Associated Press Dispatches.

Daily Press

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION.

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NOW FOR THE LAUNCH

Battleships Leave the Ways This Morning.

DISTINGTISHED GUESTS

Governors of Kentucky and Virginia Arrive. Many Visitors Pouring Into the City. Program for the Day.

This is the day.

From their ways this morning two lengthly floating fortresses, the Kearsarge and Kentucky, will glide into the historic James to join Uncle Sam's fleet of fighting machines.

Thousands of people will see the new battleships plunge into the water. It will not only be the greatest event in the history of Newport News, but it will be the greatest in the annals of naval shipbuilding. It will be the first time two modern battleships were ever launched from the same yard on the same day. That the launch will be a success there is every assurance. Preparations for the launch have been carried out to the minutest detail. Nothing has been left undone.

From the tall military masts on the ships streamers of bunting gaily float in the breeze. The last wedge has been put in place and it only remains for the workmen to drive them home and saw off a few planks. Then the ships will rush into the water. The shipyard will be thrown open to the public at 9 o'clock in the morning, but besides the thousands who will watch the spectacle from the yard there will be hundreds of others who will see the ships plunge into their natural elements from the decks of craft lying in the stream.

According to the program the Kearsarge will be launched first. She will leave the ways at 10 o'clock, and the Kentucky will be cut loose an hour later. After the launch the crowd will be allowed to inspect the immense plant. Then will follow the banquet at the Chamberlin Hotel. This, too, will be a brilliant event, for around the festal board will be gathered many of the nation's most distinguished sons and daughters. The invited guests will be taken to Old Point on the steamer Newport News, leaving the shipyard at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Prominent among the guests at the banquet will be Governor William O. Bradley, of Kentucky, Governor Tyler, of Virginia, and Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee. The principal toasts will be "The Old Dominion," and "The State of Kentucky," responded to by the chief executives of these States.

Newport News has taken on holiday attire. From every house-top Old Glory has been flung to the breeze. Today business will practically be suspended. In the forenoon the postoffice, banks, business houses and the schools will be closed, and the clerks and proprietors, in fact, everybody in the city, will go to the shipyard.

The first event of the day will be the big military parade, which will escort the two governors to the shipyard.

Col. Harry Hodges, commander of the Fourth Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, will have command of all the troops and all other organizations which will be in line.

The parade will form on the spacious Casino grounds at 8:30 o'clock promptly.

Captain A. M. Hudgins will serve as regimental adjutant. Captain P. Thornton Marye, of the Huntington Rifles, and Lieutenant C. R. Vance, of Co. A, will act as battalion adjutants.

After forming, the procession will move to the Warwick Hotel, where it will line up on West avenue, facing east. The entire line will form in regiment front and will wait the appearance of Governors Bradley and Tyler and their staffs.

A 9:30 o'clock, the parade will move from Hotel Warwick in the following order:

Col. Henry Hodges, Lieutenant Col. George W. Taylor and the staff of the Fourth Regiment of Virginia Volunteers.

Naval Post Band, from the Portsmouth navy yard.

Governor William O. Bradley, in carriage, and members of staff.

Governor J. Hoge Tyler, in carriage, and staff.

Naval officials from Washington and other distinguished visitors in carriages.

Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I, of the Fourth Regiment.

Co. B, Captain Frank Cunningham, First Regiment.

Co. F, Captain Morgan Mills, First Regiment.

Norfolk Light Artillery Blues.

Newport News Military Academy Cadets.

Young Men's Business Association of Richmond.

Squad of Bicycle Riders, in command of Mr. Fred G. Kipper.

It is probable that several companies of marines from the cruiser Brooklyn and the monitor Puritan, as well as the naval bands and detachments of "jack tars" will participate in the parade.

The sponsors and their maids of honor will probably proceed to the shipyard in private carriages.

The procession will move out Twenty-fourth street to Washington avenue and out the city's principal throughfare to the shipyard, entering by the south gate.

The Kearsarge will be launched promptly at 10 o'clock.

As soon as the big hull leaves the ways, Mrs. Winslow will be the recipient of a piece of battleship steel, polished and handsomely engraved, as well as a number of floral bouquets.

The Kentucky will be launched at 11 o'clock, after which Miss Bradley will be presented with numerous bouquets and baskets of flowers.

No formal program has been arranged for the banquet at Old Point in the afternoon.

VISITORS ARRIVE.

Six special trains arrived over the Chesapeake & Ohio road yesterday, bringing at least 2,000 visitors. This crowd was augmented by the strangers who came in on the regular trains and steamships. These people flocked to the hotels and lodging houses, engaging available room, and it was not long before the proprietors were compelled to turn away strangers. Owing to the inadequate accommodations many people took the steamer Louise and went to Norfolk to spend the night. Others went to Hampton and Old Point, while the Kentuckians spent the night in their private cars.

