life when I shot him. I wish some of my friends would come so I could send one of them up to acquaint my wife of what has occurred. She is sick and confined to the house."

Mr. Canty was permitted to send a brief message to his wife, acquainting her with the facts.

Told By Eye-Witnesses.

The place of the encounter between the two men was on the curb in front of the Wyatt building on the northwest corner of the two streets. Mr. Canty was standing at the curb, engaged in conversation with Mr. H. Pierre Waggaman. They had finished their talk and bade each other good-day, and Mr. Waggaman was just about to drive away when Rye approached from the direction of the Ebbitt House. He went up close to Canty and extended his hand in a gesture as he made a remark which the few bystanders, close enough to hear, was, "You owe me $200." To this Canty made some reply. Almost with the word Canty drew a revolver and fired a shot straight at Rye. The latter bending, wheeled on his foot. The interval to the second shot was very brief.

From all accounts it was but a few seconds. Rye had reeled away eight or ten feet from Canty and in the direction of the Ebbitt House. Then, in rapid succession came three shots. Men who had heard the first shot and ran to see what was going on began to jump and dodge. One bystander declared the last shot was hardly a foot from his head. A number of men were in the line of fire on the Ebbitt House corner. The wounded man fell hardly ten paces from where he stood when he first accosted his slayer. He fell slowly, and as those who saw it said, like an actor on the stage, supporting himself for a moment on his elbow while his head slowly sank on his breast, and he then fell unconscious to the pavement. On the pavement lay a spring dirk, which Rye had drawn. There was a rush to the spot, and a dozen men raised Rye and carried him to Drew's drug store under the Ebbitt House.

The Wounds.

Dr. Stone, who lives on the opposite corner, was on the scene promptly, and with Dr. Burch, made an examination of the wounded man. He was still breathing, but lay unconscious. One shot, it was ascertained, had taken effect about an inch above the heart. Another had entered the right groin. The first was undoubtedly the fatal one. The doctors at once said there was not the slightest hope of life. Without regaining consciousness death came in a few minutes.

What Was Said.

For an hour the streets for a block away were full of men discussing the deplorable affair. The cause of the shooting was a stock deal or a series of deals which Rye had with the broker's firm of Canty & Van Senden, which failed a few months ago. The two men met frequently on F street in the different brokers' offices, and recently they had engaged in violent and prolonged quarrels over a balance of $200, which Rye claimed Canty & Van Senden owed him. Yesterday afternoon the two men had a fierce colloquy. Those who heard it speak guardedly of what took place.

From all accounts Rye called Canty hard names. One man says Rye drew a knife and threatened Canty, and that when they parted Rye shook his finger at him and said: "You are a thief, and I am going to follow you and tell you so whenever I see you." All this, it is said, Canty seemed to endure as a man would who is unarmed and knows his adversary has a weapon ready to be drawn on slight provocation. The two men met also on the north side of F street yesterday near 14th, and Rye was seen to speak and make the index gesture at Canty, who turned passively and walked away. In one altercation Rye was heard to charge Canty with drawing $12,000 out of the bank before the failure of the firm of Canty & Van Senden, so that the creditors could get nothing.

Leonard L. Nicholson, jr., who was passing the corner on a wheel when the shooting occurred, says: "I was coming down 14th street and was just opposite the corner where the men were standing when I heard the report of a pistol. I turned and saw a man standing on the corner with a pistol in his hand firing at another man, who was backing toward the middle of the street. Three shots were fired the last two following closely after the first.

"When the man who was the object of the firing had retreated about ten yards from where the man who had fired the shots was standing he fell to the pavement. He tried to rise and succeeded in propping himself up on one hand, but immediately fell back to the ground, with his right hand under his body. When he was picked up and carried to the drug store a dagger fell from the hand under the body."

An Inquest Tomorrow.

When the body of the dead man reached the morgue Superintendent Schoenberger found that one bullet had entered the left breast and had probably penetrated the heart. The body was searched and $407.93 and a diamond stud were the valuables taken from it. The money was in the pockets, and the stud was in the tie. Deputy Coroner Glazebrook arranged to make an autopsy at 4 o'clock this afternoon, and Coroner Carr will hold an inquest tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Soon after the body reached the morgue several friends of the deceased called. They were anxious to make arrangements for the removal of the body to some undertaking establishment, as they did not like the idea of having it remain in so desolate a place. George M. Rye, whose cards indicated that he was a New Yorker, was forty-seven years old, his friends stated, and he had lived in Texas for a number of years.

He was well known at the Capitol, and it is said he was acquainted with most of the members of the Texas delegation. His wife is now in Texas, and he has a son, who left here two days ago to go to the Klondike. It is thought that he is in New York, and that he will leave there tonight unless he learns of his father's death.

