

Rawlins still maintained that his point against the measure was well taken, and that railroads, to which valuable rights were granted, through the provision of the measure, were not sufficiently and carefully bound by this grant, if they should fail to comply with all the conditions of the grant. He said that the fake railroads and paper corporations were given preferential rights in Alaska over the people who desired honestly to file homestead claims.

Carter pointed out the fact that the right of way provision of the pending measure was by a reproduction of the law which has been on the statute books for many years. As it had seemed to the committee wise and prudent to prevent the gathering in of paper rights of way over the district, it had provided that no corporation could get a right of way and hold it for more than twenty-four months without building at least twenty miles of railroad.

Before Rawlins concluded, at 4:50 p. m., the Senate went into executive session.

At 5:35 p. m. the Senate adjourned.

**LA CHAMPAGNE PASSENGERS.**

**Many of Them Taken by Rail to New York.**

HALIFAX (N. S.), Feb. 28.—Sixty-three first-class and intermediate passengers of the steamer La Champagne left this morning by the Canadian Pacific Railway for New York. There are still thirty passengers of these classes left on board, who will probably remain until orders are received as to how they are to be forwarded to their destination. Agents of the steamer worked all night in order to enable those desiring to leave at once to get the early train to-day. All baggage and mail was landed at an early hour and the effects of those going forward were sent through in bond.

**SAILORES PICKED UP AT SEA.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—At the French Hospital in West Thirty-fourth street the eight sailors who were taken there from the steamer Rotterdam yesterday were reported as suffering severely from the effects of their six days of exposure in the open boat. Their limbs were badly swollen, and some apprehension was felt lest gangrene or blood poisoning should set in. Six of the men, it is said, will be in the hospital for two or three weeks.

The third officer, Unsworth, who was in charge of the boat's crew, and Commandant, the boatswain's mate, are able to be about. The former was at the office of the company to-day. Both of them were received on board La Bretagne of the company's line at the latter ship, it was announced to-day would sail Wednesday, instead of Saturday.

The third officer of La Champagne, Unsworth, is the first officer of La Touraine, which was temporarily filling a vacancy, due to the illness of the captain, at the time of the accident. He has an enviable record for personal heroism, holding a bronze medal from the German Emperor, a gold medal from the French line and a gold medal from the New York Humane Society, in each case for imperiling his life to save others.

King George has received a very affecting telegram of congratulation from Madras.

The Municipal Council has decided to erect a memorial chapel near the scene of the accident.

Karditza, who is 35 years old, was formerly a non-commissioned officer in the army. He belongs to a class of doubtful origin, locally designated as the Koutzavandis. The authorities obtained information that Karditza was hiding in a house of ill-repute, which they caused to be surrounded by the police, but in the meantime Karditza had gone to the Public Prosecutor's office and surrendered himself, declaring that he arranged the war loan. This decision, it further appears, was recorded on the minutes of the club, a copy of which was sent to the King, who paid no attention to the threat. Later Karditza said the plan was to shoot the King's coachman and the horses, and then to discharge the war loan into the river. The woman's body was recovered at daybreak. The body of the babe was carried out into the lake. Insanity caused the deed.

**Salisbury Recovering.**

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The Marquis of Salisbury, who has been suffering from a slight attack of influenza, is now recovering.

**Attempted Killing of King George.**

ATHENS, Feb. 28.—The police, it now appears, also found a dynamite bomb at the scene of the recent attempted assassination of the King.

CORBETT'S CASE DISPOSED OF.

The Senate, by the Decisive Vote of Fifty to Nineteen,

Denies Him Admission to the Senate on Appointment by the Governor.

The Senate Consumes the Remainder of the Session in Considering the Bill Extending the Homestead Laws and Providing for Right of Way for Railroads in Alaska.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Hon. Henry W. Corbett was to-day denied admission to the Senate as a Senator from Oregon on the appointment by the Governor, by a decisive vote of 50 to 19. Speeches were made to-day against the admission of Mr. Corbett by Bacon of Georgia and Burrows of Michigan, and in favor of his admission by Morgan of Alabama. After disposing of the Corbett case the Senate began the consideration of the Alaska homestead and railway right of way bill, and had not concluded it when it adjourned.

