Fair tonight and Thursday; slightly warmer.

The Evening Times

Circulation Yesterday, 47,339.

NO. 801. WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1898. ONE CENT.

"THE GREAT PROVIDERS."

$3.98 OR $6.50 ?

Three dollars and ninety-eight cents is our price for this Chiffonier for Thursday. Everywhere else you must pay six dollars and fifty cents. What more need we say about the lowness of our prices.

Solid Polished Oak Chiffonier like cut, with 5 drawers and hat box $3.98

"CASH OR CREDIT."

MAYER & PETTIT,
415-417 Seventh St.

FOR A SELECT COMMITTEE.

Senator Allen Introduces His Resolution for an Inquiry Into the Cuban Situation.

Senator Allen today introduced a resolution, as foreshadowed in yesterday's Times, providing for a select Senate committee to visit Cuba and investigate the situation of affairs there, including the condition of the suffering reconcentrados and pacificos.

Objection to immediate action was made and the resolution went over under the rules until tomorrow.

SAVED FROM THE ASIA.

Three Survivors on Board the Handkerchief Shoal Lightship.

Provincetown, Mass., 23.—Three survivors of the British ship Asia are on board the Handkerchief Lightship. The tug Mercury, from Philadelphia, brings this news. The men were saved by the lightship crew, who found them clinging to the wreckage. They had been in the water for nearly twenty hours and were so thoroughly exhausted that they could not have held out much longer.

The survivors reported that the Asia struck on Great Round Shoal, off Nantucket, during the gale Monday, and went to pieces. Capt. Dakin and the remainder of his crew were lost. The survivors are in a precarious condition and could not be moved from the lightship at present.

The body of Capt. Dakin was found lashed to a spar. Tightly clasped in his arms was his ten-year-old daughter.

ANOTHER WAR IN PROSPECT.

Costa Rica Preparing for a Struggle With Nicaragua.

Colon, Colombia, Feb. 23.—The president of Costa Rica announced at a public audience at San Jose on Sunday that war with Nicaragua was inevitable and that preparations for it had been made. It was reported when the foregoing news was dispatched here that war was to be declared on Wednesday (today).

Two British warships are at Port Limon and the United States gunboat Newport is at Greytown.

GEN. BOOTH DENOUNCED.

A Clergyman Calls the Salvation Army a Despotism.

Kansas City, Kan., Feb. 23.—Apropos of the American tour of General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, Dr. James C. Dougherty, pastor of the First Congregational Church in this city, has voiced the sentiment of his denomination here by saying:

"Whatever the value of the work done by the Salvation Army, it needs to be distinctly recognized that it is the most absolute despotism on earth. The training of American citizens by the habit of looking to a man in a foreign country for their religious opinion and for orders as to their acts is a great evil, not compensated for by all the good boasted as done by the army."

WILL RUSSIA WITHDRAW?

Intimated That She Will Permanently Occupy Port Arthur.

Pekin, Feb. 23.—Japan having pressed China to renew the assurance given in December that the Russians would withdraw from Port Arthur after winter, China, through her minister at St. Petersburg, tried to obtain an assurance that the Russians would withdraw.

Russia's reply was to the effect that her ships would remain at Port Arthur longer than was originally arranged, their withdrawal being opposed to her interests in China and Korea. The Chinese regard this as an intimation that Russia intends to permanently occupy Port Arthur.

Will Visit Philadelphia.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will visit Philadelphia March 2. The committee will be the guests of the managers of the Commercial Museum in the Quaker City, and will examine into the advisability of asking Congress to make an appropriation for the exposition to be held in that city during 1899.

Charges of Embezzlement.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 23.—Ferdinand Trepp, late secretary of the Elmwood Cemetery Association, was arrested yesterday, charged with the embezzlement of $13,000 and making false entries. Trepp made a tender of money and securities to settle the account, but the collateral was rejected. He denies the shortage.

Arrival of Steamers.

