CRUELEST WAR IN WORLD'S HISTORY.

Senator Gallinger Sums Up the Situation in Cuba.

Tells the Senate What He Saw on His Recent Visit to the Island.

Scenes in the Streets of Havana Harrowing Beyond Description —People in Want and Suffering Everywhere Seen, and Walking Sleletons Met on Every Hand— —The War in Cuba One of Starvation and Extermination.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—A vivid word picture of the barbarities and destitution in the island of Cuba was drawn in the Senate to-day by Gallinger of New Hampshire. The Senator recently visited Cuba to study the situation there. Long before the Senate convened the galleries were packed. Gallinger spoke in a low, clear tone, distinctly audible throughout the chamber. There was not an interruption by word throughout his speech. His auditors listened intently to his description of the horrors and cruelties suffered by the reconcentradoes. When he declared, however, that a Government that would starve 400,000 of its people would do anything, and followed this with the further declaration that the lives of the brave men lost in the Maine disaster could not be atoned for with gold or silver, a spontaneous wave of applause swept over the galleries, and the Vice-President had difficulty in restoring order. When he had concluded he was accorded a burst of applause which the Vice-President made little effort to restrain. Gallinger spoke as follows:

In opening his speech Mr. Gallinger said after that the calm, dispassionate and touching statement concerning Cuba, made in the Senate recently by Mr. Proctor of Vermont, it might be well for him to remain silent, but, yielding to the desire expressed by many of his colleagues, he had consented to give a plain recital of some of his observations on that "unhappy island."

He referred to the efforts made by the Cubans in 1829, in 1844, in 1848, in 1850, in 1851, in 1868 and again in 1895, to break the chains that bound them to Spain, so that they might establish for themselves a free government "upon the soil that was rightly theirs."

Save the last, all these efforts have ended in failure. That failure is history and need not be recounted.

Mr. Gallinger then detailed some of the events leading up to his arrival in Cuba and of his reception by Consul-General Lee. "Consul-General Lee," said he, "is deserving of the highest possible praise for the manner in which he conducted himself in Havana. Cool and fearless in the midst of difficulties and dangers, he never loses sight of the fact that he is an American citizen, nor is he unmindful of the tremendous responsibility and duty of his position."

Referring to his call upon the Autonomists' Cabinet, Mr. Gallinger said it was evident that the President of the Cabinet was not encouraged in the work.

"The truth is," said Mr. Gallinger, "autonomy is a flat failure, opposed alike by the ultra-Spaniards and the Cubans. The leaders of the insurrection have not forgotten how they were treated by Spain in 1878, and the blandishments and bribes now being offered them are spurned with contempt.

"'Better death than autonomy,' said a leading Cuban to me, 'for autonomy is only a pretense under which we would again be slaves to Spain.'"

Mr. Gallinger recalled that he had heard during debates in the Senate denials made that a state of war existed in Cuba, but it only required a brief observation to convince one that war actually did exist. A desolated country and its stricken people told the story more eloquently than it could be conveyed in words. "The war in Cuba, however," he said, "is a war of starvation and extermination—a war more cruel than the world has ever known."

The Spanish troops do not impress Americans as great soldiers. They are under a lax discipline, and are poorly uniformed and inadequately fed. The high officials do most of their fighting in hotels and cafes, the actual fighting being done by those of inferior grade. On the contrary, the insurgents are comfortably clad and under strict discipline. They occupy a large part of the island and could, in Mr. Gallinger's judgment, take Havana or Matanzas whenever it might suit their purpose, although these cities could not be held, for lack of a navy.

"The scenes in the streets of Havana are harrowing beyond description. People in want and suffering are everywhere seen, and walking skeletons meet one on every hand. Naked children, emaciated and ragged women, diseased and starving men, throng the streets, the hotel lobbies and every place of public resort. It is a terrible sight—one that sickens the heart, and quickens every impulse of human sympathy and love," said Mr. Gallinger.

Under the shadow of the cathedrals and churches, where Spain's authority is absolutely unquestioned, the most horrible conditions are conceded to exist. Many have refused to believe that a great Government was waging a war of extermination instead of a war of honor, yet such is an absolute fact. A visit was paid to the orphanage which is now under the care of Miss Clara Barton. It contains now about fifty children, almost every one of whom is a victim of starvation. Dr. Lesser, one of Miss Barton's assistants, has had experience in the Armenian and Indian famines, but he declares that the famine in Cuba is worse than in Armenia and pictures he drew of the terrible suffering and starvation in the island more than confirm all that has been written upon the subject.

