THE MAINE DISASTER.

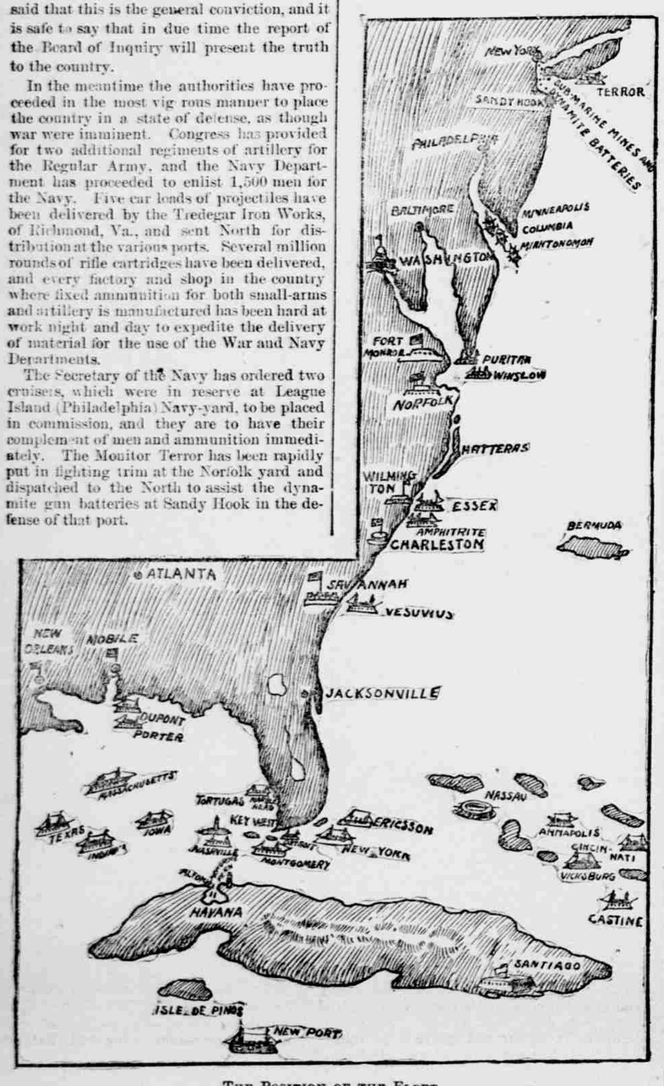
Awaiting the Result of Official Investigation — Administration's Attitude.

The past week has been one of calmness at the seat of Government in the face of absence of official information as to the finding of the Board of Inquiry at work investigating the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana. While the report of the Board had not been received up to the time of going to press, the impression gained ground that the evidence indicated beyond question that the ship was not destroyed by accident on board, but by a mine or torpedo placed under the hull by Spaniards.

At this writing it is impossible to state definitely that this is the fact. It can only be said that this is the general conviction, and it is safe to say that in due time the report of the Board of Inquiry will present the truth to the country.

In the meantime the authorities have proceeded in the most vigorous manner to place the country in a state of defense, as though war were imminent. Congress has provided for two additional regiments of artillery for the Regular Army, and the Navy Department has proceeded to enlist 1,500 men for the Navy. Five car loads of projectiles have been delivered by the Tredegar Iron Works, of Richmond, Va., and sent North for distribution at the various ports. Several million rounds of rifle cartridges have been delivered, and every factory and shop in the country where fixed ammunition for both small-arms and artillery is manufactured has been hard at work night and day to expedite the delivery of material for the use of the War and Navy Departments.

The Secretary of the Navy has ordered two cruisers, which were in reserve at League Island (Philadelphia) Navy-yard, to be placed in commission, and they are to have their complement of men and ammunition immediately. The Monitor Terror has been rapidly put in fighting trim at the Norfolk yard and dispatched to the North to assist the dynamite gun batteries at Sandy Hook in the defense of that port.



THE POSITION OF THE FLEET.

The rough chart here presented shows the relative disposition of the American fleet so far as assembled in the South Atlantic squadron. It will be noticed that at Key West, only about 90 miles from Havana, and at the Dry Tortugas, are stationed the cruisers New York, Montgomery, Nashville, Detroit, the battleships Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts and Texas, the gunboat Marblehead and the torpedo boats Ericsson and Cushing. At the mouth of the Mississippi are the torpedo boats Porter and Dupont, while the gunboats Castine and Vicksburg and the Annapolis are in the Bahamas, and the Newport at La Guira, on the South American coast. At Savannah lies the Vesuvius; at Charleston, the monitor Amphitrite and the gunboat Essex; at the capes of the Chesapeake, the monitor Puritan and the Winslow; at Philadelphia, the monitor Miantonomoh and the cruisers Columbia and Minneapolis, while at New York, to support the dynamite gun battery at Sandy Hook, lies the Terror.

