

THE COURT OF INQUIRY'S REPORT

Expected to Reach Washington Thursday.

No Intimation of the Findings as Yet Known.

Official Opinion Tends Toward External Explosion Theory.

The Report to be Sent to Congress and Given to the Public as Soon as Can be Consistently Done After a Copy Has Been Sent to Spain.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The procedure in connection with the submission of the report of the Maine court of inquiry by the President to Congress is now clearly outlined, and a Cabinet officer to-day explained the general line of action as intended to be pursued upon receipt of the report—which is expected to reach Washington next Thursday. A copy of it will be laid before the Spanish Government very early, and as soon as can be consistently done the report will be sent to Congress, and be made public at the same time. The report to Congress will be accompanied by a message from the President stating that after receiving the report the conclusions were laid before the Spanish Government, and appropriate action from that quarter asked.

It is stated positively that no part of the report and no intimation of the findings has reached the executive authorities in Washington as yet. At the same time, it is a noticeable fact that the current of official opinion is beginning to follow that the unofficial opinion expressed so positively and persistently at Havana and Key West, that the cause of the explosion was external to the battleship. Officials high in the Administration started to-day that when they were wholly without exact information as to the findings of the court of inquiry, they found themselves shifting in the apparently intangible conviction that the cause of the explosion was not accidental. Opinion expressed by the Maine survivors who reached here last Saturday has contributed largely to this view in official circles.

In this connection it is understood that one of the officers who arrived on Saturday stated, not as his opinion, but as his personal observation on the night of the disaster, that there were two distinct explosions. The tendency of this is to support the theory of external cause, as it is based on the idea that the first external explosion was followed by a second internal explosion.

Interest in the report was manifested to-day at the White House and at the State, War and Navy Departments. The President received a number of Congressional leaders, among them being Speaker Reed and Chairman Hitt of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The visit of Mr. Reed naturally attracted much attention, as he seldom leaves the Congressional sphere to make calls on the executive branch, and it was naturally inferred that the purpose of his visit was to confer upon the Cuban situation and its future before Congress, though neither he nor Mr. Hitt were communicative. Secretary Long also had a conference with the President, but so far as could be learned it developed nothing additional relating to the Spanish question.

No further purchases of warships were concluded to-day, and the negotiations are not assuming a promising aspect, except in showing that the United States can command the market as against Spain.

The Ordnance Office of the War Department presented a very busy scene to-day, when bids were opened for furnishing the department about 1,300 cast-iron projectiles for sea coast cannon with which to man the fortifications. The advertisement called for 197 ten-inch solid shot and 910 twelve-inch mortar shells weighing 1,000 pounds each. There was an unusually large number of firms who bid for the contracts, and the prices at which they proposed to furnish the projectiles showed a wide range. The contracts were not awarded to-day.

The battleship Texas started northward from Key West to-day, this setting the question as to the formation of a second squadron at or near Hampton Roads. It is expected that the Massachusetts will follow in a few days, but the final orders for that move have not been made.

The Navy Department received a preliminary report to-day from one of its agents who is at Havana watching the progress of the wrecking. It is understood that this refers mainly to the technical work of salvage, and not to the questions of cause. The Judge Advocate General's office, where the report was received, will not disclose the details of the report.

The short session of the Senate to-day

was quite unusual for the first working day of the week. That no one was prepared to go on with any pending measure was given as the explanation, but privately the opinion was stated by some of the Senators that while the Cuban question remains in such suspense there was no desire to take up important legislation.

The outlook as to Cuba was discussed among Senators almost to the exclusion of other topics, and the belief was quite decided that the Administration is preparing to take a positive position within the next week.

General Senators made the prediction that the United States would intervene. Being pressed for a reason, they stated that they had reached this conclusion after more or less conference with executive officers, but at the same time saying quite emphatically that they had no positive information on this point. Other Senators thought the recognition of Cuban independence more probable than intervention. Almost every one expressed the view that some action will follow the report of the Maine court of inquiry, regardless of its purport.