During the reconstruction period the deceased spent most of his time in Arkansas.

Statement of a Friend.

"He was every inch a man," remarked one of his friends, "and he had had many close calls. But game as he was he was not a man to start a fight. Only yesterday he told me of a talk he had with Canty. He said he had offered to settle with him on almost any terms, and he was satisfied to have a settlement when other creditors had been satisfied. Canty, he said, told him he was the first man who had extended a helping hand to him."

Arrangements for the funeral will not be made until after the inquest is held tomorrow.

A Talk With H. W. Van Senden.

Mr. H. W. Van Senden, who was formerly private secretary to Secretary Carlisle, and then became Mr. Canty's associate in the firm of Canty & Co., was seen by a Star reporter this afternoon regarding the dead man's relations with the firm.

"Rye claimed that our firm owed him $275 when it failed, and after the failure we paid him $500, although the account was a matter of question. He demanded the remaining $175 several times, and yesterday, in order to settle the controversy, we presented to him as an offset to his claim a note for $650, which he had given to Mr. C. A. Havenner, and which had been assigned to us. This made him angry."

Andrew Lawrence, a colored messenger in one of the F street brokers' offices, who was formerly in the employ of Canty & Co., and who lives at 1611 Madison street, told a Star reporter this afternoon that he heard Mr. Rye making threats against Mr. Canty this morning.

"He was standin' on the steps there," said Lawrence, "this morning, and talking to another gentleman. He said Mr. Canty was a —— —— —— —— and a —— thief, and that he would do him up if he didn't pay him his money."

James Fox, another colored messenger in a broker's office, said he heard the talk between Canty and Rye yesterday.

"Mr. Rye had his knife in his hand and called Mr. Canty a —— —— —— —— and a thief. Mr. Canty told him the street was no place to carry on that way, and Mr. Rye said the sidewalk was good enough for him."

There were numerous other persons, who declined to be quoted, who had heard Rye making remarks about Canty, and it seemed to be a matter of general knowledge on F street in the brokers' neighborhood that Rye was very angry with the members of the defunct firm and particularly with Canty.

Capt. Black a Witness.

Capt. Wm. B. Black, the Engineer Commissioner of the District, has been summoned as a witness in the Carter court-martial trial, and will leave for Savannah, Ga., this evening. He expects to be absent for three or four days.

THE POST OFFICE BILL

It is Taken Up by the House of Representatives.

OBJECTION TO MAINE RELIEF MEASURE

Will Be Considered After the Appropriation.

ACTION BY THE SENATE

At the opening of the session of the House of Representatives today the Speaker recognized Mr. Boutelle (Me.), chairman of the naval affairs committee, to call up the bill for the relief of the victims and survivors of the Maine disaster. The bill provided for the payment to the legal heirs of those who lost their lives a sum equal to twelve months' sea pay of the deceased and the reimbursement to the survivors of the value of personal effects lost, not to exceed in amount a sum equal to twelve months' sea pay.

The continuance of allotments to the families of the deceased for three months was also provided for.

The consideration of the bill required unanimous consent. Mr. Loud (Cal.) said the bill was important. There was a general law which covered such cases and a special act should receive deliberate consideration.

Mr. Boutelle said that the passage of the bill was demanded by public sentiment all over the country. He said there was a pressing necessity for the relief of the sufferers of this terrible disaster. Benefit performances were being held and subscriptions were being raised all over the country for the relief of the widows and orphans of the victims.

Mr. Loud objected.

"That is the gentleman's privilege under the rules," said Mr. Boutelle.

"I object to the latter remark," said Mr. Loud, "and ask that it be stricken from the record."

It was finally arranged by unanimous consent that the bill should be considered as soon as the post office appropriation bill was out of the way.

Mr. Danford (Ohio), chairman of the committee on immigration, called attention to the fact that he had given notice some time ago that he would today call up the immigration bill. He asked what the parliamentary status of the bill was, and the Speaker informed him that it was on the Speaker's table and could be called up at any time when a privileged matter was not before the House.

The Post Office Appropriation Bill.

On motion of Mr. Loud the House then went into committee of the whole and took up the post office appropriation bill.

All efforts to fix a time for closing general debate failed on account of the great pressure for time to speak. Mr. Loud, in charge of the bill, explained its provisions briefly. It carried $98,962,500, being $958,391 less than the estimates, and $3,296,962 more than the appropriations for the current year.

Mr. Bromwell (Ohio) made an extended speech against the appropriation for special fast mail facilities from Boston to New Orleans.

For Rural Free Delivery.