The rest of the Atlantic squadron has been rapidly mobilized about Key West and the Dry Tortugas. The Minneapolis, Nashville, Detroit and Marblehead arrived at the former point on Sunday morning.

Maj.-Gen. Merritt, commanding the Department of the East, which includes all the Atlantic sea coast from Maine to Louisiana, has ordered the concentration of supplies to be made at Atlanta, Ga., as the base for military operations should war ensue. The mounting of heavy guns in the batteries at Portsmouth, N. H., Portland, Me., and at Boston has been pushed to completion.

Militia organizations in all parts of the country, both North and South, have hastened to offer their services to the Government in case of need, and there is every indication that the Government will receive the most enthusiastic support in case it should become necessary to resort to force in the settlement of the difficulty with Spain.

Public men at Washington have realized the demand for cool-headed consideration of the situation, and hence the apparent calmness on the surface indicates rather increased gravity in the situation than the termination of the crisis.

The Board of Inquiry completed its work at Havana last Saturday and adjourned to Key West. Nine thousand fresh Spanish troops arrived in Havana on Friday, and were retained in the city by Capt.-Gen. Blanco, with a view to suppressing any riotous outbreak which was apprehended for Sunday, the date when the followers of Gen. Weyler had prepared for a demonstration in favor of his administration which it was feared might lead to acts of violence on the part of the excitable populace.

There has been no apprehension at Washington concerning the outcome of a collision with Spain, should it occur, since her fleet is inferior to ours, and her population only about one-fourth of that of the United States. With an empty treasury and an exhausted credit, it has been realized that the conflict, should one occur, would be a one-sided affair.

The only danger apprehended was that of foray on the part of some hot-headed Spaniard, who might make a dash with a cruiser armed with long-range guns against some of our cities located near the seaboard, such as Charleston, Mobile, Galveston or Boston.

There is a precedent for this style of making war on the part of Spain. In 1864 Chili became involved in the hostilities then going on between Spain and Peru, and in the following year was thereby brought in hostile relations, when she was blockaded by a Spanish fleet. Chili declared war, and on Nov. 26 the Chilian steamer Esmeralda captured the Spanish gunboat Covadongo.

On Jan. 14, 1866, a treaty of alliance between Chili and Peru was proclaimed, and on Feb. 7 an engagement took place between the allied fleet and that of Spain. There was a good deal of firing between the hostile ships, but little or no damage was sustained on either side. On March 31 Admiral Nunez, the Spanish commander, proceeded to bombard Valparaiso, in spite of the earnest protest of the foreign Ministers and Consuls. The fleet opened fire at 9 a. m. and continued for three and a half hours. Nearly 3,000 shot and shell were fired into the city without any response from the land. The destruction was immense. Many public and private buildings being demolished at a loss estimated at over $10,000,000. In April following the fleet left the coast and the war was practically ended, although peace was not declared until 1871, through the intervention of the United States.

It is just such an act as this which has been apprehended as the only possible damage which Spain might do in case of war with the United States, and the lull in the present crisis has been utilized to prepare for defense against such a manuver.

BATTLEFIELDS PARK.

The draft of a bill providing for the National Battlefields Memorial Park at Fredericksburg and vicinity is now in the hands of Representative Cummings, of New York, soon to be introduced. The purpose is that of "preserving and suitably marking for historical and professional military study the famous battlefields in Spottsylvania County, Va., known as Fredericksburg, Salem Church, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania Court House, all of them within a radius of eight miles, and on which limited territory the late distinguished Union General John C. Newton, after careful investigation, declared more great battles were fought, more men engaged, and more execution done than on any other spot of similar area in the world."

The Secretary of War is to have control of the park, and, on receiving notice that the United States has acquired title, will proceed to mark the boundaries of the park. He will enter into agreements with such present owners of the land as may desire to remain upon it, to occupy and cultivate their present holdings on condition that they will preserve the present buildings and roads, the breastworks of the two contending armies, and the present outlines of field and forest, and that they will cut only trees and underbrush under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and that they will assist in caring for and protecting all tablets, monuments, or such other artificial works as may, from time to time, be erected by proper authority.

Three commissioners are to have charge of the proposed park, each of whom must have actively participated in one or more of the battles fought around Fredericksburg. These Commissioners will be charged with the duty of opening and improving the roads there, and of ascertaining and definitely marking the lines of battle. The Secretary will also erect substantial historical tablets at such points in the vicinity of the park as he may deem fitting and necessary to clearly designate the position and movements of the contending troops. The bill appropriates $100,000.

Veterans of the blue and the gray met at Fredericksburg last week to promote the movement for the establishment of the park. They are incorporated as the "Fredericksburg and Adjacent National Battlefields Memorial Park Association of Virginia." One of the must active workers has been Judge J. B. Senef, formerly Member of Congress.