New York, Feb. 23.—Arrived: Steamers Noordland from Antwerp; Amsterdam, from Rotterdam.

Frank Libbey & Company,
Sixth street and New York avenue.

THE MAINE'S MAGAZINES

A Diagram of the Forward Part of the Vessel.

AN OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION

The Opinions of Experts Published Repeatedly in the Times Proved True—The Impossibility of Accepting the Accident Theory Demonstrated Beyond a Doubt.

As the official inquiry into the Maine disaster progresses and the public comes into possession of accurate knowledge of just what the condition of the wreck is, it becomes important, in order to form an intelligent judgment as to what may have caused the vessel's destruction, to know exactly where her magazines were situated, their size and the character of the ammunition they held.

The accompanying diagram was made from an official drawing of the Maine, which is in the Navy Department, and the description was revised carefully for The Times by a naval expert.

All of the magazines were in the hold of the ship, in the space covered by the protective deck. They were divided into three distinct groups. The first of these groups, known generally as the forward magazines, began at the foot of the foremast and extended aft. The second group, or the midship magazines, were between the boiler rooms and the engine room and had a passageway cut through them

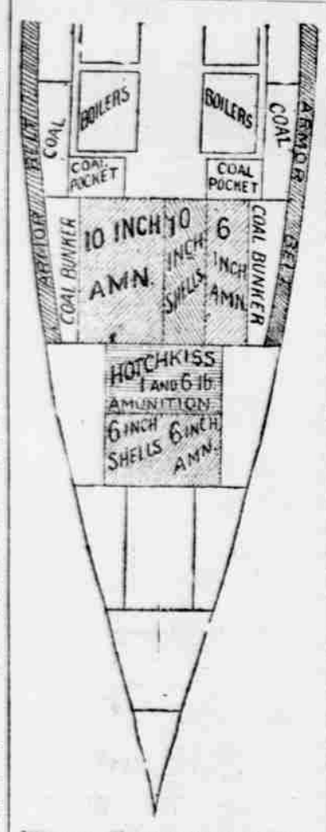

Diagram Showing Forward Magazine.

to let the ship's company pass between these two departments of the vessel. The third group, known as the after magazines, began just under the stepping of the mainmast and extended thence toward the stern of the ship under the steam steering gear room.

The Maine was 330 feet long. Beginning, then, at her bow and going aft 54 feet, one comes to the first of these store rooms for explosives and projectiles. This room was 20 feet wide, across the ship, and ran 12 feet fore and aft, with a 7-foot ceiling. In this was kept ammunition for the 6-inch guns. On the starboard side were stowed the shells, and on the port side the powder for these guns.

Aft of this room was another of the same dimensions. This was the storeroom for ammunition for the six-pounder and one-pounder Hotchkiss rapid-fire guns. The spare space in the bows on either side of these two rooms was used for ordinary storage and not for coal. The two magazine rooms were also just forward of the part of the ship provided with a double bottom, and to make up for this and to insure dryness and greater safety from outside causes, each room was provided with a separate steel floor, caulked watertight, which was four or five feet above the bottom of the ship.

Back of the Hochkiss gun magazine was the first of the ship's large magazines. The outer walls of this were twenty-eight feet long athwartship and twenty-four feet fore and aft, but this magazine was sub-divided into three rooms by partitions running parallel to the keel. The first of these partitions directly over the keel, and the starboard half of the room thus cut off was left as one room. In this was stored powder for the ten-inch guns. The port half of the compartment was divided into halves by a second partition. In the half farthest to port another lot of shells and powder for the six-inch guns was stored, while the compartment next to the median line was for ten-inch shells exclusively. This great compartment—treating of the three rooms combined—was about eight feet deep, and rested upon the double bottom part of the ship.