PRESIDENT C. B. ORCUTT HERE.

Mr. C. B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, arrived here from New York yesterday morning, coming via Old Point. He was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Mary.

Since he arrived in the city Mr. Orcutt has been a busy man, arranging the details for the launching, and he spent the greater part of the day at the shipyard.

MRS. WINSLOW ARRIVES.

Lieutenant Commander Herbert Winslow, United States Navy, and Mrs. Wogslow, who will do the honors this morning at the launching of the Kearsarge, arrived in the city from Old Point yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, and proceeded at once to Hotel Warwick, where apartments had been reserved for them before hand.

Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Winslow arrived at Old Point yesterday morning from Boston, having come by way of the N. Y. P. & N. R. R. to Cape Charles and from there by boat. They were accompanied by Miss Maggie Eastman, of Washington, D. C., a close friend of Mrs. Winslow. Miss Eastman will accompany Mrs. Winslow to the shipyard and will practically act as her maid of honor.

The mechanics and ship fitters who worked on the Kearsarge have had made to order a minature model of the splendid battleship in floral design and will present it to Mrs. Winslow after the Kearsarge leaves the ways.

The brawny men who have built the second vessel to bear the name of Kearsarge, went to Superintendent Smith several days ago and made known their desire to present the sponsor with a floral model of the defender. Mr. Smith readily granted the desired permission and promised to give the men an opportunity to present the handsome offering. The boy who carried the bolts to the workmen on the ship, attired in bran new overalls, will make the presentation.

GOVERNOR BRADLEY IN TOWN.

The special Chesapeake & Ohio train bearing Governor William O. Bradley, of Kentucky, and party, arrived here yesterday afternoon shortly before 4 o'clock. The train brought the members of his staff and betwe n 600 and 700 enthusiastic Kentuckians, who have come to atend the launching at the invitation of the Blue Grass State's executive.

The personnel of Governor Bradley's staff follows:

Brig. Gen. D. R. Collier, Adjutant Gen. and Chief of Staff, Lancaster.

Col. Walter S. Forrester, Assistant Adjutant General, Pewee Valley.

Col. James M. Beatty, Judge Advocate General, Beatryville.

Col. George W. Griffiths, Surgeon General, Louisville.

Col. T. J. Landrum, Commissary General, Louisville.

Col. C. C. Mengel, Jr., Quartermaster General, Louisville.

Col. J. Will Wright, Aide-de-Camp, Bowling Green.

Col. Wilbur R. Smith, Aide-de Camp, Lexington.

Col. Edwin B. Conway, Aide-de-Camp, Louisville.

Col. George H. Ahlering, Aide-de-Camp, Newport.

Col. Frank Coles, Inspector General, Ashland.

Col. H. S. Cohn, Aide- de-Camp, Louisville.

Col. Harry S. Mulligan, complimentary, Louisville

The train was brought in by two of the finest Chesapeake & Ohio engines, behind which were nine sleepers and private cars. With the exceptionof the Governor's private car the train went through to Old Point.

The Louisville Board of Trade arrived on the special train with Governor Bradley and party.

A complete list of the Board of Trade members is as follows: Charles Earl Currie, J. H. Plum, Morton V. Joyes, Phil Hollenbach, Charles L. Nelson, Richard D. Balkrow, W. N. Barr, C. R. Mengel, C. L. Hughes, C. E. Overstreet, T. L. Jefferson, D. X. Murphy, George M. Rogers, Alfred Brandeis, Oscar Fanner, J. H. Gathright, Roland L. Whitney, Charles A. Schaefer, J. Will Jefferson, John W. Buchanan, Charles H. Mantle, E. H. Payne, M. A. Houston, C. C. Mengel, Jr., Charles Bonnyastle Robinson, Louis Seelbach, Morris B. Belknap, F. C. Carpenter, S. C. Walker, John G. Roach, Frank L. Chase, W. H. Slaughter, Jr., A. N. Struck, Ernest McCoun, R. A. Peter, E. McDonald, P. Meguiar, Samuel Castleman, Charles Smith, Louis Stewart, W. B. Hoke, Frank S. Cook, August Hollenbach, Thomas O. Hall, Henry Levy, John C. Strother, James Quarles, C. L. Holmes, Marion E. Taylor, T. Lindsay Fitch, W. P. Clancey, Owen Tyler, Tra S. Barnett, J. Henry Doerr, J. W. E. Bayly, E. S. Tachau, S. Grabfelder, W. B. Dick, John B. Pirtle, John B. Castleman, D. B. Sperry, Fred Wickel, Max Bloom, F. C. Dickson, L. W. Lindley, George H. Engelhard, John Marshall, Logan C. Murray, J. P. Kirwan, E. M. Babbitt, C. C. Dicke, Jacob Zinsmeister, F. J. Hummel, Augustus E. Wilson, H. R. Snyder, F. A. Hewitt, W. H. Dulaney, L. B. Manson, G. G. Schmitt, W. E. Caldwell, C. Stege, E. H. Ferguson, William W. Thum, John S. Long, Frank A. Menne, Julius Barkhouse, B. N. Clarke, A. D. Miles, John J. Barret, W. H. McKnight, William Iiam G. Wetterer, Charles O'Connor, J. Winter, Jr., William G. Wetterer, Louis Raymond, J. B. Green, Jr., W. J. Duncan, Andrew Cowan, Frank Senn, Lamar Ross, George W. Morris, H. M. Griswold, W. C. Kendrick, A. J. Ross, Herman M. Blatz, P. H. Cooke, H. W. Reese, Thomas Malone, Milton W.