Gen. Horatio C. King, of New York, was made Permanent Chairman. Col. W. H. Taylor, of Norfolk, who was Adjutant-General for Robert E. Lee, was chosen Vice-Chairman, and James P. Corbin and Hon. H. F. Crismond, both of Fredericksburg, were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Authority was lodged in the hands of an executive committee to take all proper steps to place before Congress the importance and desirability of this great work, and to urge on Congress the need of prompt action.

The Association, made up of incorporators from 38 States and the District of Columbia, will join heartily in the undertaking, and the Executive Committee was directed to bring the matter to the attention of the Governors and Legislatures of every State in the Union which had soldiers engaged in these sanguinary battles.

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY.

In the past week I have made $125, and attended to my household duties. I think I will do better next week. It seems the more Dish Washers I sell, the more demand I have for them. I think any lady or gentleman, anywhere, can make money in this business. It is something every family wants, and when they can be bought so cheap, they buy them, and the person who has enterprise enough to take an agency is bound to make money. I wish any of your readers that wish to make from $5 to $12 a day would try this business and report their success. Anyone can get full particulars by addressing the Iron City Dish Washer Co., E. E. Pittsburg, Pa. Such a chance is rare—at least I have never struck one. MARTHA F. B.

See page 12, Supplement.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS

Abstract of the Important Proceedings in Both Houses.

In the Senate on Feb. 22 Mr. Hawley, of Connecticut, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, called up the bill reported from his Committee authorizing the organization of two additional regiments of artillery.

Mr. Bate, of Tennessee, objected to the bill because it tended to an increase of the Army, to which he said he was unalterably opposed. He thought there were enough troops already under enlistment to man all the guns now being provided for by the Government.

In reply Mr. Hawley pointed out that Congress had made large appropriations in recent years for great guns for forts and coast defense stations. Of these guns 139 were guns of large caliber and delicate mechanism. To these must be added 232 rifled steel mortars, already placed or soon to be placed in the coast defense stations. The War Department estimates that the 1,600 men which this bill calls for will be necessary to man these guns properly.

Mr. Hawley said that a careful estimate of the annual additional expenditure required to maintain the two regiments is $530,054. But some months will expire before the regiments can be fully enlisted and organized, and it is believed that $450,000, possibly less, will suffice for the fiscal year of 1899.

The bill was passed by a vote of 52 to 4. The negative votes were cast by Messrs. Bate, of Tennessee; Clay, of Georgia; Chilton, of Texas, and Vest, of Missouri.

In the House, Representative H. U. Johnson, of Indiana, delivered a speech against the annexation of Hawaii.

In the Senate on Feb. 23 the Cuban question came uppermost on the presentation by Mr. Allen of a resolution for the appointment of five Senators to make an inquiry into the condition of affairs in Cuba, with a view to bringing the war to an end.

Immediate consideration was objected to, and the resolution went over. Then the Diplomatic and Consular appropriation bill was taken up and Mr. Allen indicated his desire to offer as an amendment the resolution recognizing the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents, which was unfavorably reported a few days ago by the Committee on Foreign Relations. He denied that there was any intention or desire to coerce the House. The assertion that such was the purpose, he asserted, was a mere subterfuge.

The truth was, he said, that Congress was merely finding some excuse under which it could continue business and escape censure. His desire was to find whether Congress could in any way be induced, cajoled or kicked into putting the country in a dignified attitude on the Cuban question. "And yet," said Mr. Allen, "lest we, the Senate, a body of 89 men, offend the House of Representatives, consisting of 357 men, a point of order is to be made against this amendment, and it will go the way of very much valuable legislation."

Mr. Allen said that if the Republican party could suffer to see Cubans exterminated by starvation, in plain violation of its platform and of the Christian sentiment of the country, the Republican Senators ought to be willing to face the question on a yea and nay vote.

Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, said the Senate had twice passed the Cuban belligerency resolution substantially as it was now offered, but both times it had been done openly and frankly. "We have no right," said he, "to make a declaration of war against Spain under cover, and that is precisely what this resolution would mean."

"The awful condition of affairs," said Mr. Morgan, "makes our position in the Cuban matter extremely delicate. Intervention now of the kind proposed a year ago means war. It could mean nothing else. An intervention on the part of this Government in the present critical condition of affairs would almost certainly be regarded by Spain as a casus belli.

"If, however, any Senator believes in a declaration of war, and will draw up such a declaration, with sufficient and proper grounds upon which to base it, I will vote for it. However, I do not believe that any Senator has in mind a declaration of war.

"I have always believed and believe now that the war in Cuba could not be terminated without involving the United States in hostilities. I believe that the matter will eventually be submitted to the arbitrament of the sword. The whole world recognizes Spain's inability to conquer the Cubans, and sooner or later we shall become, in my opinion, involved in the armed controversy."

Mr. Thurston, of Nebraska, said: "I believe now that we are drifting into a war with Spain. Spain has not been able to quell the rebellion, and the possibility of peace is growing more and more remote. The time is coming—God knows how soon it will be here—when action in accordance with the President's message must be taken, when we shall either have to back down from our position or intervene in the Cuban affair with the probability of war. I hope that the inquiry now proceeding in Havana will develop nothing that may involve us in hostilities, but while that inquiry is proceeding we in the Senate should maintain a most circumspect attitude and be calm and quiet."