Beginning at its forward end on either side and separating it from the skin of the ship were the first of the coal bunkers. Extending in from each of these bunkers and partly across the end of the magazine were two square coal pockets. These pockets had to be emptied before the coal in the bunkers could be got at. From this it will be seen that no danger could have arisen from the coal pockets and Constructor Hichborn is on record as saying that as the Maine had a tendency to go down by the head, it was the custom to empty these pockets and the bunkers beside this magazine among the first. The end of this magazine is 102 feet aft of the ship's bow and a third of her whole length back. Here begin the boiler rooms, and the coal pockets mentioned open into the first of these. There are two boiler rooms each forty-four feet long, with coal bunkers bordering them.

That the boilers could have exploded has already been proved impossible.

Now we come to the midship magazine. This is an exact duplicate of the last one described, being 24 feet long and 28 feet wide across the ship and 8 feet deep. It rests on the double bottom and is divided in the same manner into three compartments, only in this case the arrangement is reversed. On the port side is the big room used for powder for the 10-inch guns, the 10-inch shell room is next, and the room to starboard was for shells and ammunition for the 6-inch guns. Coal pockets similar to those at the aft corners of the other big magazine stood at the forward corners of this room and these connected with the last of the coal bunkers, which ran between the sides of this room and the skin of the ship. The after end of this magazine formed the forward partition of the engine room, and the narrow passageway through the center of the magazine connected the engine and boiler rooms.

The engine room, 36 feet long, separated the midship magazine from the after group, in which there were three rooms. The first of these next to the engine room was only about five or six feet square. In this was kept gun cotton and torpedoes.

It has already been proved conclusively that the wet gun cotton could not have exploded by concussion. The after magazine was known from the first to be intact, as has been stated in The Times repeatedly.

Inclosing the room next to the engine room and extending aft 24 feet were the magazines for small arms ammunition. Back of this again was a room 14 feet long and about 19 feet wide, in which was stored another lot of shells and powder for the 6-inch guns. With allowances for partitions, this brings the after end of the last magazine within 24 feet of the sternpost of the vessel.

The manner in which the shells and ammunition are carried makes it utterly impossible for them to explode by concussion, according to all naval experts except Prof. Alger.

The shells are piled up like logs of wood in bins and kept from rolling sideways by wooden chocks nailed to strips of iron, which are laid between the rows. The powder is all put up at first in long cotton bags of the diameter of the bore of the gun it is intended for, and then each of these full bags is placed in a round copper can and sealed up airtight, just as a housewife seals up her glass jars of preserves. Cooper cans are used because they will not make sparks when they are thrown roughly about.

Had the big forward magazine exploded, according to Captain O'Neil, the ship would have been blown to smithereens and not a man left to tell the tale. The detonators, as was told in The Times this morning, were kept at the mast head.

From the above description and the opinion of experts published so many times, it will be seen by all that the "accident" theory is absolutely disproven and that the big battleship was wrecked by a submarine mine or a brace of monster torpedoes.

AMERICA'S FLAG IN CUBA.

Gen. Axline Would Plant It on the Ruins of Morro Castle.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 23.—In a patriotic speech, delivered last night before the Western Reserve Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, N. A. Axline, adjutant general of Ohio, who was likewise adjutant general of the State when President McKinley was governor, declared that he would level Morro Castle to the ground and erect on the ruins the American flag or a monument to the brave sailors who lost their lives in Havana harbor.

"America is like a sleeping lion," declared Gen. Axline, "but when her wrath is aroused let nations beware. If the destruction of the Maine should be proved the outrage many believe it, then the lion's claws will be shown.

"We will wait until this is proved, but if the investigation shows that the gallant vessel was sent to the bottom by an act of Spanish treachery then let Spain beware.

"It has been suggested that a monument be erected in Cuba to commemorate the memory of the brave sailors that perished by the explosion. would take our troops to that war-wrecked island, attack Morro Castle, reduce it to ruins, and on the summit of those ruins I would plant the American flag, there to wave while liberty shall live or statesmanship survive, and then I would say: 'Here is their monument.'"