Former Vice-President Stevenson was a visitor on the Senate floor at the opening of the session to-day.

Mr. Corbett's case was the subject of an extended and elaborate argument in opposition to the seating of Mr. Corbett. He maintained that the Governor of a State had no authority to fill an original vacancy.

Burrows, after quoting in support of his position many eminent authorities, said that if the Senate should seat Mr. Corbett it would overthrow a long line of established precedents, as it would open the doors to conspiracy and fraud, the results of which nobody could foresee.

In conclusion, Burrows said that he had a letter from Hon. George C. Brownell of Oregon, in which the statement was made that Senator Mitchell, the caucus nominee, satisfied that he could not be elected, had named in writing a number of Republicans whom he would cheerfully support. Among these were Hon. George W. Williams, Hon. E. B. Vail, Hon. F. A. Moore, Hon. Binger Hemenway, Hon. J. C. Patterson and others. Mr. Brownell said in his letter that to his certain knowledge, Senator Mitchell, in a communication to the presiding officer of the House of Representatives, had said that he would support any of those whom he named, and accepted in reply the statement that the House would support no other than Henry W. Corbett.

The combination for the election of Mr. Corbett was made evident, Burrows thought, by the reply received by Senator Mitchell in his proposition, and he believed it was held together by the power of the unlimited use of money. If this scheme should be ratified by the Senate, it would be within the power of eleven elected members of the Oregon Legislature to thwart the purpose of the other members.

Burrows could not believe the Senate would approve by its action the conference of such authority upon a small majority.

Morgan of Alabama supported the claims of Mr. Corbett to a seat in the Senate.

Hear of Massachusetts moved to strike from the resolution the word "not."

Upon this motion the yeas and nays were demanded. The motion was defeated—19 to 50—the detailed vote being as follows:

Yeas—Aldrich, Allison, Baker, Fairbanks, Foraker, Frye, Hanna, Hansborough, Hawley, Hoar, Lodge, Mantle, Mason, Morrill, Perkins, Sewall, Turner, Wetmore, Wilson—19.

Noes—Allen, Bacon, Bate, Barry, Burrows, Butler, Caffery, Carter, Child, Clark, Clay, Cockrell, Cullom, Davis, DeLoe, Faulkner, Gallinger, Gorman, Gray, Hale, Helffer, Jones of Arkansas, Jones of Nevada, Kenney, Lindbergh, McBride, McAllen, Malloy, Martin, Mills, Mitchell, Money, Nelson, Penrose, Pettigrew, Pettus, Platt of Connecticut, Rawlins, Roach, Shoup, Stewart, Teller, Thurston, Tillman, Turley, Turpe, Vest, Warren, Wellington—50.

The resolution of the Committee on Privileges and Elections declared that Mr. Corbett was not entitled to a seat in the Senate from Oregon was then laid before the Senate.

The resolution of the committee was adopted—50 to 19. (Vote same as detailed vote given above.)

The pairs were as follows: McEnery with Chandler, Smith with Geary, Harris with Corbett was not entitled to a seat with Kyle, McLauren with Pritchard, White with Proctor, Quatt with Morgan, Murphy with Platt, Walthall with Spooner, Cannon with Daniel.

The first named in each instance were favorable to the resolution declaring Mr. Corbett not entitled to a seat, and the others opposed to it.

On motion of Hansborough, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of a bill extending the homestead laws and providing for right of way for railroads in the district of Alaska.

Stewart offered an amendment to Section 1 of the bill providing that no homestead should be located within 1,000 feet of navigable waters.

MILLIONS FOR NEW WARSHIPS.

Representative Bromwell Introduces a Resolution in the House

Providing for a Material Increase in the Strength of Our Navy.