A detailed story of a visit to Los Accas, the place where the reconcentrados daily assemble to get food, was also given. A few weeks ago when Miss Barton discovered the place there were 645 people lying on the floors, many of them entirely nude and all suffering the pangs of starvation. Much has been done by the Red Cross Society to alleviate the condition of those who still remain, but scores of men, women and children are yet there, gaunt and bony, almost as a skeleton, many of them covered with sores directly traceable to insufficient food.

What a chapter of horrors and death is that, and still the tragedy goes on. How much longer shall it continue largely depends upon the forbearance of a great people, who, through suffering and through sorrow achieved their own independence, and whose sympathies have always gone out to the oppressed of all nations of the world."

A vivid picture was then drawn by Mr. Gallinger of a trip to the city of Matanzas. All along the route were wretched people in rags, but not until the city was reached was the full extent of the suffering realized.

"It occurred to me as I looked upon the scenes of suffering and horror that the Cuban reconcentrados might well have adopted the words of Dante, 'Who enters here leaves hope behind,' when they were driven from the fields and herded like cattle in the cities and towns of this fertile land. The truth is, that Weyler devised a scheme of human suffering and sorrow that put Dante's 'Inferno' in the shade, and converted a contented, prosperous people into a herd of suffering, starving unfortunates.

"Matanzas is literally a place of beggary and death. Never before did my eyes behold such suffering, and never again do I expect to see such havoc wrought through a cruel and inhuman decree. A visit to the Matanzas hospitals revealed an even more shocking condition of affairs than the streets. Members of the Red Cross Society who had visited one of the hospitals two weeks before were almost overcome upon discovering that nearly every one of the inmates at that time had since died. There poverty, sorrow and suffering were depicted in their worst forms. Children, gaunt in face, but with abdomen and limbs terribly swollen; women in the last stages of emaciation, and men, there, were rapidly drifting to death. If there was food in these hospitals," said Senator Gallinger, "I did not discover it, neither were there signs of medicine or of proper nursing and care."

The Governor of Matanzas informed Mr. Gallinger that the first day he occupied the place fifteen persons had died in the court yard. He said further that in that city 1,200 had died in November; 1,200 in December; 700 in January, and 500 in February. The death rate was decreasing, simply because the reconcentrados, by death, were becoming fewer.

The number of people who have starved in Cuba will never be definitely known. It is estimated that 800,000 were driven from their homes into the cities and towns. I had it from Spanish authority, that, according to their figures, 225,000 already have perished, but it is said that the Red Cross Society is in possession of figures showing that 425,000 Cubans have died as the result of starvation, and that 200,000 more must inevitably die.

"I have been asked many times what of the Maine? I do not know. This, however, I do know: A Government that will deliberately starve 400,000 of its own people will do pretty much anything. If the ship was blown up from the outside, what should our Government do? Perhaps I should forbear to discuss that question now; but this I will venture to say: Human life purposely taken cannot be paid for in gold or silver. Mark my words, purposely taken, and if it shall appear that such was the fate of 250 brave American sailors, then heaven pity the guilty parties. It will not be a question for arbitration, but a question involving the dignity and honor of this great Republic."

Mr. Gallinger said there was little real loyalty to Spain in Cuba, as would be demonstrated when the hour of trial should come. He did not believe that Spain could subdue the insurgents. The Cubans had been oppressed so long that they preferred death to Spanish rule.

Discussing the question of Spanish rule, Mr. Gallinger referred to the matter of taxation. In addition to a direct and indirect tax on real estate, there is a tax on every door, every window, and every chimney in every house; on every letter in every business sign; and on every name in every hotel register. Licenses are required to build and to paint houses. There is a tax on food animals, as a whole; a special tax on the horns, the hoofs and the hides.

In addition to all this, the interest on the debt is a tremendous burden, the salaries of the Spanish officials are beyond all reason, and the amount of money wrung from the Cubans to keep the Madrid Government from complete insolvency is simply enormous.

"No people on the face of the earth have been so oppressed, the treasury of Spain being literally supplied from the revenues extorted from Cuba and the Philippine Islands.