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, discussed the situation from the standpoint of an international lawyer, maintaining that the recognition of belligerency in ordinary circumstances was not a cause of war. Mr. Hoar held, however, that before taking any action of that kind the United States ought to have a clear and unquestioned statement of the facts in the case. He believed, too, that action of any kind in the Cuban matter should only be taken with the concurrence of the Senate, House of Brepresentatives and the Executive of the country.

Mr. Hale made the point of order against the amendment that it was general legislation and had, under the rules, no place in the bill. The Vice-President sustained the point, and Mr. Allen took an appeal from the ruling.

Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, speaking in support of the ruling of the Chair, said that one of the greatest causes ever tried before the Nations of the world was now being tried in Havana. "Let us do nothing," said he, "that will in the least way embarrass those who are conducting that investigation. If it should be found that the explosion was due to an accident we must know that. If, however, it should be disclosed that it was due to treachery, the whole world will applaud the action of this country in holding to strict account the country in whose friendly harbor that awful disaster occurred."

Mr. Hale then moved to lay the appeal on the table, and Mr. Allen demanded the yeas and nays. Mr. Hale's motion was carried—51 to 5—those voting against the motion being Messrs. Allen, of Nebraska; Cannon, of Utah; Heitfeld, of Idaho; Mason, of Illinois, and Teller, of Colorado. The bill was passed.

In the House, the day was spent in consideration of the sundry civil bill.

In the Senate on Thursday the Vice-President laid before the Senators the Senatorial inquiry resolution. Mr. Allen stated that being satisfied from the vote on his amendment yesterday that the fate of this resolution was quite well sealed, he would withdraw it from further consideration of the Senate.

The House considered the sundry civil bill. Representative Boutelle introduced a bill providing for the relief of the victims of the United States battleship Maine. It follows generally the lines of the Samoan disaster relief bill of 1890, is the result of several days' conferences in committee, and embodies the views of the Administration. The bill provides that for payment to each of the survivors of the officers and crew a sum equal to the losses sustained by them; in no case shall the aggregate sum allowed exceed the amount of 12 months' sea pay of the grade or rating held by such person at the time the losses were incurred. The proper relative of each who was lost is to receive a sum equal to 12 months' sea pay of the grade or rating of each person deceased as aforesaid; Provided, That the legal representatives of the deceased persons shall also be paid any arrears of pay due the deceased at the time of their death.

In the House on Friday Mr. Hull, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, announced that his Committee had acted favorably on the Senate bill to provide two additional regiments of artillery, and he asked unanimous consent for the consideration of the bill to-morrow, after the sundry civil bill was disposed of.

Mr. Sulzer (N. Y., D.) wanted some day next week set aside for its consideration. Mr. Cox (Tenn., D.) objected, saying that the Committee on Rules could provide time for its consideration.

There was only one vote in the House Committee on Military Affairs against favorably reporting the Senate bill providing for two additional regiments of artillery. It was cast by Mr. Cox, a Democrat, of Tennessee. He contended that in the event of war the volunteers could man these guns. He also expressed the opinion that reporting this bill, which has been before Congress for several years, at this particular time might be misunderstood by the country. He thought it might be construed as direct action by Congress in preparation for war.

The evening session of the House was largely wasted. Six private pension bills were ordered to be favorably reported to the House by the Committee of the Whole, but on the next, Representative Sullivan, of Mississippi, raised the point of no quorum. No business could be transacted until a majority of the members appeared and answered the roll-call, and that could not be secured.

The House on Saturday considered the sundry civil bill. Efforts were made by different members to inject river and harbor items into the bill, three of them being successful, amendments appropriating $300,000 for Cleveland harbor, $200,000 for Wilmington, Del., and increasing the appropriation for Boston Harbor from $100,000 to $250,000 being adopted.

In the Senate, the resolution of the majority of the Committee on Elections, to the effect that Mr. Corbett, of Oregon, was not entitled to a seat, was adopted by 50 yeas to 19 nays. In the House, the Sundry Civil bill was passed.

PATRIOTIC WOMEN.

Seventh Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The seventh Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution held their sessions in Washington last week. This growing patriotic organization has had a rapid increase the past year, having added over three thousand names to the membership rolls. Of this number 65 are daughters direct, making 265 now enrolled. The oldest is 104 years old. Over forty thousand women are now enrolled who trace their ancestry back to Revolutionary men or women who were patriots then. Forty-seven State Regents have been appointed, including two Territories.