THE COURT'S FINDINGS.

Have Not Yet Been Received at Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—It can be stated positively and authoritatively that the report of the court of inquiry on the Maine disaster has not yet been received. From the same source it can be stated that the present official information is that the report is not likely to be here before next Thursday or Friday. This is a material change from the expectation prior to this time. The cause of the delay is not known, but it is assumed that the conclusions of the court are not yet in such exact form as to warrant their earlier presentation here.

NO MORE WARSHIPS PURCHASED.

The Government has made no further purchases of warships, and its negotiations in that line have been productive of at least one important result, namely, in establishing that unless the battleship General O'Higgins becomes the property of the United States it will not be sold at all. Spain is confident, it is asserted, will not be able to secure this vessel. Practically the same condition prevails as to the Argentine armored cruiser San Martin, which will become the property of this Government if it passes out of the hands of Argentina.

MANY RUMORS, BUT UNCONFIRMED.

There was the usual flood of speculative reports current to-day, including a renewal of the report that Lieutenant Blow, one of the Maine's survivors, who reached here Saturday, brought a letter from Admiral Sigsbee containing the information that the explosion was external, but could not be directly attributed to the Spanish Government. Officials high in authority are loath to make specific denials of these rumors, as there are so many afloat, but the story was dismissed as unwarranted. One high official, who would be likely to know if such information had been brought, stated that if it was in hand the fact had never been known to him, and he seriously doubted its correctness. It is undoubtedly true, however, that the Maine's officers who have returned to-day are not so sure of their personal opinion that the cause of the explosion was external.

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Secretary Long a Busy Man. Secretary Long's office at the Navy Department was again the center of conference to-day. Senator Hale, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, was one of the early callers, and spent half an hour with Mr. Long. Secretary Pritchard of North Carolina also had a talk with Mr. Long. Mr. Hale went from the Secretary's office to the White House, and had a talk with the President. Within a short time he was followed by Secretary Long, who spent some time with the President. The Secretary carried with him a bundle of documents, which, however, had become his custom. Senator Hanna came to the Secretary's office during his absence, and learning that he was with the President, spent some time in conference with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt.

The Spanish Minister called at the State Department to-day and presented Messrs. Angulo, Valera and Cadenas, who are the direct representatives of the autonomous Cabinet at Cuba. These presentations negotiations toward a commercial treaty will be opened.

WAR PREPARATIONS SATISFACTORY.

A high officer of the navy, who has intimate knowledge of the affairs, said to-day: "The greatest difficulty is being experienced by the Government in procuring ships abroad, but it is hard at work, and is making as much progress as is reasonably to be expected under the circumstances. Spain is pushing work on its war vessels. The Pelayo, its largest and best battleship, is practically ready for sea, and its second biggest ship, the Carlos V., will be ready in a fortnight or three weeks. The officials of the Navy Department are doing everything in their power to prepare for any possible conflict. Anything, however, which is gotten in the way of the boats and yachts will be for a makeshift, and our people would do well to learn that the only way to prepare for an emergency is to see that

the navy is put in first-class shape before the emergency arises, and this can be definitely done by building battleships and destroyers and by adding permanently to our naval lists of officers and men and by immediately passing through Congress the pending personnel bill, which is absolutely necessary to the handling of the new navy. The results, however, of the preparations so far, with the material at hand, are eminently satisfactory. The greatest preparation that has been made was with the drilling of battleships and torpedo boats, and this, and as a result the navy is now doing as efficient as one year ago. The people of the United States may trust to the navy with absolute confidence that it will respond to our call with the highest credit to itself and the nation. The question of the purchase of the O'Higgins is still in the air. Spain will not get her, and if she is sold it will be to the United States."

THE MAINE STILL IN EXISTENCE. According to the orders to naval officers, issued by the Navy Department to-day, the battleship Maine is still in existence. At least two of the orders would seem to give that impression. They read as follows: "Lieutenant A. W. Catlin, U. S. M. C., detached Maine, and home; Lieutenant G. F. W. Holman, detached Maine, home, and wait orders."