"Our forefathers went to war because the mother country put a tax on tea. Cuba has 10,000 more reasons than we had for rebellion, and she deserves the sympathy and help of every true American.

"Fortunately, the people of this great Republic are thoroughly aroused to the situation, and the great heart of the American populace is in full sympathy with Cuba. Religion and humanity alike demand that the war shall cease, and cease it should, even though the glitter and glamor of military rule shall end, and a decaying and dissolute throne shall pass away, never to return."

As to what should be done, Mr. Gallinger felt that sooner or later this Government would of necessity absorb Cuba, but if annexation cannot be accomplished, let independence speedily come.

"American interests in Cuba," said he, in conclusion, "have already suffered enough. We have patrolled our coast in the interest of Spain as long as we should, and we have spent quite too much money in protecting our people from epidemic diseases coming to our shores because of unsanitary conditions of the harbor and city of Havana. Spain has failed to meet the requirements of an advanced civilization. Let the United States or Cuba take up the problem and solve it."

EIGHT PERSONS KILLED.

Terrible Results of the Explosion of a Dynamite Magazine.

PITTSBURG, March 23.—A "Chronicle-Telegraph" Lowellville special says a dynamite magazine at Hillsville exploded this morning, wrecking the building and causing a panic. It is supposed the magazine was struck by lightning. It is reported that a man named Welsh, his wife and six children were killed.

Buy Alum

at druggist's, and baking powder at grocer's.

Use the alum externally; put the baking powder in your cake. 617

FRIDAY, MARCH 25.

An Extraordinary Price Event.

Indigo Prints, 4c.
Light Prints, 3½c.
Brocade Sateens, 14c.
Bleached Damask, 48c.
Organdies, 12c.
Satin Spreads, $1 62.

At 9:30 a. m., Friday, March 25th, we shall offer:

LOT I.—We have in stock to-day 375 pieces, a total length of 18,750 yards of fast-colored Dress Prints, laid aside for this sale. The lot includes indigo blue and white figures, French blue grounds, as well as dark blue with gold figures. All new patterns are represented. Standard quality, absolutely fast-color prints are offered at a lower price than the goods can be bought for in case lots from any wholesale house. One bolt allowed each purchaser—less if desired, but no more.

Friday's Price, 4c yd.

LOT II.—Light ground Shirting or Dress Prints, in a variety of neat patterns. Not poor, light quality, but a reliable, washable print for waists, wrappers, etc. This item should interest you.

Friday's Price, 3½c yd.

LOT III.—A linen surprise. An excellent quality bleached damask Table Linen of Irish manufacture, in splendid patterns. 62 inches wide. Every economical housekeeper should see this lot.

Friday's Price, 48c yd.

LOT IV.—Black brocaded Dress Sateens, in all new patterns. Fast black. For summer skirts we know of nothing better. You probably know the regular price. We make.

Friday's Price, 14c yd.

LOT V.—Good housekeeping news: A new lot of heavy white satin Bedspreads in raised designs. Large size. These spreads are made from long staple cotton, not weighted with any foreign substance whatever. The regular $2 50 kind.

Friday's Price, $1 62.

LOT VI.—An item for the summer girl. About ten styles of this season's invisible plaid organdies. Delicate color plaid effects on sheer white ground.

Friday's Price, 12c yd.

Scotch Body Brussels Carpets, 45c.

Scotch Body Brussels is made like the genuine Body Brussels, looks like Body Brussels and wears like Body Brussels. The patterns and colorings are sightly, and as a whole the carpet is the best cheap carpet to be had. Price 45c, sewed and laid.

Hassocks.

New shapes in Hassocks for footstools in handsome patterns. Prices 65c to $1 90.

Bicycle Sundries.

Good quality Foot Pumps, 75c.
Good quality Hand Pumps, 20c.
Bicycle Oil, best quality, 4c.
Dixon's Graphite, 5c.
M. & W. Tube Cements, 5c.
Vimoid, 9c.
Hercules Rubber Cement, 10c.
Pants Guards, 4c.
Jingle Bells, 10c 12c, 15c each.
"Three in One" Compound, 20c.
Veder Cyclometers, 90c.
Valves complete, 20c.
Taggart Nipple Grip, 20c.
Steel Spokes, 3c each.
M. & W. Inner Tubes, complete, 95c.
M. & W. Outer Casing, $2 25.

Chenille Table Covers.