The sessions of the Congress were held in the Grand Opera House, Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson presiding. The Revolutionary spirit cropped out now and again in the fervid discussions, particularly upon a proposition to cut down the number of voting members by allowing the large Chapters direct representation, and combining small Chapters for the purpose of electing one delegate from their number. Then it was that one of the Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Elroy M. Avery, of the Ohio Western Reserve Chapter, uttered the slogan, "No taxation without representation," and the amendment was lost.

The social pleasures of the week were numerous, including a reception tendered by the President and Mrs. McKinley. The presence in the city of the Children of the Revolution, in annual Congress, added interest and picturesqueness to the gatherings of the D.A.R. A coterie of young girls who participated in the Children's Congress served as pages of the Continental Congress. Mrs. Daniel Lathrop, better known by her pen name, Margaret Sidney, was putting patriotic themes uppermost in the Children's Congress, and the meetings opened with the flag salute and the singing of "America."

The objects of the Daughters of the American Revolution are to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence, by the acquisition and protection of historic spots and the erection of monuments; to encourage research, and to collect and preserve historical documents, records and the story of individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots; to promote the celebration of National anniversaries; and to promote the diffusion of knowledge and the fostering and strengthening of American institutions as enjoined in Washington's "Farewell Address."

MRS. DANIEL MANNING THE NEW PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE D. A. R.

Not only the descendants of Revolutionary soldiers are eligible, but those of patriots—men or women—who rendered material aid to the cause of independence and who can furnish proof to substantiate their claims.

The Daughters who are pressing the establishment of a National United States University at Washington, in conformance with the provisions of Washington's will, and the establishment of a Colonial Hall at Washington, towards which $40,000 has been raised, pledged $5,000 at this Congress. A large and valuable collection of relics has been made by several States, which will be consigned to the Colonial Hall when erected or purchased.

Medals were bestowed upon four women who led to the formation of the D.A.R., Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, an article from whose pen awakened the movement, receiving the medal of highest distinction. It bears three eagles, surmounted by a pen, with the word "Service" at the top. The other medals were awarded to Miss Mary Desha, of Kentucky, to Miss Eugenia Washington, of Virginia, descendant of Col. Samuel Washington, brother of George Washington, and to Mrs. Ellen Hardin Walworth, of Virginia. These medals have four eagles each, and the word "Founder."

Mrs. Lockwood, who in 1890 set going the wheels that have spun so priceless thread, is a great granddaughter of Martin Roberts, a Massachusetts officer in the Revolutionary war, who was presented a sword by Congress in consideration of distinguished services, and great granddaughter of Benjamin Smith, of Massachusetts, one of the Minute Men of the Revolution and member of the Committee of Correspondence. Through the maternal line she goes back to the Mortons of the Plymouth Colony and to Philip Smith, a Deputy in the Massachusetts Colony. The National Tribune readers who have followed her "Historic Homes" know the force and strength with which she handles historic themes.

The Grand Opera House presented inspiring scenes on the evening of the award of the medals and the announcement that Mrs. Daniel Manning had been elected President-General, she having received nearly two-thirds of the over six hundred votes cast. The band played National airs, handkerchiefs waved and thousands cheered.

Mrs. Donald McLean, who had led a spirited campaign for National honors, turned defeat into victory when she marched, like a Major-General, to the platform, claiming the privilege of being the first to congratulate Mrs. Manning. She is a descendant of a family of orators and jurists, the Morrises, her great grandfather, grandfather, great uncle and uncle having sat, successively, on the Supreme Bench of Maryland.

Mrs. Manning's greatest ancestral distinction is that she comes from the Livingston family, one of the few families of the privileged and moneyed aristocracy which linked their fortunes with the Revolution and supplied the bone and sinews of war, in both blood and treasure. The De Peysters, Van Courtlands and Schuylers, all famous Revolutionists, with others scarcely less distinguished, are among her ancestry.

Besides Mrs. Manning other officers chosen are: Vice-President-General in charge of organization of Chapters, Mrs. Albert D. Brockett, Virginia (re-elected); Chaplain-General, Mrs. Charles A. Stakely District of Columbia (re-elected); Recording Secretary-General, Mrs. Albert Ackers, District of Columbia; Registrar-General, Miss Sue Hetzel, District of Columbia; Treasurer-General, Mrs. Mark B. Hatch, District of Columbia (re-elected); Assistant Historian-General, Mrs. Robert S. Hatcher, Indiana; Librarian-General, Mrs. Gertrude Bascom Darwin (re-elected).

Honorary President-General, Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson, Illinois, retiring President-General. Honorary Vice-President-General, Mrs. Virginia Cabell, Virginia.

Vice-Presidents-General: Mrs. R. A. Alger, Michigan; Mrs. Sperry, Connecticut; Mrs. John M. Thurston, Nebraska; Mrs. Toplin, District of Columbia; Mrs. Mark Hanna, Ohio; Mrs. Shippen, New Jersey; Mrs. Frye, Maine; Mrs. Jewett, Illinois; Mrs. Howard, Virginia; Dr. McGee, District of Columbia; Mrs. Colton, California; Miss Temple, Tennessee; Mrs. Fairbanks, Indiana; Mrs. Forsyth, New York; Mrs. Abner Hooper, Mrs. O'Neill Miss Benning, Mrs. Goodloe, Mrs. Main, District of Columbia; Mrs. Cameron, Wisconsin.