It is presumed that the ill-fated battleship will not be stricken from the naval register until after it has been finally established beyond the possibility of doubt that the shattered hull cannot be raised and reconstructed into at least a semblance of her former self. Although the officers scarcely would expect the hope that the vessel will be raised and restored to the navy, the department will not abandon its efforts in this direction until the wreckers now at work upon it report that it is impossible.

The navy has particular need of first-class guns, and many of the guns of the recovery of the main battery of the Maine as a consummation devoutly to be wished. Although there is not much prospect for raising the Maine with its reported broken backbone, there is good reason to believe from the reports of the wreckers that many of the guns may be recovered eventually from the wreck and put in places where they may be able to render good service.

CAPTAIN W. P. DUVAL.

Captain William P. Duval of the Fifth Artillery was reported at the War Department under orders for temporary duty in the office of the Secretary of War and the Major-General commanding the army.

Mr. Duval is instructor in practical military exercises at the artillery school at Fort Monroe, and is regarded as an expert in all matters pertaining to the artillery branch of the service. He has been promoted to his present grade as a result of the recent increase of artillery regiments. Although not officially admitted at the department, it is generally understood that he was summoned to Washington to confer with the military authorities on the subject of the employment of the artillery in active work along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

MEN WANTED FOR THE NAVY.

The enlistment branch of the navy to-day issued a large poster advertising for men for the United States navy. The poster putting into commission of the cruiser Adambra and the gunboat Albatross, and the prospective demands that will be necessary as a result of the acquisition of the Brazilian ship Amazonas and the American yacht Mayflower, requires the enlistment of additional men. Enlistments will be made at the following places: The navy yards at Boston, Brooklyn, League Island, Philadelphia, Washington, Norfolk, Mare Island, No. 66 South street, New York City; United States steamship Michigan, at Erie, Pa.; custom house at New Orleans and the custom house at Worcester, Mass.

The following classes of men are wanted: Seamen, 18 to 25 years of age, at \$24 per month; ordinary seamen, 18 to 25 years of age, \$19 per month; chief machinists, 18 to 35 years of age, at \$70 per month; machinists, first class, 18 to 35 years of age, at \$65 per month, and machinists, second class, 18 to 35 years of age, at \$40 per month.

The requirements for enlistment provide that all candidates must pass a physical examination, showing them to be free from disqualifying ailments. Seamen and ordinary seamen must pass examination in seamanship, and chief machinists and machinists must pass an examination showing that they are machinists by trade.

MILITARY DIVISION CHANGES.

The orders of General William M. Graham, assuming command of the new military department of the army, have been received at the army headquarters. It is said here that no immediate movements of troops as a result of the change of military divisions recently put into effect is contemplated, but that the movements for the present will be assigned to the transfer of artillery troops to man the fortifications recently completed.

THE LONG-EXPECTED REPORT.

Now Believed to be in the Hands of Rear-Admiral Sigsbee.

KEY WEST (Fla.), March 21.—The United States naval court of inquiry appointed to investigate the loss of the battleship Maine resumed its sessions this morning on board the battleship Iowa.

Judge Advocate Marix of the court of inquiry came ashore at 3 o'clock this afternoon, accompanied by an armed orderly from the Iowa, who carried a bulky package of official documents, which was handed to Rear-Admiral Sigsbee. It is believed the documents are the full findings of the court of inquiry.

Lieutenant Commander Marix when questioned on the subject refused to deny or confirm, but an officer from the Iowa said the documents were the long expected report on the Maine disaster. The papers were immediately examined by the Rear-Admiral and Commander West. It is presumed that if these documents are the anxiously expected report they will be taken to Washington tomorrow by Lieutenant Commander Marix.

McKINLEY WILL ACT FIRMLY.