New Spring Goods. Gems in color and design. Qualities better than sold last season at the same prices. Desirable chenille Covers at 75c, $1 50 and $2 25; according to size.

A Special Baby Bonnet at 40c.

A dainty style that will make baby's pretty face look sweeter even than it is. Every mother admires this Cap as soon as shown it. New cording effect and pretty shapes are its main attractions. Price 40c.

Special Values in Ribbons.

Good quality Satin Gros Grain Ribbon, ½-inch wide, in many choice colorings. 25c per piece of 10 yards.

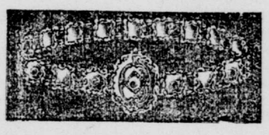
Fine quality Moire Taffeta Ribbon, pink, lavender, Nile, bright green, new blue, black, purple and lemon, 2⅜ inches wide. Price 12½c yard.

Men's Suits, $5.

Six new lines of Men's Suits for Spring wear at this popular price. Woolen cheviots and fancy mixed tweeds in gray and brown plaids, made in square cut and round cut sack styles. The materials and finish of the suits are so good and the patterns so neat that they look like the higher priced suits, and we aid in making them pass for high priced suits by making any alterations needed for a perfect fit free of charge. Price $5.

Boys' and Youths' Suits, $3 75.

It has always been our aim to get quality into our $3 75 suits for youths and boys. This season our efforts have been crowned with more than ordinary success. In the new suits just received there is not only quality, but quality combined with good workmanship and desirable trimmings. Many different patterns in medium and dark colors, as well as plain blacks and blues. $3 75.



Women's Belts.

The new Metal Belts—oxydized and gilt, studded in large jewels. Price 50c.

Excellent quality Leather Belt with metal harness buckle, leather dipped; black or tan. Price 15c.

A New Arrival in Men's Tan Shoes.

Fine Vici Kid Congress Gaiters for men, made on the new (Boston) last. Medium round toes, with self caps. The toes are soft—not box toes.

The Shoes are handsome and comfortable and possess the merit that has made our $3 50 shoes for men so favorably known. Price $3 50.

Bustles.

Woven Wire Bustles; light in weight. Not heating. 25c.

New Silesia Bustles, in black and white. Adjustable size. 45c.

Perforated Padded Bustles, made of nice quality sateen, in drab and black. 35c. Or with hip pads, 50c.

Trimmed Hats.

Every day adds new things to our large variety of fine Trimmed Hats for women. If you desire style, correct shape and correct color, and at the same time wish your dollars to go as far as possible, you will act wisely by coming here, looking over our new creations. We sell Trimmed Hats at exact cost, as figured in our workrooms. Fancy prices find no favor with us. Special values from $2 50 to $10.

New Ribbons.

Ribbons in the new block effect, ½-inch square blocks; handsome light colorings; same on both sides. Width 4 inches. Price 25c yard.

Garden Tools and Garden Hose.

Garden Rake, 25c.
Garden Hoe, 40c.
Long Handle Spades, 55c.
Garden Trowels, 5c to 30c.
Garden Weeder, 7c.
Garden Sets of three pieces, 12c to 25c.
Garden Hose, good quality, three ply, 7½c foot.
Hose Straps, 10c dozen.
Hose Sprayers, 30c.
Hose Mender, metal, 3c.

Fine "Comfort" Shoes for Women.

Shoes that many women, especially elderly ladies and women with tender feet, have been waiting for. Made of fine soft kid, in congress gaiter style, with turned flexible soles, board toes, low flat heels and one seam down the front—no seams on the sides. The kid that is put into these shoes is the kind that is used in making fine lace or button shoes for women—not the ordinary kind generally shown. Easy and comfortable—no "breaking in" required. Price $2 50.

Real Venetian Vase, 50c.

Gold Lacquered Mounted Real Venetian Vase, stands 6½ inches high. The vase is crystal; optic design. Price, 50c.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25.

Misses' and Children's Shoe Day.
Odd and Small Lots at Extremely Low Prices.

We have quite an accumulation of sizes in Misses' and Children's Shoes—odd lots from special sales and small lots from our own stock—which we have decided to close out, and to do so have made prices which mothers will find very interesting. About 700 pairs in all, mainly up-to-date shape, and all serviceable—just such shoes as nine out of ten mothers are purchasing daily at more than double these sale prices. The sale will begin at 9:30 Friday, March 25th, and will comprise the following:

LOT I—The sizes from 5 to 7½. Many different styles, including some low Shoes in white canvas and russet leather.