THE CHRISTENING WATER.

Governor Bradley brings with him a two-gallon jug of water from the historic spring on Lincoln's birth place, which is sealed, with the following document attached:

"The water contained in this jug here sealed and certified to and conveyed by Mr. James Speed, Jr., of Louisville, Ky., to be used by Miss Christine Bradley in christening the United States battleship Kentucky, is from the spring on the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, where he quenched his thirst in infancy, situated in Larue county, Ky., and was donated by Mr. A. W. Dennett, owner of the said birthplace, and was filled and sealed by Miss Hallie Speed in our presence on this date, this March 11, 1898.

J. W. BINGHAM,
I. W. TWYMAN.

DID NOT MEET HIM.

When Governor Bradley arrived at the depot there was no one there in an official capacity to meet him. It was understood that Governor Tyler would be on the scene to extend a welcome to the distinguished visitor, and his staff, but such was not the case. By an unfortunate combination of circumstances, the Virginia executive went to Old Point Comfort, believing that the Kentucky gentlemen would disembark at that point. When Governor Bradley stepped from his special car there was not an official band there to grasp his. Governor Tyler was waiting at Old Point Comfort and was not advised until too late of the mistake.

The distinguished visitor was informed that the apparent lack of courtesy was of course in no wise intended, and that the occurrence was one to be deplored.

Mr. C. B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, did not meet the visiting party at the train, but was presented at the Warwick. Vehicles were provided soon after the arrival, and Governor Bradley, in company with Mr. Orcutt, went to the yard to inspect the ships.

Though the Kentuckians were not officially received at the depot their advent was not totally without recognition. An unofficial crowd learned that the party was expected, although those who should have known were in ignorance. When the train came

EVENT OF THE SEASON

Gay Scene at the Casino Last Night.

GOV. TYLER PRESENT

Virginia's Chief Executive Attends the Launching Hop. Many Visitors on the Floor. Beautiful Decorations.

At the Casino last night all was brilliancy and gayety. The beauty and chivalry of Newport News in countless numbers congregated in honor of today's great event, and until an early hour this morning dancing was continued. The music was furnished by an orchestra from Fortress Monroe, and was unusually good.

The Casino was artistically decorated with bunting of the national colors, gracefully festooned around the gallery, while from the ceiling were suspended flags and streamers of manifold hues.

There were in attendance a large number of young ladies and gentlemen from abroad, who are in the city to witness the launching today.

Among the visitors present was Governor J. Hoge Tyler, who was an interested spectator of the brilliant scene.

The gold trimmings on the dress suits of the young officers attached to the vessels now lying in the harbor only added to the general bewildering effect of the whirling mass of beauty and loveliness.

To attempt to give a list of those present would be a vain task. The large ball room was crowded, while in the gallery it was almost impossible to find room to stand.

At about 1 o'clock the hop was broken up, and the large number of participants separated with profuse congratulations upon the success of the evening.

Following is a list of the visiting ladies in attendance:

Misses Mason, Brander, Fountain, Richmond; Miss Armenson, Baltimore; Miss Morgan, California; Miss Wheeler, Baltimore; Miss Lindsay, Norfolk; Miss Morton, California; Miss Jones, Richmond; Miss Whitmer, Baltimore; Miss Bailey, Richmond; Miss DeWald, Park, Pa.; Miss Hunter, Baltimore; Miss Momogue, Richmond; Miss Wilson, Norfolk; Miss Robbins, Richmond; Miss Shinn, Washington; Miss Henry, Norfolk; Misses Edwards, Burress, Watkins, Thomas and Mamie Taylor, Richmond.

The following ladies were present from Hampton:

Misses Louise Booker, Polly Chisman, Leila Chisman, Mamie Jones, Mary Lee, Vergie Semple, Katie Tabb, Lavinia Peek, Mrs. Arthur Phillips, Mrs. J. B. Pressy, Miss Elsie Love and Miss Shey.