The post office bill contains an item of $150,000 for rural free delivery during the next fiscal year. This is $100,000 more than the Post Office Department had available for the same purpose during the present year. In addition to the first-named amount the Postmaster General may use for the purpose stated a sum equal to the aggregate compensation of postmasters, cost of mail transportation, star route service and mail messenger service that may be discontinued by reason of the establishment of rural free delivery.

Experiments that have been conducted already by the department show that the establishment of rural delivery in which there is a hearty co-operation of the communities interested, the discontinuance of the offices of a number of fourth-class postmasters and of the services of other employes can be effected, so there will be a considerable balance to be added to the general fund of $150,000 to defray the expenses of free delivery service where economy cannot be practiced.

Under the scheme put into operation some time ago by the department of establishing free delivery along the lines of star routes probably 2,000 people who formerly had to travel considerable distances to post offices to get their mail now receive it either at their homes or at places much nearer than formerly. The first assistant postmaster general expresses the opinion that under liberal appropriations along the direction indicated the department, within five years, would be supplying free delivery to 10,000,000 people who do not now enjoy it.

General Debate.

The general debate was not confined to the subjects in the bill. Mr. Griggs (Ga.) contributed some remarks upon the mooted question of the relative advantages possessed by the cotton manufacturers of the north and south, to prove that the advantages possessed by the latter were not due to the longer hours of labor of their operatives.

SENATE.

The deplorable death of Mrs. Thurston, wife of the junior senator from Nebraska, John M. Thurston, was made the subject of touching reference by the blind chaplain in his invocation at the opening of the Senate's session today.

Upon the motion of Mr. Allen, Mr. Thurston's colleague from Nebraska, the prayer was ordered printed in the Record.

A bill to regulate the collection and disbursement of moneys arising from leases made by the Seneca nation to New York Indians, was passed.

A joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint ex-Naval Cadet T. D. Parker as an assistant engineer in the navy was agreed to.

Among the bills passed were the following: To authorize the Pensacola, Alabama and Tennessee Railway Company to erect a bridge across the Alabama river, in Wilcox county, Ala.; for the relief of the Catholic Church at Macon City Mo., which was occupied by the federal troops during the civil war; providing for a light vessel off Tail of Horse Shoe, Chesapeake bay, at a cost of $20,000; to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust and settle the accounts of the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankeshaw and Wea Indians.

Mr. Gear (Iowa), chairman of the Pacific railroads committee, called up a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to effect an adjustment between the United States and the Sioux City and Pacific Railway Company in relation to bonds issued by the United States in aid of the construction of the railway and asked that it be passed.

Objection was made by Mr. Morgan(Ala.), who moved that the bill be recommitted to the committee. He was supported by Mr. Harris (Kan.) Mr. Allen (Neb.) was inclined to believe that the bill provided the best solution of the problem presented. The bill was recommitted to the committee without objection.

Other bills were passed as follows: To establish a light house and fog signals at Point Arguello, Cal., at a cost of $35,000; authorizing the Secretary of War to prepare estimates for the improvement of the harbor of Lynn, Mass.; to establish a light house at the Pitch of Cape Fear river, near Wilmington, N. C., at a cost not to exceed $70,000; for the relief of the Portland Company of Portland, Me.; to provide for a monument to mark the site of the Fort Phil. Kearny massacre; to extend the uses of the mail service, the plan being to adopt the return postal card of the United States economically; for the purchase of land and the construction thereon of an asylum for insane Indians near Canton, S. D., at a cost not exceeding $75,000, and to authorize the President to appoint and retire David McMurley E. Gregg, late captain 6th United States Cavalry, with the rank and grade of captain.

The national quarantine bill—the unfinished business—was laid before the Senate and read at length.

RELIEF WORK IN CUBA

Mr. Klopsch Making Active Investigation All Over the Island.

Rumor That the Vizcaya Will Visit Vera Cruz—Invited There by Spanish Sympathizers.

HAVANA, March 15.—Relief Commissioner Klopsch is developing great activity in pushing the work of relieving the destitute all over the island. For that purpose he is taking steps to establish immediately relief headquarters at Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, Cardenas, Sagua La Grande, Gaibarien, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Manzanillo and Santiago de Cuba, so as to provide for more prompt aid for those who are suffering in the small towns in the interior of the island, where there is great distress. The commissioner is also collecting statistics regarding the reconcentrados at each of the towns mentioned, so as to enable the relief workers to send the quantity of food needed daily.

About four hundred and sixty-five tons of supplies are expected by the commissioner this week, and next week he expects about three thousand tons of provisions, which will supply the sufferers with food for about twenty days, and greatly improve their general condition.

It is reported here that the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya, at the request of the Spanish residents of Mexico, will visit Vera Cruz. It is further reported that the Spaniards at that place have decided to present the Spanish government with a warship of the same size as the Vizcaya.