Friday's Price, 45c pair.

LOT II—The sizes from 8½ to 11. A limited quantity only in this lot, but all are extra good values.

Friday's Price, 65c pair.

LOT III—Misses' Shoes. In this lot are many with fine black cloth tops, Philadelphia or narrow square toe, in soft pliable kid with stylish patent leather tips. Principally sizes 11½ to 1½. A few in size 2, but narrow widths only.

Friday's Price, 85c pair.

LOT IV—For the benefit of the misses wearing larger Shoes than size 2 we have added a line of sightly Black Kid Shoes with cloth tops, spring heels and neat square toes with patent leather tips. Sizes 2½ to 5½.

Friday's Price, $1 08 pair.

Men's Fedora Hat, $1.

A new line we have just added to meet the demand for a reliable low price Hat for men. Comfortable Fedoras in the new Spring shapes, as stylish in general appearance as the high-priced head wear. Quality that has rarely been offered at such low price. $1.

Fine Stationery.

Hurd's Irish Linen and Kid Finish Stationery, up to date in style and shape. Price 25c box.

Weinstock, Lubin & Co., 400-412 K Street, Sacramento.

THE CRISIS IS NEAR AT HAND.

(Continued from First Page.)

would bring about the freedom of the Cubans.

It is known that a great deal of work has been done about the Senate to-day by Senators who are known as conservatives. Requests have been made that the Senate await the action of the President, and that no further attempts be made to intensify the strained situation. It was asserted by Senator Elkins that a great deal of progress had been made, and that on both sides of the chamber a great deal more conservatism had been found than was supposed to have existed.

NAVAL COURT'S REPORT.

Commander Marix Hurrying to Washington With Findings.

MIAMI (Fla.), March 22.—Lieutenant-Commander Marix of the Maine court of inquiry, with the following party, arrived here this morning from Key West: Lieutenant John Hood, Lieutenant C. W. Janger, Passed Assistant Engineer F. A. Bower, Cadets Amon Bronson and A. F. Boyd, Assistant Engineer J. Morris and Carpenter G. M. Helm. A few minutes later they left by the East Coast Railway for Washington.

Lieutenant-Commander Marix was very reticent, but when your correspondent said, "It looks like war," he replied, "It surely does."

Others of the party, in answer to the same, were more emphatic in their replies, one saying: "I cannot see how it can be avoided." Another, in answer to the same question, said: "There will be no war." His face was as genial and bright as sunshine, but suddenly a change came over his countenance, his eyes flashed fire, and when asked when the report would be made the reply was: "As soon as we reach Washington; there will be no delay."

The strong impression left here was that the board's report would be against the accident theory.

NAVAL OFFICERS AT HAVANA.

The Navy Department Arranging for Their Withdrawal.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The Navy Department has arranged for the practical withdrawal of all its naval officers at Havana, and the abandonment of the wreck of the ill-fated Maine. Captain C. D. Sigsbee, Lieutenant-Commander Richard Wainwright, Surgeon L. G. Heneberger, Paymaster Ray, Chaplain John R. Chadwick, Chief Engineer Charles H. Howell and Naval Cadets J. A. Holden and W. T. Cluverous, who have been in Havana with the wreck, will return very soon.

Secretary Long said to-day that Captain Sigsbee would come to Washington as soon as convenient, but as yet nothing has been done in regard to his future duty. It might be necessary for Lieutenant-Commander Wainwright, who is in special charge of the wrecked vessel, to remain there a short time longer, or at least until it is finally settled that the wreck cannot be raised, and that there is no prospect of the recovery of any other portions of the ship or its equipments. It might be necessary also for one of the naval cadets to remain, but this is not regarded as probable.

Although not finally settled, it is more than probable the Fern will soon return to the United States, as nothing more is to be gained by her presence at Havana.

In the event of the abandonment of the wreck it is more than likely that the Navy Department will arrange for its complete destruction by the use of dynamite or torpedoes. In its present condition it is a dangerous obstruction to navigation, and it is not believed that any opposition will be made to its removal.

REAR ADMIRAL SICARD.

Belief That Medical Board Will Recommend His Retirement.