The patronesses were Mesdames H. B. Bailey, J. W. Elliott, Dr. Taylor, and J. B. Shinn.

Among the ladies present from Newport News were: Misses Mary Shinn, Mattie Turner, May Dewald, Norma Norton, Clemence Cooke, Louise French, Elizabeth Justis, Marion Michaux, Mele Saunders, Marion Robins, Nellie Robinson, and Mrs. J. Kennedy Cross, Mrs. W. Scott Boyenton, Mrs. H. M. Edmunds, and Mrs. J. L. Street.

The gentlemen present from this city were as follows:

Dr. S. W. Hobson, Messrs. E. A. Allen, P. M. Young, A. G. Cofer, Hunter Burch, Willard Bailey, W. L. Cooke, R. S. Robinson, E. W. Skingfield, Ed Skinner, V. B. Barcoy, M. S. McDonald, R. L. Henderson, R. L. Henley, J. L. Street, J. B. Shinn, H. D. Norton, J. R. Belling, F. W. Sanford, C. B. Ficklin, Walker Pierce, W. B. F. Lakin, James Plummer, S. L. Wood, F. P. Palen and Clifford Branch.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

Chairman D. S. Jones Announces the Names of the Gentlemen Selected.

Mr. D. S. Jones, chairman of the Citizen's Executive Committee, which has in hand the matter of raising funds to entertain the Virginia State Firemen's Association, has announced the following committees, which he was recently authorized to create:

Finance Committee—Mayor W. A. Post, chairman; Messrs. D. C. Ashby, C. C. Smith, J. A. Williams, A. A. Moss, D. G. Smith, and L. B. Manville.

Committee on Arrangements—J. E. Williams, chairman; Messrs. M. H. Lash, and L. P. Stearnes.

Committee on Transportation—J. W. Elliott, chairman; Messs. R. P. Orr and Dr. A. C. Jones.

LASH GETS A BIG CONTRACT.

Local Furniture Dealer to Furnish Linoleum for the Battleships.

The contract for furnishing the linoleum for the battleships Kearsarge, Kentucky and Illinois, has been awarded to Mr. M. H. Lash, the well known furniture dealer of this city. All the linoleum has to be manufactured especially for the ships. The contract involves about $15,000, and is the largest of the kind ever given in the United States. Mr. Lash competed against the leading dealers of the country, and is justly proud of the fact that he underbid them all. Several cars will be required to transport the linoleum to Newport News from the factory in New York.

BRIEF ITEMS.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Payne, of Richmond, are the guests of Colonel Carter M. Braxton.

Miss Evelyn Bird, of Norfolk, is visiting the Misses Braxton.

Miss Mamie Taylor, of Richmond, is the guest of Mrs. Gude, on Twenty-sixth street.

Mr. J. D. Lasley, manager of the southern branch Eclipse Bicycle Company, with headquarters at Washington, is the guest of Mr. Fred G. Kipper. He and his wife came down to witness the launching.

Mrs. Miss Eva Jordan, of Norfolk, is the guest of her cousins, the Misses Garrett.

Preparing the Gun Mounts.

A force of shipyard employees has been at work on the cruiser Brooklyn since Sunday morning making repairs to the big warship's gun mounts. It is said that the mounts are practically inserviceable in condition, and that were the Brooklyn ordered into immediate servce she would not command her entire battery.

"Widow Brown Today."

The "Real Widow Brown" Company will give two performances at Johnson's Opera House today—one in the afternoon and the other in the evening.

For Rent—The Central Hotel, nicely furnished. Apply to M. H. Lash, 2803 Washington avenue. feb 15-tf.

BANKING AND CURRENCY.

House Committee Discusses Proposed Legislation This Session.

(By Telegraph.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—The House committee on banking and currency today brought up the proposed general currency legislation for this session. The report of the subcommittee appointed to draft the general measure was made to the full committee by Representative McCleary, of Minnesota. It was read by sections, and led to much discussion.

The sub-committee took as their basis the four bills introduced at this session, known as the monetary commission, Gage, Walker, and Fowler bills, and considered the features of those measures, but did not confine themselves to them. The bill is the result of about six weeks' close conference of the sub-committee, who met most of the time at the private residence of a member.

The bill is entitled "a bill to provide for strengthening the public credit, for the relief of the United States treasury, and for the amendment of the laws relating to national banking associations."

The method of dealing with the greenbacks is not by direct retirement, but by the substitution of a legal tender note, which the banks are required to assume, and for the redemption of which they are required to find the gold so long as they are conducting a solvent business. The principal provisions of the bill are as follows:

1. A division of issue and redemption is established in the treasury, for which the secretary of the treasury is authorized to set aside the general cash balance and in excess of $30,000,000. This excess on March 17, 1898, was $176,139,532. United States notes received by this division for redemption in gold are to be cancelled and retired in proportion as certain substitute currency is issued. No note redeemed in gold is to again be paid out except under exceptional conditions.