Appropriates Twenty Million Dollars to be Immediately Available for the Purchase of Such Battleships, Cruisers and Other Naval Vessels of Modern Type, Together With Necessary Armament and Equipment.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Representative Bromwell (R.) of Ohio introduced in the House the following resolution:

"That the Secretary of the Navy be and is hereby authorized, whenever in his judgment it shall become expedient for the best interests of the country to do so, to secure the purchase of such battleships, cruisers, rams, torpedo boats or other form of naval vessels as are of the most modern type and ready for immediate use, together with the necessary armament and equipment for the same, as in his judgment are necessary to place the naval strength of the country upon a proper footing for hostilities with any foreign power with which the same may be threatened, and for the purpose of consummating such purchase there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$20,000,000 to be immediately available."

The resolution was referred to the Naval Committee.

Bromwell said he introduced the resolution to call the attention of the Naval Committee to the necessity for providing such a contingent fund in the naval appropriation bill. If the committee does not include such a provision in the bill when it is reported, he will offer it as an amendment in the House.

**GREEKS LOYAL TO THE KING.**

Thousands of Congratulatory Telegrams Arriving at the Palace.

ATHENS, Feb. 28.—One of the men who attempted the life of the King of Greece on Saturday has been arrested. His name is Karditza, and he is a minor official in the Mayor's office here. He refused to give the name of his accomplice.

The Municipal Council throughout the country are addressing messages of sympathy to the King, and thousands of congratulatory telegrams are arriving at the palace. The royal family are said to be greatly touched at the expressions of loyalty.

Two friends of Karditza have been arrested on suspicion of being his accomplices. He has become greatly depressed.

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**Events on the Turf.**

**Sport at Ingleside Yesterday Rather Tame.**

The Sticky Condition of the Track Made Racing Uncertain—Results at New Orleans.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—The sport at Ingleside to-day was rather tame and uninteresting. Seratches were numerous, while the sticky condition of the track made the racing very uncertain.

Seven furlongs, selling, Velox (Conley), 4 to 1, won; Captain Piersal (Thorpe), 4 to 5, second; William O'B. (Clayton), 11 to 5, third. Time—1:32 1/2. J. M. B. also ran.

Four furlongs, two-year-olds, Primavera (Hennessy) 12 to 1, won; Master Buck (Thorpe) 5 to 2, second; Orosoma (Clawson), 20 to 1, third. Time—0:51 1/2. Ach, Rainer, Ellen Wood and Complimentary also ran.

Seven furlongs, selling, Benamela (Clawson), 3 to 1, won; Veragua (E. Jones), 5 to 1, second; Moringa (Devlin), 9 to 5, third. Time—1:33 1/4. Numa, Cavallo, Humbus and Vivo also ran.

One mile, selling, Joe Ullman (Clayton), 8 to 5, won; Charles A. (Spencer), 9 to 2, second; Hazard (Conley), 11 to 5, third. Time—1:45. Rufaba and imp. Devil's Dream also ran.

Five and a sixteenth, selling, Plan (Gray), 5 to 1, won; Gotobed (Clawson), 18 to 5, second; Los Prietos (Holmes), 10 to 1, third. Time—1:51 1/2. Can't Dance, Argentina and Little Cripple also ran.

Seven furlongs, Bonito (Clawson), 7 to 5, won; Odds On (Thorpe), 7 to 10, second; Helvin Burham (Conley), 15 to 1, third. Time—1:33 1/2. No others ran.

AT NEW ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 28.—Track heavy. Results:

Six furlongs, Brown Berry won, Remington second, Direct third. Time—1:19.

One mile and twenty yards, Van Brunt won, Lakeview Palace second, Everest third. Time—1:49. No others ran.

One mile, Mr. Easton won, Joe Shelby second, Domsie third. Time—1:47 1/2.

Seven furlongs, Mount Washington won, High Test second, Mitt Boykin third. Time—1:32.

Seven furlongs, Harry Lee won, Lew Anna second, Trullio third. Time—1:32.

Six furlongs, Ettaire won, Timorah second, Floridas third. Time—1:17 1/2.

George Washington was worth \$200,000.