Spanish troops to the number of 1,400 arrived here today from Spain.

Senor Rafael Arazosa, a prominent resident of this place, has presented the Spanish government with the coasting steamer Pilar, in order that she may be armed as a warship.

MONTGOMERY POWER COMPANY.

Bill Introduced at Annapolis to Amend the Charter.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 15.—Delegate Ayton of Montgomery county introduced a bill today amending the charter of the Montgomery Power Company. It provides that the work of construction shall be commenced by December 1, 1898, and shall be completed and the electric current supplied within five years, otherwise the franchise will be forfeited. No powers conferred in the original charter shall be used to injure the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

The power company may, with the consent of the trustees of the canal company, change the physical condition of the canal above the dam, provided that such changes shall not injure it as a waterway. Its transmission wires may cross the canal.

Senator Boulé introduced a bill providing for the closing of banks in Montgomery county at noon on Saturday, and authorizing the payment of notes and transaction of similar business heretofore set for Saturdays on the following Mondays.

PRIZE FIGHTER USES A KNIFE.

Solly Smith Cuts "Spider" Kelly in Saloon Row.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 15.—Jas. Curtin, better known as "Spider" Kelly, was seriously but not fatally stabbed last night by Solly Smith, the pugilist, who was intoxicated. The affair took place in Kelly's saloon, and was the culmination of a row in which Kelly had violently abused Smith, who struck with a knife at Kelly's throat, but the "Spider" threw up his shoulder. The knife cut deep into the fleshy part of the body, just back of the arm pit, but the movement saved Kelly's life.

The wound is deep, but the injured man will recover. Smith escaped in a hack.

PROPOSED BARGE CANAL.

Hearing of the House River and Harbor Committee.

Charles Counselman and George S. Morrison of Chicago and Thomas M. McIntyre, E. C. O'Brien and G. S. Greene, jr., of New York were before the House river and harbor committee today to advocate the passage of the bill for 1,500-ton barge canal connecting the great lakes with the Hudson river at Albany. This project was recommended by Major T. W. Symons of the corps of engineers, and is in effect a proposition to increase the depth of the Erie canal from seven to twelve feet. It is pressed on the theory that the talked of ship canal, connecting the great lakes with tide water, is impracticable and too expensive.

EXPLORATION OF ALASKA

Preparations Being Made by the Geological Survey.

Preparations have been made by Director Walcott of the geological survey for an extensive exploration of the geological, topographical and other features of Alaska. This will be done under authority of Congress, which appropriated $20,000 for the purpose. Ten officers of the survey will be assigned to the work in prospect, viz: George H. Eldridge, Arthur Keith, J. E. Spurr, Alfred Brooks, E. C. Barnard, W. J. Peters, Robert Muldrow, W. S. Post, W. C. Mendenhall and F. C. Schrader. The latter two are to accompany military exploring parties.

In addition to the above named eighteen camp men will be employed. Four parties are to be organized under the general charge of Mr. Eldridge. Seattle will be the outfitting point and the whole expedition will proceed there about April 1. The gunboat Wheeling will transport the parties. At Skaguay two parties will be detached, the first under Mr. Barnard proceeding to the Klondike region for the purpose of making a topographic survey of the district adjacent to the eastern boundary of Alaska, the 141st meridian. The survey will extend westward from the Yukon between the 64th and 65th parallels of latitude and will include the forty miles district. The map to be made by Barnard's party will serve as a basis for a careful geologic investigation of the region by Mr. Keith, who will use Barnard's camp as a base, but will operate to some extent independently.

Exploring the White River.

The second party, leaving Mr. Eldridge at Skaguay, will be in charge of Mr. Spurr, who will co-operate with Barnard in crossing the passes, and on reaching the mouth of the White river will enter upon its special field work, namely, the exploration of the White and Tanana river systems. It is expected that this party will descend the Tanana to its mouth, and, should time permit, will explore the Melogikaket, with a view to future operations on the Koyukuk. After organizing the Barnard and Spurr parties at Skaguay Mr. Eldridge, with the remaining members of the force, will go in the Wheeling to Cook inlet, to land at the mouth of the Sushitna river. He is expected to proceed with the entire corps then with him up the Sushitna to about latitude 63 degrees 40 minutes, where several forks of the river combine. At this point a party, under Mr. Peters, will be detached to explore the northeastern portion of the Sushitna drainage basin, with the expectation that their work will connect with that of a party sent from the War Department on Copper river, and that they will close on Mr. Spurr's surveys down the Tanana. After detaching Mr. Peters' party Mr. Eldridge will proceed, with an assistant, westward across the divide between the Sushitna and the Kuskokwim to survey the headwaters of the Kuskokwim, and to determine the navigability of that stream by descending it to the usual portage to the lower Yukon.