Will Safeguard the Rights and Honor of the Country.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—One of the Cabinet officials, speaking about the report of the court of inquiry, which it is understood will come some time this week, said he agreed heartily with the suggestion that has been made that the President be allowed reasonable time to consider it before giving it to the public, and he felt sure that the public would take the same view. (Continued on Sixth Page.)

INQUIRY INTO MAINE DISASTER.

The Spanish Court Cannot Establish the Accidental Theory.

Such Admission Said to Have Been Privately Made in Government Circles.

The Board's Report Will Charge the Explosion to Unknown Causes, With a View of Making the Spanish Finding a Case to be Passed Upon by a Third Party.

NEW YORK, March 21.—A "Tribune" special from Havana states: The Spanish inquiry into the Maine disaster has gone to pieces in seeking to establish the accidental theory. This admission is privately made in Government circles. The nature of the board's report will not be changed. The explosion will be charged to unknown causes, but the Spanish finding will be with a view of making a case to be passed on by a third party. The work of the divers has not been thorough. Apparently they have found so little evidence on which a theory of internal explosion can be based that the Spanish court is not willing to stand unequivocally on the theory of accident, which it set out to maintain.

These facts have been known for three or four days. They may account for the radical autonomy of the Maine incident will be a cause of war between the two countries and also for hints at arbitrating the disputes on the question of fact. This talk is semi-official.

The Spanish authorities realize the improbability of successfully converting the case which will be presented when the report of Captain Sampson and his associates on the American board of inquiry is published. They have had an inkling that the evidence on which all external explosion due to the fact that the ship was not satisfied simply the American people, but the judgment of experts throughout the world.

How strongly this conclusion of the American board is fortified will soon be known. The cue received from Madrid notwithstanding that ready so that suspension of the world's judgment can be asked until diplomacy can arrange for a satisfactory settlement. The evident hope of Blanco's Government is to keep the Maine incident entirely distinct from other Cuban questions. Notwithstanding the lack of confidence in their own theory of accident, it cannot be learned that the authorities are doing anything to uncover the conspirators who are responsible for blowing up the Maine.

More importance is given to the final effort of the radical autonomy of the Maine incident will be a cause of war between the two countries and also for hints at arbitrating the disputes on the question of fact. This talk is semi-official.

The chief interest is in the knowledge that the negotiations are in fact Blanco's, and if they are entertained in any form will be clothed with a full official character. The only inference of other confidence that Gomez and the other insurgent leaders will at least permit the propositions to be made, and will then dictate their own terms, under which Spain's flag may remain.

Nothing has been published, nothing that could be published, could tell the story as it is really. "I know of my own knowledge that in many sections of Cuba they are digging up the earth for the worms that they may find. It is not everyone who is able to dig. Most of the people are so weak that they are unable to move. They are dying by the thousands, not the men who were doing or hope to do the fighting that eventually must end in triumph, but the poor women and children and the reconcentrados. Ruin is everywhere visible.

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Of the present feeling among Spaniards at Havana Colonel Chado said it was becoming more hostile for Americans every day.

"There is a feeling among them," said he, "that the United States is afraid to fight, and that they can do anything they please. I am as firmly convinced as a man can be that the Maine horror was not due to any submarine mine. This belief is shared by all Cubans—that the Maine was blown up by a torpedo. Further, I believe that the torpedo came from the Spanish warship Alphonso XIII.

"As to our reasons for thinking so: First, there is the fact that the night before the Maine explosion the Alphonso, which had been anchored near, was moved to a safe distance. Second, the fact that not once since the day of the explosion has any seaman or marine from the Alphonso been allowed to go ashore. The only inference is that the officers are afraid the sailors might become intoxicated and talk too much."

WHAT IS NEEDED.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Dr. Louis Klopper, now in Cuba in charge of the American relief work, cables from Havana, under date of March 21st, to the "Christian Herald": "The situation is simply this: Two hundred and fifty thousand reconcentrados in over 400 accessible towns are helplessly destitute. Unless we can get regularly, without a break, 300 tons of cornmeal and fifty tons of lard or bacon every week, we cannot effectively relieve the suffering. Spasmodic and unsystematic efforts defeat all good intentions. Canned goods are useless, and condensed milk should be substituted. Fifteen thousand dollars weekly will feed every starving man, woman and child in Cuba. Small, irregular shipments are only tantalizing."