2. National banks are required to assume the current redemption of United States demand notes in order to obtain circulation based upon their commercial assets. A new class of notes, called National Reserve Notes, is to be issued in lieu of legal tender notes deposited by the banks with the treasury, and these reserve notes are to be redeemed upon demand by the banks out of the redemption fund which they are required to maintain in gold.

3. The basis of national bank note circulation will eventually be the commercial assets of the banks, but this will be reached only after a series of years.

4. National banks are to be permitted to issue currency notes upon their commercial assets to the amount of the reserve notes issued to them in return for deposits of United States notes.

5. Treasury notes issued under the act of July 14, 1890, are to be dealt with eventually upon the same bases as United States notes.

6. A tax of two per cent. is levied upon currency notes issued in excess of sixty per cent. of the capital of any national bank, of six per cent. when in excess of 80 per cent.

7. The national currency notes based upon commercial assets are to be secured by a bank rate guaranty, and made up by the contribution in gold coin of five per cent. of the entire circulation of the bank and provision is made for replenishment of this fund within certain limits.

8. The national reserve notes will continue to be legal tender until received into the treasury from failed and liquidating banks, when liability for them will be assumed by the government, and they will be redeemed and cancelled.

9. Standard silver dollars are to be redeemable in gold, but silver certificates are redeemable only in standard silver dollars. The parity of silver with gold is secured by a gold redemption fund.

10. Silver certificates are hereafter to be issued only in denominations of $1, $2, and $5. Legal tender notes, reserve notes, and currency are not to be issued in denominations below $10.

Another Launching.

The Newport News Cycle Company is launching a new venture in the cycle line. All Eclipse Bicycles will be repaired free of charge indefinitely. They used to repair them free for a year, but having found that these wheels are so strong, and require so little in the way of repairs, they now agree to repair them free as long as they last, certainly a wonderful offer. Go and see them at 221 Twenty-seventh street. mch 23-2t.

Dr. Perkins a Candidate.

There is no doubt about Dr. Carter Perkins' candidacy for the Democratic nomination for mayor. To a representative of the Daily Press who interviewed Dr. Perkins last evening, that gentleman said:

"I have definitely concluded to become a candidate for the mayoralty, and shall submit my claims to the consideration of the people of Newport News and invite their support, subject, however, to the Democratic primary. Allied to neither faction of my party, I have been solicited by many friends in each to enter the field."

Dr. Perkins expressed the utmost confidence in the result.

Wood delivered in any part of the city. M. S. WARREN, 445 Twenty-ninth street. Phone 2615. febf-2m

Free Dinner.

Powell Bros. & King will give free lunch on the ground where they will sell 800 lots at auction, March 24th. After the launching take the street car anywhere; the conductor will put you off in front of the lots. Dinner from 12 to 2 o'clock. Sale commences at 2 o'clock. For maps call on Powell Bros. & King, 2701 Washington ave. mch 23-2t.

800 Lots at Auction.

Sale will commence on the 24th of this month—after the launching is over—and continue until all are sold. Property situated on car line and water front. For maps and information call on Powell Bros. & King ,2701 Washington avenue. mr2-tf

If you want pictures of any kind or size see Wagoner, 2412 Washington avenue. feb 20-tf.

Don't forget the little house 2412 Washington avenue when you want pictures. fe27-tf

The steamer Louise and the steamer Plymouth, will take passengers on board at the Chesapeake & Ohio passenger pier to view the the launch from the river front. Fare, 25 cents. m-18-6t.

Cabinets, $2.00 dozen; Diamonds, $1.50 per dozen; tin types 2 for 25c., at Wagoner's, 2412 Washington ave. mch 17-tf

100 Newsboys Wanted.

The Special Launching Edition of the Daily Press will be issued this morning immediately after the battleship Kentucky is launched. Every newsboy in the city should be at the office promptly at 11 o'clock.

CRISIS NEAR AT HAND

Court of Inquiry's Report Speeding North.

THE DOCUMENT GUARDED

White House the Center of Long and Earnest Conferences. War Preparations Continue Without Abatement. Officers to Leave Havana.

(By Telegraph.)