Railway From Cook Inlet.

In the exploration by Mr. Peters and Mr. Eldridge special attention will be given to the location of a possible railroad from Cook inlet to the Yukon. All the parties will rendezvous at St. Michael's by September 15.

RECTOR NO LONGER

Rev. Gilbert F. Williams Formally Deposed From Ministry.

CHARGES AGAINST HIM SUSTAINED

Violation of Ordination Vows, Unbecoming Conduct and Immorality.

HISTORY OF THE CASE

Rev. Gilbert F. Williams, formerly rector of Christ Church, Southeast Washington, was today deposed from the ministry of the Episcopal Church by Right Rev. Henry Y. Satterlee, bishop of the diocese of Washington, for "violation of his ordination vows, conduct unbecoming a clergyman of the Epicopal Church and immorality."

The trial of Rev. Mr. Williams on this charge grew out of his alleged improper relations with a young lady member of his congregation about two years ago.

The trial began January 20 in the Pro-Cathedral of St. Mark's before an ecclesiastical court appointed by Bishop Satterlee, and, with the exception of two days, has continued in daily session ever since, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

L. A. Wilmer, adjutant general of Maryland, represented the church, and the Rev. Mr. Williams was defended by Mr. William A. Meloy, the canons of the Episcopal Church allowing a clergyman under prosecution to have but one attorney.

Secrecy Observed.

Every effort was made to keep the proceedings of the trial from the public, and no one was allowed in the room except the clergymen permitted by the canons; and Bishop Satterlee was so anxious to keep the proceedings quiet that he made a special request of the clergymen not to avail themselves of this privilege and not to attend the trial any more than possible. Only one witness in the case was allowed in the room at a time.

A large number of witnesses were examined, both for the prosecution and the defense, and the stenographers were kept busy transcribing notes, which filled more than 2,000 pages of typewritten matter.

The court finally concluded the hearing, and after carefully summing up the evidence which had been presented to them decided by a canonical majority that Mr. Williams was guilty of all the charges and specifications filed against him, which were "an act involving a breach of his ordination vows, conduct unbecoming a clergyman and immorality." The findings and proceedings of the court were transmitted to Bishop Satterlee and met with his approval.

The bishop decided that Rev. Mr. Williams should be deposed from the ministry of the Episcopal Church. This morning at the conclusion of morning prayer at the Pro-Cathedral of St. Mark's the bishop performed this painful duty in the presence of those members of the congregation who chose to remain, and with the bishop's chaplains, Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, Rev. Mr. Hayes and Rev. Mr. Devries, as witnesses to the ceremony, as required by the canons of the Episcopal Church.

This proceeding ends Mr. Williams' career in the ministry of the Episcopal Church, as he can never again be ordained by any bishop.

Pastor Eight Years.

For eight years Mr. Williams had been rector of Christ Church, and a more popular divine could not be found in the diocese.

He was highly esteemed by every member of his congregation. Before the diocese of Washington was separated from the diocese of Maryland Mr. Williams served as archdeacon of the diocese for Bishop Paret.

About two years ago Mr. Williams' health gave away and he was forced to take a vacation. He had not been away long before Dame Rumor had some ugly things to say about him in connection with one of his most ardent young lady church workers, and in a short while the young lady gave birth to a child, of which she claimed Mr. Williams was the father.

The matter was reported to the standing committee of the diocese of Washington, as required by the canons. Mr. Williams called for an investigation of the charges, and asked for a speedy trial, which, after dragging along for more than six weeks, resulted as stated above.

This is the first trial to be held in Washington before an ecclesiastical court, and on account of the prominence of both parties, has attracted attention throughout the diocese.

PRESSING ADJOURNMENT

All but Three Appropriation Bills Passed by the Senate.

The republican leaders in the House are pressing for an early adjournment, and it is said that their course meets the full approval of the President. All save three of the appropriation bills have gone to the Senate. The post office bill was taken up in the House today and the appropriations and naval committees are working daily to get the last two bills, the general deficiency and naval, into the House. The action of the appropriations committee in preparing the general deficiency bill at this time is the best evidence of the intention of the leaders to secure an early adjournment.

This bill is always held back until the last, as it contains all the odds and ends usually not reported until a more or less definite understanding as to final adjournment has been reached. May 1 has been fixed by several prominent House republicans as the date beyond which the session probably will not be prolonged.

The democrats of the House generally favor an early adjournment, although there is not unanimity among them on this point. Neither is there complete harmony on the republican side of the House as to an early adjournment. Many of the republicans believe Congress should remain in session until the Cuban question is finally and effectually cleared up, but they would hardly go to the extent of opposing the wish of the leaders and the administration. It is admitted on the House side that the question of carrying out this program will depend entirely upon the attitude of the Senate.