AWFUL DISASTER AT BUTTE, MONT.

Fire Entirely Destroys a Three-Story Lodging-House.

Resulting, It is Believed, in the Loss of a Great Many Lives.

Twenty Known Lodgers Unaccounted for While the Remains of a Number of Transient Roomers May be in the Ruins—Two Men Killed and Another Fatally Injured in Jumping From the Windows of the Burning Building.

DENIED BY PINKERTON.

The Story That His Agency is Acting as a Spy for Spain.

CHICAGO, March 21.—William Pinkerton of Pinkerton's Detective Agency denounced to-day as "grossly malicious and tending to create an unjustifiable prejudice" the statements that employees of the agency were ferreting out the secret defenses of our Government and furnishing the information to the Spanish.

He said the agency had never been employed for any such purpose, and under no consideration would it accept employment from the Spanish or any other Government to furnish information regarding any matter connected with the United States Government.

With regard to the filibustering expeditions, the employment of the agency was for the sole purpose of gathering information for the United States Government, which would enable it to prevent the breaking of the neutrality laws, and for which our Government might be liable, as England was held responsible in the Geneva arbitration. The employment of the Pinkerton detectives was known to the authorities in Washington, and the co-operation of the Pinkerton was sought for by United States District Attorneys, United States Marshals, commanders of war vessels and other Government agents who were on guard to stop these unlawful expeditions.

DYING BY THE THOUSANDS.

TERRIBLE STATE OF AFFAIRS EXISTING IN CUBA.

In Many Sections People Dig Up the Earth for Worms on Which to Subsist.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Dr. Frank Chado, who for the past two years has served as Surgeon-General with the rank of Colonel in the Cuban army under General Calixto Garcia, and who was present when young Gomez committed suicide on seeing his leader, General Marti, shot in this city, said: "I know of my own knowledge that in many sections of Cuba they are digging up the earth for the worms that they may find. It is not everyone who is able to dig. Most of the people are so weak that they are unable to move. They are dying by the thousands, not the men who were doing or hope to do the fighting that eventually must end in triumph, but the poor women and children and the reconcentrados. Ruin is everywhere visible.

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a cost of \$70,000, and, with the furniture and belongings of the lodgers, the loss will reach fully \$100,000.

FIRE IN A RAILROAD DEPOT.

Flames Cause a Hundred Thousand Dollars' Damage.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The Pennsylvania Railroad depot in Jersey City was damaged by fire early to-day to the extent of \$100,000. The mammoth trainshed and the large office building escaped. Train and ferry traffic was seriously crippled.

All of the frame portions of the depot, with the shed covering the approach to the several ferry slips and the waiting-room and restaurant, were destroyed. The trainshed, built entirely of iron and glass, was damaged only by the breaking of glass from heat. All the rolling stock was promptly run out of the shed when the fire was discovered, and the company's ferry boats were simultaneously hurried out into the stream and over to this city.

There were several acres of glass on the roof of the big trainshed, and being melted and cracked by the intense heat it fell upon the firemen and made their work all the more perilous. The firemen were unable to use their scaling ladders on the big roof, nor were they able to get their water tower near enough to be effective.

The Keystone restaurant, where the greatest damage was sustained, was one of the most spacious and handsomely fitted up restaurants in the country.

The report that mail matter was being lost is denied. No rolling stock was injured, nor was any baggage destroyed.

TROUBLE IN ALASKA.

Rowdy Element Seizes Brackett's Wagon Road From Skagway.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Information has reached the War Department that the rowdy element of Alaska has seized Brackett's road, leading to and over White Pass, and has placed the country in a state of terror. Instructions were telegraphed to-day to General Merriam, commanding the Department of the Columbia at Vancouver, Washington, to order the infantry garrison at Skagway to take proper steps for the protection of persons and property in the disturbed regions, regardless of the expense attending such a movement of troops.