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The feeling was universal throughout official circles today that the culmination of the Spanish crisis was near at hand. With the report of the Maine court of inquiry only a little while off, with the White House the center of long and earnest conference between the President and the party leaders of Congress, with the exceptional activity toward emergency preparations in the war and navy departments, there was abundance of evidence that definite results regarding the Maine disaster and the Cuban question in general were about to be reached. Among the President's callers were Senators Cockrell, Turpie and Foraker, General Dan Sickles, former minister to Madrid, and Representative W. Alden Smith, of Michigan, who has recently returned from a trip to Cuba. The call of Messrs. Cockrell and Turpie was regarded as particularly significant, as they are representative Democrats in the Senate, and their visit followed that of Senator Gorman yesterday. It was generally understood that in the present emergency the President desires patriotic unity without reference to party. Secretaries Long and Alger also conferred with the President during the day. Secretary Long said later that the Maine report would probably reach Washington tomorrow night. If, however, it did not come before 8 o'clock Thursday evening, Mr. Long said he would probably not receive it until Friday morning, when it would be laid before the President immediately. The secretary did not think the President would give the document any consideration at a late hour tomorrow. It was more probable, he thought, if Lieutenant Marix arrived at a late hour, that he would take the report to a hotel for the night.

There has been no change in the plan of sending the report to Congress early next week, probably Monday, accompanied by a message from the President. It is definitely settled, however, that the message and the papers accompanying it will relate exclusively to the Maine disaster. It will not take up the fearful condition of affairs in Cuba, as shown by the reports of United States consuls, these being reserved for subsequent action and a later message to Congress. Secretary Long determined today to order the double turreted monitors Puritan and Terror to Key West, where they will reinforce the squadron in those waters. He also determined to bring into service the eight single turreted monitors at League Island navy yard, Philadelphia, two of which will be sent to Boston, two to New York, and four held in reserve at Philadelphia. The Puritan and Terror take the place of the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, recently withdrawn from the squadron at Key West. It was stated at the Navy Department that this move was in accordance with a program previously agreed upon, although this program has not been announced heretofore. The Puritan, by many experts, is regarded as the most formidable fighting machine in the navy.

In addition to its other preparations for possible trouble, the Navy Department today took steps toward utilizing ten of the sea-going revenue cutters for use along the Atlantic coast. Captain Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, conferred with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt during the day on the plans for turning over these cutters to the navy. They will first be sent to Norfolk, where additional guns will be mounted, and then will proceed to Key West and become a part of the squadron there. Their main service, however, will be as naval pickets, a chain of these fleet cutters being maintained outside of the cruisers and battleships.

The revenue cutter service now has ready for instant and active service 120 line officers, 74 engineers, 900 enlisted men and 19 vessels, of which 14 are on the Atlantic coast. Two others are in course of construction at Cleveland, and with rush work can be completed and ready for sea in from 30 to 45 days. The Manning, the Gresham, the Algonquin, the Onondaga and the Windom, are all new, fast and efficient vessels. The Manning is considered an 18 knot boat. All of them, it is said, could be quickly converted into torpedo boats or dynamite cruisers. Whether this last move will be made is not definitely decided. Secretary Long said today it had become evident that torpedo boats could not be bought abroad, and could not be built soon enough in this country, so that we might have to equip other craft with torpedoes.

The Navy Department opened bids today for extensive improvements at Dry Tortugas and Key West, a formal transfer having been effected, as regards Tortugas, which passed from the Treasury to the War Department. These consist of two solid steel piers to be constructed at Dry Tortugas, with two extensive coal sheds, and an elaborate mechanical equipment for loading naval vessels with coal. At Key West the improvements consist of a steel pier and two coal sheds, with similar machinery for loading warships with coal. The bids ranged from $1,151,000 for the entire work down to about $400,000. Among the bidders for the Dry Tortugas piers and coal sheds was the S. S. Leonard Company, of Jacksonville, $274,700. On the Key West work the S. S. Leonard Company's bid was $188,000. Two bids were made for the entire work at Tortugas and Key West, as follows: R. G. Packard, $1,151,000 and Gauttan & Jennings, New York, $797,000. Other bids were made for the machinery, tracks, coal cars, etc. The award will be made within the next day or two.

Representative Marsh, chairman of the House Committee on Military, called upon Secretary Alger today and urged that in the event of hostilities the first recourse of the government for soldiers be the state militia, who should be invited to volunteer for the country's defense.

Secretary Alger was very much interested in the arguments made by Mr. Marsh and, while not committing himself on that subject, seemed to regard the suggestions made by him as practicable. Afterwards Mr. Marsh called on President McKinley and repeated the statements he had made to the secretary.

During the morning Secretary Alger was also in conference with General Miles, commanding the army, respecting the military occupation of Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas Island. The determination to garrison this fort has been reached by the secretary, and the questions now to be met are those of what improvements in the fortifications now here may be necessary.

MAINE TO BE ABANDONED.

All U. S. Naval Officers at Havana To Be Withdrawn.

(By Telegraph.)

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 battleship Maine. Captain C. D. Sigsbee, Lieutenant Commander Richard Wainwright, Surgeon L. G. Heneberger, Paymaster Hay, Chaplain John P. Chidwick, Chief Engineer Charles P. Howell, and Naval Cadets J. A. Holden and W. T. Cluverius, who have been at Havana with the wreck, will return very soon.