ALASKA HOMESTEAD BILL.

Partial Agreement of the Conferees on the Measure.

The conference on the Alaskan homestead and railway bill have agreed on the homestead provisions of the bill, deciding that each homestead to be taken in Alaska shall consist of one quarter section of land. This is the provision that was made in the House bill, but in the Senate it was changed to forty acres. The conferees on the part of the Senate held out for some time for the item as amended in the Senate, but finally conceded the House provision. It has also been agreed on in conference to make the total land given for railroad purposes as terminals and junction points sixty acres. This is affected by giving terminals forty acres of land in addition to the twenty acres the government gives to each station on the roads that are to be built.

Other important details are to be considered later.

Authorization to Commanders.

Maj. Gen. Miles has issued an order, saying that company commanders are authorized, subject to the control of the commanding officer of the post, to dispose of cases of derelictions of duty in their commands which would be within the jurisdiction of inferior courts-martial, by requiring extra hours of fatigue, unless the soldier concerned demands a trial. This right to demand a trial must be made known to him.

MARINES LEAVE FOR DUTY

Detachment of Sixty for Service on Columbia and Minneapolis.

Activity at the Navy Yard—Recruiting Going On and Guns Being Rapidly Completed.

A detachment of about sixty marines, in charge of Lieut. Fuller, left Washington this morning to go on the Columbia and Minneapolis, at League Island. It was stated that they left by a special train over the Pennsylvania railroad for their destination. It was further stated that thirty of these, who were from the navy yard, would be detailed to the Minneapolis, and the remainder to the Columbia. Lieut. Moore, who was detailed as executive officer of the Columbia, left this morning.

Col. Heywood, the commandant of the Marine Corps, today made five details of marines for cruisers now being repaired or ready for commission. There are two drafts of forty-five each for the Philadelphia and the Charleston, at San Francisco; one of fifty-two for the Newark at Norfolk, and two of thirty each for the Columbia and Minneapolis.

The recruiting office recently opened at the navy yard is for seamen, ordinary seamen and machinists. The officer in charge said this morning that there were many applications for enlistment, and while the men came up to physical requirements they could hardly stand the technical tests. On this account but few have been so far enlisted.

The Requirements.

The requirements for a candidate for enlistment as a machinist are varied. As laid down by the bureau of navigation they are as follows:

A candidate for enlistment as a machinist must be a machinist by trade, must know the names and uses of the various parts of marine engines and boilers, and must be able to perform work with various tools in a machine shop, including bench work.

He must be able to write legibly and must understand arithmetic.

He must be physically sound, and at the date of first enlistment must be not less than twenty-one nor more than thirty-five years of age.

Machinists who have had no experience at sea with marine engines will be enlisted as "Machinists, second class," at $40 per month.

Machinists who have had experience at sea with marine engines for one year may be enlisted as "Machinists, first class," at $55 per month.

No person will be enlisted as chief machinist unless he holds a permanent appointment as such.

The examination of candidates for enlistment as machinists, regarding their knowledge of engines and boilers, must be made in the engine rooms of ships; and regarding their knowledge of machine work in the workshops of navy yards.

Chief machinists will have charge of engine room watches, and will be paid $70 per month. Machinists, first class, will, if qualified, be given charge of an engine room watch when there are not a sufficient number of chief machinists on board to perform this duty.

Machinists, second class, will be assigned to duty as watch tenders and oilers. All machinists will perform such other duties as may be assigned them.

Work on the Guns.

Work on the guns is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and there was no cessation even for Sunday. It was stated to a Star reporter that more attention is now being paid to the four and five-inch guns than to the others. These are of the rapid-fire character. There will probably be a hundred of them ready for use in a short time. There are several of the big thirteen-inch size, which can be finished with but little difficulty, it was also declared.

The tug Triton, belonging to the government, is brought into requisition frequently now at the navy yard. She is used to convey guns down to Indian Head to be tested or to Sheridan's Point, where they may be needed.

Officers are bustling about the yard continually, marines are being drilled and the few recruits who are there are being initiated by the sergeants into the mysteries of gun play. In the shops there is a hum and a roar, as the guns are shaped into position, and the workmen have no time to talk with visitors, even were they not prevented from doing so by the strict rules posted up conspicuously.

The men about the yard are of the opinion that there will be war, and most of them are looking anxiously for it, as they say they wish to have a chance to see real fighting. The officers are more reserved, but it can be easily seen that they think as do the men, and are looking forward with delight to a brush with the enemy.