TACOMA, March 21.—Reported trouble in Alaska refers to George Brackett's wagon road from Skagway and not Bennett's railway and tramway from Dyea.

AMERICAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

VANCOUVER (B. C.), March 21.—H. B. Carter, who has just returned from Alaska, says the American customs regulations at Skagway and Dyea are working like a charm. Collector Ivey is carrying out the treasury instructions of February 21. Carter says the Skagway trail is breaking up by reason of the early season and mild winter. The wagon road is not yet in operation. The Dyea trail is no better. Many Klondikers are stuck at Sheep Camp with their outfits. The electric tramways are not yet working.

THE RUSH TO ALASKA.

SEATTLE, March 21.—Figures compiled by the "Post-Intelligencer" show that since January 1st 14,565 persons have left this city for Alaska. Of these 2,083 went to Copper River.

THE ELDER SAILS.

PORTLAND, March 21.—The steamer George W. Elder sailed for Alaska to-night with a full cargo of freight and seventy passengers.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

Resolution to Appoint a Committee to Consider the Subject.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Representative Wheeler to-day introduced in the House the following resolution: Resolved, That a joint committee, consisting of seven members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Vice-President, and seven members of the House to be appointed by the Speaker, be created to consider the question of our relations with Spain, growing out of the Cuban question. That a joint committee, consisting of seven members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Vice-President, and seven members of the House to be appointed by the Speaker, be created to consider the question of our relations with Spain, growing out of the Cuban question.

By this time the fire had broken through the first floor, and smoke filled the hallways. Dooley and his companions realized that there was no time to lose, and they began kicking in the doors of the rooms. The men thoughtfully awakened the women help first.

The alarm had been turned in, and the department responded promptly. When the firemen arrived men in their underclothes and others half dressed were clambering down the fire escapes in the rear. Others and the servant girls with them were at windows in the front of the building frantically calling for help. They were cut off from the rear of the building by the dense smoke. The ladders were run up, but not before many of the frightened people had jumped. Others, including all the female help, were gotten out by the firemen. On the side of the building many had made ropes out of their bed clothes and sought to escape in that way. Some of them succeeded, but in other cases the ropes broke, and the men dropped many feet to the ground.

As fast as the inmates were rescued or jumped those injured were placed in vehicles and carried to the different hospitals. Those uninjured or only slightly hurt betook themselves to the houses of neighbors and friends, in order to secure some clothing. No one saved anything but what he or she had on at the time of the fire. This made it impossible to obtain a full list of many who were slightly hurt. The night was bitterly cold, the thermometer registering 5 degrees below zero.

FIRE AT CHICAGO.

A Seven-Story Structure Destroyed, Entailing a Heavy Loss.

CHICAGO, March 21.—Fire this afternoon destroyed the seven-story structure known as the Schoneman building. Several people made their way to the street down the fire escapes. It is not believed any lives were lost.

The burned structure was located between two "sky-scraper" buildings—the Old Colony and the Manhattan. Both are fire proof, and neither was damaged, but there was much excitement among the occupants. Great crowds of people assembled on the adjoining streets, expecting to witness a recurrence of last week's Washburn avenue fire horror, but the prompt work of the firemen and the substantial character of the Old Colony and the Manhattan sky-scrapers combined to make an effectual preventive.

About a dozen firms, including bookbinderies and similar concerns, were burned out. The loss on the building was \$225,000. The losses of the occupants of the building were: Eagle Lithographic Company, \$20,000; H. E. Beal, \$10,000; Fortes, Wynne, book-binder, \$15,000; Chopin & Chaffin, printers, \$10,000. The other occupants were small concerns whose aggregate loss will not exceed \$15,000.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—To-day's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, \$223,742,043; gold reserve, \$11