KEY WEST (Fla.), March 23. — The Medical Board which sat on the flagship New York yesterday to consider the retirement of Rear-Admiral Sicard for physical disability has completed its work. Its recommendations will be forwarded to the Navy Department. It is impossible to learn the decision at which the board has arrived, but it is believed that it recommends his retirement.

The Mallory liner Leona, from New York, was due to-day with three months' provisions for 4,000 men. Up to the time of filing this dispatch, late this afternoon, she had not arrived. These provisions will be stored here, and will considerably strengthen Key West as a naval rendezvous in case of war. This action is in line with the activity recently exhibited to hurry forward the fortifications, dredge the harbor and otherwise put the island into fit condition to withstand an attack and to make it a suitable base of supplies.

BATTLING IN CUBA.

Skirmishes Reported in Several of the Provinces.

HAVANA, March 23.—A Spanish report says General Hernandez Velasco has been engaged at the farm of Delfina, south of San Luis, province of Pinar Del Rio, with an insurgent force under Ramon Vidal, Luis Peres and Negro Cesaro. The Spaniards are said to have destroyed the camp of the insurgents, who are also alleged to have left fifteen men killed and a quantity of arms and ammunition on the field and to have retired with many wounded. The Spanish loss, it is added, was one Captain and two soldiers killed and two officers and eleven soldiers wounded.

Unimportant skirmishes are also reported to have occurred at Nueva Paso, Guiera Molena, Montes, Carmolo and Hoyo Colorado, this province.

It is also announced from the palace that eleven unimportant skirmishes have taken place in the province of Santa Clara, and it is asserted that seventy-two insurgents under Colonel Benito Soccoro have surrendered to the Spaniards at Jaguey La Grande, province of Matanzas.

Pliar Oliva of Managua, a native Cuban of some wealth and considerable influence, who has heretofore been supposed to be an adherent of the autonomist party, has been arrested upon an order of Colonel Paglieri, Chief of Police of Havana. Oliva is charged with rendering assistance to insurgents and will be sent to Barcelona for trial.

Clara Barton, President of the American branch of the Red Cross Society, left for New York to-night on the Key West mail steamer. It was not known until this morning that she intended to do so. Miss Barton says the cause of her departure is purely personal, and has to do with private financial matters. Miss Barton expects to go to Washington, and expressed the hope that she would soon be able to return to Cuba.

Dr. Lasser and Mrs. Lasser will defer their departure until Saturday, but Dr. Egan left by the mail steamer.

Bishop Manuel Santanery Trulos, the Bishop of Havana, has consecrated the central relief station, and also the Lee orphanage. He paid high tributes to Louis Klopsch, the special commissioner for his system of relief of work, and seemed greatly pleased with all the arrangements made to help the poor as well as the orphanage.

"La Lucha," in an editorial under the caption of "Expectation in the World," maintains that the American court of inquiry, owing to the short time it was here, could not give a scientific report on the Maine disaster. "American naval officers," says "La Lucha," "are not likely to decide against brother officers. The divers could not give expert testimony, owing to the fact that the machinery was imbedded four feet in the mud. It is greatly to be regretted that more time and care were not given to the preparation of a report for which the whole world waits, and which is likely to change the entire feelings of a part of the American people toward Spain and Cuba."

"La Lucha" publishes also an interview with Consul-General Lee, which quotes him as saying that he knows nothing of the nature of the report, but is satisfied that General Blanco never conceived of the disaster until he heard the shock in the harbor.

Gunner Morgan left for the fleet at Key West to-day. With him went the naval divers, Fisher, Rundquist and Schluter and Kanz, the helper. Hanz belongs to the Fern, and has been ill. This leaves two navy divers and seven civilians on the contract work.

The body of a white man was found in the forward part of the wreck to-day. It will probably be identified by marks on the clothing when the latter has been disinfected. The body was sent to Key West on the Olivette.

No orders have yet been received by the Maine officers here to go north.

Four Red Cross Society nurses are expected to arrive by the Ward line steamer to-day.

THE MAINE DISASTER.

The Court's Report May Present a New Feature in History.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The remark attributed to Admiral Sicard at Key West yesterday, to the effect that the case of the Maine was perhaps the most peculiar in the history of modern times, is interpreted here as clearly indicating that the direct responsibility for the explosion cannot be placed.