ON THE RETIRED LIST

Final Action Taken in the Case of Pay Director Billings.

The case of Pay Director Luther G. Billings, which has been troubling the Secretary of the Navy for some time past, was settled today by the issue of an order placing that officer on the retired list. Mr. Billings was recently convicted by court-martial upon certain charges and was sentenced to dismissal from the service. His attorneys endeavored to have the finding set aside on the ground that it was unjust and unsupported by the evidence. The Secretary was so impressed with their arguments that he proposed to compromise with Mr. Billings by permitting him to retire instead of being dismissed. The officer rejected this proposition, however, contending that if guilty he should be punished; that if innocent, as he claimed to be, justice required that the last trace of guilt should be removed from his record. The proposition of the department was that the officer should apply for retirement, which he was entitled to do under the law; but inasmuch as he refused to follow this suggestion, the Secretary exercised his prerogative and ordered him before a naval examining board to determine his mental and physical capacity for active service. The board reported that he was eligible for retirement under the law, and the Secretary today directed the transfer of his name from the active to the retired list. Although this action does not in itself prevent the execution of the sentence, it is generally understood that no further action will be taken, and that the case will be allowed to drop.

Pay Director Billings rendered gallant service to the country during the war, and had an exceptionally fine record up to the time of his recent trial. In 1862, when but twenty years of age, he entered the navy as an assistant paymaster, and the records of the department show that he received the thanks of his commanding officer for gallant and meritorious services on several occasions. Probably his most conspicuous act of heroism was in June, 1864, while attached to the United States ship Waterwitch. While in Georgia waters that vessel was boarded in the night by a body of confederate soldiers. Jumping from his berth in his night clothes, Mr. Billings secured a pair of revolvers and made his way to the deck. A desperate hand to hand combat ensued, in which he killed several men, and saved the life of his commanding officer. He was taken prisoner, however, severely wounded, and sent to the hospital at Savannah. Later he was transferred to the stockade at Macon, where he took part in an unsuccessful attempt to escape by means of a tunnel.

He was next taken to Charleston, S.C., but jumped from the moving train on the way and made his escape. He enjoyed only three days of liberty, however, when he was recaptured and sent to Libby prison, where he remained until exchanged. For his conduct in the fight on the Waterwitch, which was described officially as "extraordinary heroism," he was promoted fifteen numbers. In 1868 he was attached to the U. S. S. Wateree when that vessel was destroyed by an earthquake at Arica, and was officially thanked by his commanding officer for heroic conduct on that occasion. Subsequently his health failed, and in 1888 a bill was favorably reported to the Senate authorizing the President to place him on the retired list. In the meantime, however, his health having improved, the bill was withdrawn at his suggestion, and he was continued on the active list up to the present time.

FINANCE AND TRADE

Considerable Strength Developed Today on Stock Board.

WAR SCARE HAS RUN ITS COURSE

General Belief Now That Better Prices Will Prevail.

GENERAL MARKET REPORTS

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Lower prices in the London market were responsible for some irregularity in the local trading during the opening hour this morning. After the first few minutes of trading the market settled down somewhat, a further covering of short contracts and moderate commission buying resulting in substantial improvement over first prices. After a period of activity along the line of improvement the market relapsed into dullness.

During the early afternoon advantage was taken of the dullness to offer prices down in the interest of a new short account. The absence of news from Havana and the growing confidence in a peaceful solution of the Cuban difficulty have inspired a more hopeful tone in the security markets. This revival of confidence, however, has not reached the stage warranting extensive accumulation of long stock.

Nothing but a trader's market exists, but this condition will give way to something definite in the matter of our foreign relations. The scare period has been passed, it is believed, and there seems to be little prospect of a shock from pending negotiations.

The market has been unsettled to a degree which insures a period of irregularity before one of continued advance. On the declines buying orders are likely to increase in volume.

Routine conditions all make for good and this fact, while temporarily overshadowed, has not been lost sight of entirely.

There is every prospect of an early employment of idle funds in the stock market.

The effort to oust the rapid transit commission was used to the advantage of the several traction stocks. Manhattan, Metropolitan and Brooklyn rapid transit were brought in round amounts, resulting in sharp advances.

These shares for a time led the general advance in the market.

The investment issues were all strong. New York Central more than recovering its quarterly dividend. American Sugar was bought liberally by the short interest and recovered 2 per cent of its dividend during the opening hour. As was the case yesterday, the aggressive buying was inaugurated right at the opening of the market.

The granger shares were all strong, and the short interest in them was not entirely alone in the demand. The low-priced shares are neglected to some extent by the superior attractiveness of the dividend payers at their present low market rate.

The future of the market will be influenced by Washington developments, but the best opinion is that financial considerations will shortly prove superior to those of a political nature.