State Regents: Alabama, Mrs. J. Morgan Smith; Arkansas, Mrs. Frederick Hanger; California, Mrs. Virginia Knox Maddox; Connecticut, Mrs. Sara T. Kinney; Delaware, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Churchman; District of Columbia, Mrs. Simon Newcomb; Florida, Mrs. Christopher; Georgia, Mrs. Porter King; Illinois, Mrs. Henry M. Shepard; Indiana, Mrs. E. C. Atkins; Indian Territory, Mrs. Walter Duncan; Iowa, Mrs. Clara A. Cooley; Kentucky, Mrs. Edward Maxwell; Maryland, Mrs. J. Pembroke Thom; Massachusetts, Mrs. T. M. Brown; Michigan, Mrs. William P. Edwards; Minnesota, Mrs. L. Torrence; Missouri, Mrs. Geo. H. Shields; Mississippi, Mrs. William H. Sims; Maine, Mrs. Wallace H. White; Nebraska, Mrs. Frances Avery; New Hampshire, Mrs. Josiah Carpenter; New Jersey, Mrs. Daniel Depue; new Mexico, Mrs. Bradford Prince; New York, Mrs. James Mead Belden; North Carolina, Miss Mary D. Reeve Sprinkle; Dakota, Mrs. Frances C. Holly; Ohio, Mrs. Rathbone; Oklahoma, Mrs. Cassius M. Barnes; Oregon, Mrs. Card; Pennsylvania, Mrs. Thomas Roberts; Rhode Island, Mrs. Susan A. Ballou; South Carolina, Mrs. Clark; Vermont, Mrs. Jesse Burdette; Utah, Mrs. Clarence E. Allen; Washington, Mrs. Chauncey Griggs; Wisconsin, Mrs. James Peck; Wyoming, Mrs. Frances E. Warren.

There was considerable agitation of the movement to secure the enactment by Congress of the bill to prevent the desecration of the American flag, and the Committee having the matter in charge will push the cause vigorously. This movement, it may be said, was started by the George Rogers Clark Chapter, of Milwaukee, Wis., of which Mrs. William L. Mason was the first Regent and one of the officers of the Society of the Children of the American Revolution.

REBELLION RECORDS.

A proposition to take the publication of the Rebellion Records out of the hands of the Board of Publication and turn them over to the charge of Col. F. C. Ainsworth, of the Record and Pension Division, caused a discussion in the House last week.

The sundry civil bill at first contained no item providing for continuing the publication of the Records.

The Board it was proposed to legislate out of office was created in 1889 as the successor of a single military officer, who, it was said, had no special qualifications for literary work of this kind. This officer and his predecessors had then been engaged upon it more than 20 years, expending in the aggregate about $900,000, and issuing, all told, 34 books of 1,000 pages each, on the average. This makes the average cost per book something over $26,000. In the nine years since 1889 the present Board has expended about $1,450,000. Including everything, the average cost of the Board's volumes is $19,000, and there have been 76 volumes issued in nine years.

When the matter came up in the House, Mr. Curtis, of Kansas, offered an amendment restoring to the bill the omitted item.

Gen. Grosvenor and Mr. Richardson were particularly vigorous in defense of the civilian board.

A FRIEND'S ADVICE.

And what it led to.

"It is not a common occurence that a friendly word should be the means of giving nearly forty years of happiness and health to the person heeding the advice it carried. This was the case with Mary Lingard. At twenty-five she was dragging out her days in misery. At sixty-one she finds herself so active and strong she can do work that would shame many a younger woman, and looks back on thirty-six happy, healthful years of industry. But let her tell her story:

"Thirty-six years ago I had great trouble with my liver. The doctors allowed that there were tumors growing on it, and they blistered my side in an effort to give me relief. I was at that time earning my living as a tailoress, but for five years, between the pain in my side and the blisters I was in constant misery, and work was a drag to me, with no prospect of relief; fortunately for me, however, a friend advised me to take Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and finally persuaded me to take a regular course of it. When I first commenced taking the Sarsaparilla my side was so painful that I could not fasten my dress, and for a time I did not get any relief, but my friend advised me to persevere and relief was sure to come, and come it did. This happened, as I say, thirty-six years ago. My liver has never troubled me since, and during these years I have passed through the most critical period of a woman's life without any particular trouble, and to-day, at sixty-one years of age, I am active and strong, and able to do a day's work that would upset many a younger woman. Ever since my recovery I have taken a couple of bottles of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla each spring, and am quite satisfied that I owe my good health to this treatment. I give this testimonial purely in the hope that it may meet the eye of some poor sufferer."—MARY LINGARD, Woodstock, Ont.

Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla has won its way to every corner of the world by the praise of its friends; those who have tried it and who know they were cured by the use of the remedy. There is nothing so strong as this personal testimony. It throws all theories and fancies to the winds and stands solidly upon the rock of experience challenging every skeptic with a positive "*I know.*" Ayer's Sarsaparilla with its purifying and vitalizing action on the blood is a radical remedy for every form of disease that begins in tainted or impure blood. Hence tumors, sores, ulcers, boils, eruptions and similar diseases yield promptly to this medicine. Some cases are more stubborn than others, but persistence with Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla usually results in a complete cure. Mary Lingard began with a bottle, and went on to a course of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla. When she was cured she realized that a medicine that could cure disease could also prevent it. So she took a couple of bottles each spring and kept in perfect health. There are thousands of similar cases on record. Some of these are gathered into Dr. Ayer's Curebook, a little book of 100 pages which is sent free by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass. Write for it.

A PENSION ORDER.

It Affects Appeals in Cases of Reduction or Termination of Pensions—Some Recent Decisions.

Under a decision rendered by the Secretary of the Interior under the Cleveland Administration, May 27, 1983, in the case of Charles T. Bennett, the Commissioner of Pensions organized a Board of Revision in the Bureau of Pensions for the purpose of taking from the files claims that had been allowed under the act of June 27, 1890, for a re-examination; as a result of that re-examination, under instructions then given, pensioners were reduced or dropped in at least 25,000 cases.

Upon a careful examination of the action then taken, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Webster Davis has issued the following Order relating to appeals pending before the Department in such cases:

"Department of the Interior,
"Washington, Feb. 26, 1898.

"Order:

"It is directed that the pending appeals from the action of reducing or terminating of pensions granted under the second section of Act of June 27, 1890, in accordance with the decisions renedered May 27, 1893, in the case of Charles T. Bennett (7 P. D., p. 1), shall be examined with great care.

"In cases where the evidence filed, or the certificate of examination, indicates that the pension originally allowed was warranted under a just and impartial construction of the law, they should be returned to the Bureau of Pensions for a special examination, or another medical examination, or both, as may be deemed necessary.

"It is held to be proper and just that such pensioners shall be granted a fair hearing, and be allowed an opportunity to show by competent proof that they were disabled in the degree, and on account of the causes alleged, at the date when the pension was reduced or terminated.

"It will be understood that this action disposes of the pending appeal in such cases by reversing the action taken by the Bureau of Pensions, and remanding the case for further investigation, the reasons therefor being fully set forth.

"(Signed) WEBSTER DAVIS,
"Assistant Secretary."

This Order will result in giving all soldiers affected by the Bennett decision a chance to be heard, which is what they have been contending for ever since that decision was promulgated.

PENSION DECISIONS.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Webster Davis rendered a decision of interest as bearing upon the pensionable status of widows under the act of June 27, 1890. The claim is that of Mary, widow of Augustus H. Salisbury, Co. D, 4th Wis. The Assistant Secretary decides that:

"It is shown from the evidence that the claimant is possessed of a life interest in a house and lot, situated in the city of Minneapolis, Minn., worth from $6,000 to $8,000, from which she derives an annual income of $240, and a one-third undivided interest in a lot in said city, worth from $1,500 to $2,000, and in 320 acres of land in South Dakota, besides some stocks and uncollected accounts of uncertain amount and value, and therefore she is not without other means of support than her daily labor within the meaning of the provisions of section 3, act of June 27, 1890, and is not entitled to pension thereunder."

Mr. Davis, in the claim of Elizabeth B., widow of Oscar W. Phares, Co. F, 51st Mo., which was a widow's claim under the act of June 27, 1890, says:

"The evidence shows that the claimant is without other means of support than her daily labor, notwithstanding that she owns a house and lot worth $900, and a half interest in a house and lot worth $400, from which she derives no revenue. The evidence in this case shows that claimant is practically without support, as her half interest in the property yields her little or nothing, and where the resources consist only of the home of the claimant, and which, without her daily labor, would fall far short of furnishing a support, and the rental value of which would be wholly inadequate for her support, she should not be required to wholly exhaust her resources and deprive herself of a sheltering roof in her old age before she is deemed sufficiently dependent. Her claim should therefore be allowed."

In a fee case the decision was made that "attorneys are not bound by fee agreements limited in their application to a claim for increase on account of new disability, to prosecute a claim for straight increase."

WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

Events of General Interest in the National Capital.