Although it is not finally settled it is more than probable that the Fern also will return to the United States as soon as it is determined that nothing more is to be gained by her presence there. 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 obstacle to navigation, and it is not believed that any opposition will be offered to its removal.

"IT LOOKS LIKE WAR."

(By Telegraph.)

MIAMI, FLA., March 23.—Lieutenant Commander Marix, of the court of inquiry, with the following party, arrived here this morning from Key West: Lieutenant John Hood, Lieutenant C. W. Junger, Passed Assistant Engineer F. A. Bowers, Cadet Amon F. Boyd, Assistant J. R. 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 question 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 bright and genial as sunshine, but suddenly a change came over his countenance, his eyes flashed and, when asked when their report would be made, the reply was: "As soon as we reach Washington; there will be no delay."

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

MARIX NAILS A LIE.

Words Said To Have Been Spoken at Miami Repudiated.

(By Telegraph.)

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 23.—Judge Advocate Marix left Miami at 7:30 this morning on the East Coast railway, reached Jacksonville at 7:46 P. M. on time, and left at 8 o'clock via the Florida Central and Peninsula and Southern and will pass through Savannah, Columbia, Charlotte, Greensboro, Danville, Lynchburg and Charlottesville, reaching Washington at 9:25 P. M. Eastern time, Thursday night. The railroad wires have carried the message down the line to use all dispatch. This practically makes a special of the Marix train, and without unforeseen accident, Washington will be reached on the dot, and the portentous document in the White House by 9:30. The run from Jacksonville is 772 miles and the schedule time is a little over 24 hours.

Lieutenant Commander Marix passed through this city this evening, having in custody the report of the court of inquiry in the Maine case, on which will depend so much of the happenings of the next few weeks of the world's history. He was accompanied by the following officers of the Maine: Lieutenant Hood, Lieutenant Jungen, Passed Assistant Engineer F. C. Bowers, Naval Cadet A. Bronson and Carpenter George Helms.

The party arrived in the city from Miami at 7:45 and went at once to the Pullman car that was waiting for them, which was attached to the Florida Central & Peninsula train, and in fifteen minutes were hurrying to Washington as rapidly as steam could take them. They will arrive in that city tomorrow evening. During the short time of the stay in this city, an Associated Press reporter secured the attention of Commander Marix and showed him a dispatch from Miami that appeared in the afternoon papers in which he was quoted as saying: "It looks like war; it certainly does." Before the words had been read to him, he exclaimed: "It is utterly false. I have said nothing of the kind. I don't talk about this matter."

All efforts to get him to make any expression of opinion were equally futile so far as the present crisis or his relations to it are concerned. Other members of the party were equally noncommittal.

During the transfer from one train to the other, Lieutenant Marix was closely guarded by the members of his party. He walked between two of his friends, carrying a mysterious box or package, covered with black cloth. Behind him the officers of his party walked closely, and the effort was apparent to allow no possible chance for any outsider to come between them. They walked rapidly and did not stop to speak to any one till they were safely in the car which was to take them to the capital.

When they had once found their quarters they became more communicative and chatted pleasantly concerning current topics. One officer of the police remarked to one member of the party that Florida was ready to send 50,000 men to Cuba when they should be wanted.

"All right," said he, "they will be wanted down there before long."

Beyond the expression not a word was uttered that could be construed as an expression of opinion that war was possible or imminent.

Lieutenant Marix was asked if the two officers of the Maine who passed through Jacksonville Sunday night carried a part of the Maine report, to which he replied very significantly that he could not say, but admitted that two officers were sent from Key West to Washington.

One of the officers had intended to go to Alabama on leave of absence, and had purchased a ticket upon leaving Key West to take him there, but upon reaching Jacksonville tonight he was handed a telegram directing him to report to the navy department at Washington.

Colonel R. F. Osborne, agent of the Southern Express Company in this city, received a telegram in the afternoon requesting him to meet Lieutenant Marix at the train. It was learned that Colonel Osborne had been requested to furnish an iron safe in which to place the valuable documents on the train.

ON TIME AT SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH, GA., March 24.—Lieutenant Commander Marix and party passed through Savannah at 1 o'clock this morning, on time, with the court of inquiry report. They had retired.

IRON PROJECTILES ORDERED.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The bu-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

NEWS OF RICHMOND

Munford's Majority Increased by the Recount.

MRS. GROSE HEARD FROM

Judge Minor Renders a Decision in the Military Court Martial Case Favorable to Private Hartman. Col. Richardson Holds On.