During the progress of the investigation the law officers of the Government have been giving the legal side of the case their close attention, and the statement is made that the case of the Maine is indeed most peculiar. The records, it is said, do not show that ever before in the intercourse of nations has a vessel of one power been destroyed in the waters of another without the cause of the disaster and responsibility being known beyond dispute by the other nation. If the court of inquiry has found, as is generally believed, that the responsibility for the loss of the Maine cannot be definitely located, the fact will present a new feature to the long list of otherwise similar disasters.

WILL BE A CORRECT REPORT.

BALTIMORE, March 23.—Lieutenant John D. Blandin of Baltimore, officer of the deck on the battleship Maine when the vessel was blown up in Havana Harbor on the night of February 15th and one of the most important witnesses before the naval court of inquiry, arrived here last night from Key West. He said:

"I have been before the court of inquiry and have told them all I know, and when they have rendered their verdict you may bank on it that it will be a correct one. The board is composed of brainy, careful and cool men, who know what they are doing, and are doing it thoroughly.

"I have received orders to report on Thursday in Washington in order to stand an examination for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Commander."

CAPTURE OF HAVANA.

Would be a Comparatively Easy Task to Accomplish.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The remarkable disclosure is made by "Leslie's Weekly" in this week's issue, that on April 30, 1883, General U. S. Grant wrote to General Adam Badeau telling him how easy it would be for the United States to capture Havana by a combined attack by our land and naval forces. In his letter, which is printed in fac simile by "Leslie's Weekly," General Grant says that "the hostility of the native population to Spanish authority would make this (the capture of Havana) a comparatively easy task for any first class power, and especially for the United States, in case of war with Spain."

PURCHASE OF SHIPS.

Little Probability of Getting Any More Abroad.

WASHINGTON, March 23. — The Navy Department has purchased no further ships abroad, and the negotiations are not proceeding in a manner to indicate success. It was definitely determined to-day that the Chilean battleship General O'Higgins could not be secured. Commander Brownson is to-day in Paris, after having inspected the Brazilian ships now building at La Seine. While these might be secured, they are a long way from completion, and could be of little service at present. What the department wants is ships which can be commissioned at once.

AN OMINOUS SIGN.

All Charters for English Ships Must Contain the War Clause.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The "Evening World" says: An ominous sign that the strained relations between the United States and Spain will result in war is furnished by English shipowners who have cabled to their agents that all charters must contain the war clause. This clause, which is posted in the Maritime Exchange, is as follows:

"It is understood the steamer is to be employed in strictly neutral trades; is not to carry contraband cargo or trade with ports under blockade; also, in the event of war being declared by or against Great Britain by a maritime Power, this charter is to be null and void at the end of the current voyage."

BLOWING UP OF MAINE.

Sagasta Approves Blanco's Conduct in Denying It Was Dynamite.

MADRID, March 23.—Senor Sagasta, the Premier, is quoted in an interview as saying:

"The Government entirely approves of Captain-General Blanco's conduct in denying that the Maine's magazines were blown up with dynamite, as the Americans have alleged."

CRUISER NEW ORLEANS.

Goes to Holehaven to Take on Board Ammunition.

GRAVESEND (England), March 23.—The United States cruiser New Orleans (formerly the Amazonas) started for Holehaven at 11 o'clock this morning, to take on board her ammunition.

ISSUED FALSE TIME CHECKS.

A Clerk Who Swindled the Government Out of $300,000.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—An order for the arrest of J. H. Southall, former Chief Clerk in the United States Engineer's Office at St. Paul, has been sent by the Department of Justice to the United States District Attorney at St. Paul. Attorney-General Griggs said to-day that the amount realized by Southall through the issuance of false time checks will reach at least $300,000. The statement is based on the report of a National Bank Examiner, who was sent to Minnesota for the purpose of making an investigation.

Chicago's Recent Fatal Fire.

CHICAGO, March 23.—The Coroner's jury, which has been investigating the cause of the recent Wabash avenue fire, in which a score of people lost their lives, to-day censured the owners of the building, holding that the structure was faultily constructed and insufficiently supplied with fire escapes. It recommends that the matter be taken before the Grand Jury.

Shot by Robbers.

KANSAS CITY (Mo.), March 23.—Drury W. Maunder, a butcher, was shot and mortally wounded for refusing to obey the commands of four robbers in John T. Burke's saloon. After the bandits had robbed the till of $35, Maunder jumped toward a door. One of the gang shot him in the head. The robbers escaped.

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