TUESDAY, Feb. 22.—Representative Lewis, of Washington State, returned from Ottawa, where he went to appeal to the Canadian Government for some modifications of the Canadian regulations requiring American miners bound for the Klondike to procure their licenses at Vancouver, Victoria, or Dawson City. He says he found a feeling of intense hostility toward the United States, especially on account of the passage of the Payne-Frye bill, which is designed to prevent British vessels from sharing in the Alaskan carrying trade. There was no disposition to concede anything to the United States in the controversy, and Mr. Lewis returned convinced that no concession would be obtained unless we made counter concessions.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 23.—It was announced to-day that the launching of two great warships, the sister vessels Kearsarge and Kentucky, would take place at Newport News, March 28. Both ships are the most powerful ever launched in the United States, and are unlike in type, and especially in battery arrangements, to any of their class in the world. They are more powerful than the Iowa, the finest fighter of the present naval force, and have the super-posed turrets fore and aft, mounting four thirteens and four eights. The broadside batteries will be also very strong. The contract with the Navy calls for their completion on Jan. 1 next.

THURSDAY, Feb. 24.—The President appointed Col. Henry C. Corbin Adjutant-General of the Army to succeed Gen. Samuel Breck, retired on account of age. Gen. Breck had held the office only since Sept. 11 last, when he succeeded Adj't-Gen. Ruggles. Gen. Corbin is a native of Ohio and entered the army as an enlisted man at the beginning of the late war. He had a most brilliant career and earned brevets for gallant and meritorious services at Decatur and Nashville. In 1866 he was transferred to the Regular service as Second Lieutenant of the 17th U. S. President Hayes appointed him to the staff in 1880, making him a Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

FRIDAY, Feb. 25.—It was learned that the appointment of John A. Wilkie, a Chicago newspaper man, to succeed W. P. Hazen as Chief of the Secret Service, had been decided upon. Wilkie was a short time ago appointed to the Secret Service force in order that he might do some special work for the Department. His work was so well done that Secretary Gage became impressed with the fact that he would make an excellent executive officer for the Division.

SATURDAY, Feb. 26.—The Spanish Legation was advised that the new Minister to the United States, Senor Polo y Bernabe, would sail at once from Gibraltar. This will bring him to Washington in about 10 days. The credentials of the new Minister will be presented soon after his arrival, and it is expected that his first attention will be given to the new commercial treaty between the United States and Spain, with particular reference to Cuba. Minister Woodford has been carrying on the negotiations with the authorities at Madrid.

MONDAY, Feb. 28.—The Committee on Invalid Pensions favorably reported the Gibson bill, extending the benefits of the June 27, 1890, act to men who served less than six months in the Confederate army and who joined the Union army before Sept. 1, 1864, and did not enlist out of a prison in a Northern State. The bill provoked an animated discussion in committee, but was finally agreed on by a vote of 8 to 4.

Edward J. Doyle's Big Strike.

Edward J. Doyle, who recently gave up his position as foreman of the printing office, has gone out, without previous experience, into the state, and we hear, on good authority, is making $10.00 to $25.00 every day, giving public entertainments with the New Gem Talking Machine Outfit. The complete outfit including the Talking Machine, Records, Show Bills, Posters, Tickets, Dates and all was sent to him C. O. D. $22.25. He recently sent his assistant South with the new Klondike Picture Panorama and Lecture Outfit which he bought complete for $58.75 and this is doing even better than the Talking Machine entertainment. He now has an entirely new Moving Living Picture entertainment outfit ready, which cost him complete just $105.00, and he expects to start it in another direction shortly. Mr Doyle certainly stepped at once from a mechanic's position to a quick road to fortune by taking advantage of the new inventions of the day, and his success proves there is money in the country, and the people are interested in these new wonder inventions. Why don't the thousands of young men now out of employment, have a little more enterprise and thus carve their own way to fortune. SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, furnish any of these outfits to anyone on examination before paying, and send the most complete catalogues on the subject free on application, if you will name the catalogue you want.

THE MAINE! FREE!

Everybody Wears One.

Our new pin, a miniature of the famous battle-ship Maine, sunk in Havana Harbor; made of fine silver or gold plate, with white enamelled hull and black guns—an exact imitation. We will give this ABSOLUTELY FREE to anyone sending us 10 cents in stamps to pay postage, etc., on the pin and our elegant catalogue of jewelry.

CURTIN JEWELRY CO., - Attleboro, Mass.

Mention The National Tribune.

SET OF SIX

Silver-plated Teaspoons

FREE For a Club. See Offers Below.

Size Reduced.

These teaspoons can be used in cooking, eating and medicines the same as solid silver. They will not, cannot corrode or rust. Teaspoons of equal merit are sold in jewelry-stores for $1.50 and $2.00 a set; but because we buy at factory prices, and because we do not make any profit on the spoons (the subscription is what we want), we furnish them at a great bargain. In beauty and finish they are perfect, and for daily use there is nothing better. The base of these spoons is nickel-silver metal, which is silver color through and through, and is then well plated with coin-silver.

Will Stand Any Test.

To test these spoons, use acid or a file. If returned to us we will replace, free of charge, the spoon damaged in making the test, provided you tell some of your neighbors what the test proved. We make this offer because such a test is the best advertisement we can get, leading as it does to additional orders. We absolutely guarantee each and every spoon to be as described and to give entire sat