(Special to the Daily Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., March 23.—Judge Minor today rendered a decision in the application for a mandamus to compel the city sergeant to arrest and imprison Private John Hartman for non-payment of a fine imposed on him by a recent court martial for absence from drills without leave. The judge denied the writ, holding that the Legislature never intended to clothe courtmartials with power to imprison violators of the military rules for non-payment of fines. This is regarded as a victory for the men, though there is every indication that a genuine case will be made for the purpose of testing the matter in the Court of Appeals.

By direction of Attorney General Montague, Colonel John W. Richardson is still discharging the duties of register of the land office, and will continue to do so until a decision is rendered by the Court of Appeals.

Mr. John Grose, the Henrico farmer, whose matrimonial venture through the medium of a journal devoted to the propogation of infamy cost him several hundred dollars and taught him a severe lesson, and who was arrested on a charge of beating his wife, then patched up their differences and for the arrest of the woman a warrant was sworn out on a charge of bigamy, who succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the lynx-eyed "Cyclone" Samuel, today received a letter from Mrs. Grose, who is at her old home in Harrisburg, Pa. The woman says she is willing to get a divorce from Sparrow and come back to Virginia and marry Grose once more. But Grose says he knows when to let go, and says his experience is all he wants.

The petition of City Attorney C. V. Meredith for a hearing before the Court of Appeals of the United States in the telephone matter has been filed. The paper is an able one, and sets forth in extenso the reasons why an appeal should be allowed.

The recount of the ballots in the vote for commissioner of the revenue was finished this morning at 4 o'clock. The recount was had at the instance of Mr. O. A. Hawkins, and the result was that the majority for Colonel Munford was increased by seven votes.

The Kentucky Colonels have arrived here on their way to Newport News. The train pulled into the depot flying vari-colored bunting and bedecked with startling banners that boldly proclaimed the presence of the patriots from the land of booze and the grass.

The porters at the station were hustling about in a few moments looking after the needs of the train and passengers.

It was at once discovered that not a drop of water was to be found in any of the sleepers, and immediately the depot crew began to fill up coolers.

"What's that, suh?" demanded a gray haired colonel whose ruddy cheeks and flowing moustache bespoke his nativity.

"Water, sah," replied the negro porter.

"Yas, suh; yas, suh. Very good. We will want to wash up when we get to Newport News, suh," vigorously ejaculated the colonel, and the crowd smiled as the pompous horse racer puffed a volume of blue smoke from under his military moustache, and passed back into his car.

Police Court.

Justice Brown disposed of the following cases in the Police Court yesterday morning:

James Tolaney (colored), two warrants—larceny and assault; dismissed at the cost of the plaintiff.

Mary Lorage (colored), disorderly conduct; fined $4 and costs.

Martin Gleason, drunk; fined $2 and costs.

Julia Ann Frye (colored), disorderly conduct; fined $4 and costs.

Rosa Harris (colored), disorderly conduct; fined $4 and costs.

J. M. Rowe, vagrancy; fifty days in jail.

Francis O'Donnell, disorderly conduct; fined $3 and costs.

J. H. Blandford, disorderly conduct; dismissed.

Arthur Cole, disorderly conduct; fined $4 and costs.

BANK OFFICERS ARRESTED.

(By Telegraph.)

TARBORO, N. C., March 23.—The sheriff of Abbeville, Ga., arrived here this morning with a bench warrant for the arrest of James G. Mehagen and T. J. Latham, the former cashier and president, respectively, of the bank of Abbeville. The warrant charges these young men with defalcating with twelve thousand dollars of the money of the bank depositors at Abbeville. The warrant was served on Messrs. Mehagen and Latham today. Mehagen was in town and Latham was in the country. Neither has made any attempt to escape, but gave themselves up to the sheriff of this county. They left this evening for Raleigh, where the case will be heard tomorrow before Judge Clark, of the Supreme Court.

NEGRO RAPIST DROWNED.

(By Telegraph.)

MACON, GA., March 23.—A special to the Telegraph from Moultrie, Ga., says:

"Last night while Professor R. C. Ingalls was at the postoffice getting the mail, Jim Allen, colored, entered the professor's residence, and, throwing a cloth over Mrs. Ingalls' head, made a desperate but unsuccessful attempt to assault her and then fled. The news spread rapidly and dogs were put on the trail of the negro. He was captured in a negro house on J. W. Coleman's plantation and carried to jail.

"This morning Sheriff Fisher decided to take the prisoner to Bibb county jail at Macon to prevent lynching, and while at the depot waiting for the train a crowd of men took the prisonerfrom the sheriff, and it is said, placed his body on the bottom of a creek."

ON THE DIAMOND.

(By Telegraph.)

MACON, GA., March 23.—The Baltimoreans again defeated Mercer University on the Macon ball grounds this afternoon.

McGraw, who has been coaching the Mercer boys, put some new ginger in them today, and they showed marked improvement.