The recently listed Mergenthaler Linotype stock reflected new strength incident to the declaration of a regular dividend of 2½ per cent and 2½ per cent extra.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The following are the opening, the highest and the lowest and the closing prices of the New York stock market today, as reported by Corson & Macartney, members New York stock exchange. Correspondents, Messrs. Van Emburgh & Atterbury, No. 2 Wall st.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
American Spirits	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Spirits, pfd	.....	.....	.....	.....
1American Sugar	121	123⅝	120⅝	120⅝
2American Sugar, pfd	110	110¾	109⅛	109⅛
American Tobacco	92⅝	95	93¼	94¾
American Cotton Oil	17	17	17	17
Atchison	.....	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛
Baltimore & Ohio	16⅝	16⅝	16⅝	16⅝
Bay State Gas	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canada Southern	46⅞	47¼	46⅞	47
Canada Pacific	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chesapeake & Ohio	18⅝	19½	18⅝	18⅝
C., C. C. & St. Louis	28⅝	28⅝	27⅝	27⅝
Chicago, B. & Q	89⅝	91⅞	89⅝	89⅝
Chicago & Northwestern	116⅝	119⅛	116⅛	116⅛
Chicago Gas	89⅝	91⅞	89⅝	89⅞
C. M. & St. Paul	88⅝	90⅛	88⅝	88⅝
C. M. & St. Paul, pfd	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chicago, R.I. & Pacific	84	85	83	83⅛
Chic St. P., M. & O	69	70⅛	60	70
Consolidated Gas	178⅛	179	178	178
Del. Lack & W	150	150	150	150
Delaware & Hudson	109	110	109	110
Den. & Rio Grande, pfd	44	44⅛	44	44⅛
Erie	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
General Electric	31⅝	32⅞	31⅝	31⅝
Illinois Central	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝
Lake Shore	185	186⅛	185	186⅛
Louisville & Nashville	48	49⅛	48	48⅛
Metropolitan Traction	140⅛	144⅛	140⅛	141⅛
Manhattan Elevated	99⅝	103	99⅝	101
Michigan Central	101⅝	102⅛	101⅝	101⅝
Missouri Pacific	25⅝	26	24⅞	24⅞
National Lead Co	30	30	30	30
National Lead Co., pfd	103	103	103	103
New Jersey Central	92⅛	92⅛	91⅝	91⅝
3New York Central	109⅛	110⅞	109	109⅛
Northern Pacific	21⅝	22⅛	21⅝	21⅝
Northern Pacific, pfd	59⅞	61⅛	59⅞	60⅛
Ont. & Western	14⅝	14⅝	14⅝	14⅝
Pacific Mail	24⅛	24⅛	23⅞	24
Phila. & Reading	17	17⅛	16⅝	16⅝
Pullman P. C. Co	170	17.	170	171
Southern Ry., pfd	26	26⅛	25⅝	25⅝
Phila. Traction	.....	.....	.....	.....
Texas Pacific	9⅝	9⅝	9⅝	9⅝
Tenn. Coal & Iron	19	19⅛	18⅝	18⅝
Union Pacific	23⅝	26⅛	25⅝	25⅝
Union Pacific, pfd	48⅝	51⅛	48⅝	49⅛
Wabash, pfd	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western Union Tel	86⅝	87⅛	86⅝	86⅝
Silver	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brooklyn R. Transit	38⅛	39⅛	38⅛	38⅛
Chig. & G Western	10	10⅛	10	10

1Ex-div. 3.
2Ex-div. 1¾.
3Ex-div. 1.

Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—regular call—12 o'clock m.—Metropolitan Railroad conv. 6s, $1,000 at 117; $1,000 at 117; $1,000 at 117. Capital Traction, 30 at 70; 2 at 70½; 2 at 70½; 2 at 70½. Metropolitan Railroad, 10 at 116¼. Washington Gas, 10 at 46½; 10 at 46½. American Graphophone, preferred, 13 at 15⅝. Pneumatic Gun Carriage, 100 at 39 cents; 100 at 38 cents; 100 at 39 cents; 10 at 42 cents. Mergenthaler Linotype, 2 at 143. After call—Capital Traction, 6 at 70¼.

District of Columbia Bonds.—20-year fund 5s, 101½ bid. 30-year fund 6s, gold, 110 bid. 3.65s, funding, currency, 115 bid.

Miscellaneous Bonds.—Metropolitan Railroad 5s, 117 bid. Metropolitan Railroad conv. 6s, 117 bid. 120 asked. Metropolitan Railroad certificates of indebtedness, A, 118 bid, 124 asked. Metropolitan Railroad certificates of indebtedness, B, 110