WAR PREPARATIONS CONTINUE.

Two Companies in Readiness for Instant Marshing Orders.

Little Rock, Feb. 23.—Instructions were received yesterday by Colonel Burke, in command of Fort Logan, to hold the two companies stationed here in readiness for instant marching orders to some point to be specified by the War Department. The residue of Colonel Burke's regiment is stationed in Arizona.

Governor Jones also received a special message yesterday from the War Department and Major General Schaer, of the State militia has been instructed to be prepared to relieve the post at a moment's notice.

General Schaer has been drilling a battery of artillery since Sunday last.

HE HELPED CUBA.

Hart, Who Was Convicted of Filibustering, May Serve His Sentence.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—It is likely that something definite will occur today in the case of John D. Hart, who is under conviction and sentence in the United States district court for aiding in the Lannada filibustering expedition to Cuba. Hart was found guilty about a year ago and was shortly afterward sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Eastern penitentiary. The case was taken to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the judgment of the lower court. Under the rules, Hart had thirty days' grace from the time of the appellate court's decision and five days more from the time the appellate court sent its mandate to the district court. The days of grace really expired yesterday, but as the court was not in session, they are legally up today.

It is said if Hart, who is under $700 bail, fails to put in an appearance today District Attorney Beck can, if he desires, ask the court for a bench warrant and have Hart brought in. Then application can be made to have Judge Butler recommit him, and if this done Hart will have to enter upon the serving of his two years' imprisonment.

THE A. P. A. WOULD FIGHT.

The Services of One Thousand Men Offered to the President.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 23.—This afternoon the city executive committee of the American Protective Association unanimously decided to tender the services of the entire membership to President McKinley in case of war with Spain. The committee directed Deputy State President J. T. Taylor to transmit this action to President McKinley. The order has a local membership of 1,000.

President Taylor said: "The A. P. A. is an intensely patriotic order. The members are ready to go to the front at any time to fight for their country. We believe that the war is not far distant. Tonight I sent a telegram to Washington offering 1,000 men."

Flynn's Business College, 8th and K. None better, $25 a year; day or night.

Vails, clear, dressed all around, 25 cents apiece. The best—No. 1.

Palings, fancy heads, dressed any style or pattern you may wish.

HATRED FOR AMERICANS

The Ultra-Spanish in Havana Much Excited.

OUR COUNTRYMEN IN DANGER

Capt. Sigsbee Very Anxious to Move His Wounded Men to a Place of Safety—The Revenue Cutter Bache Recalled to Await the Arrival of the Tug Neptune.

Havana, via Key West, Feb. 23.—The American colony is thinning out rapidly, due to the belief that those who have no important business here will be safer in America.

The riotous element among the volunteers and ultra-Spaniards are likely to make trouble. There is also sinister activity among the friends of Weyler who have lost official favor under the autonomist regime.

They make no effort to conceal their cordial hatred toward both Americans and autonomists. By a common impulse newspapers here attack Capt. Sigsbee, intimating that through indolence and carelessness he blew up his ship.

La Lucha is particularly violent.

All sorts of rumors are afloat as to the conclusions of the board of inquiry, and the excitement is increasing.

Blanco is outwardly doing all in his power to facilitate the work of the board.

On board the Fern is a powder case which pertains to the 10-inch guns, and which was removed from the Maine wreck yesterday. It was taken from the part of the battleship destroyed by the explosion, and in which the gunpowder magazine is situated. The gunpowder discovered was in a bag, and the bag was contained in a copper case. The case was closed entirely, but had an exterior mark, as if some hard object had struck on the outside; within the gunpowder is absolutely intact in its bag. Some empty powder cases have been found also. It is not known whether they went off in the great blow-up or were used in the guns some time previous to the explosion and had not been re-filled.

If, as is now believed, the ten-inch and reserve magazines did not explode, the main deck and amidships annihilation came from some other immensely powerful force. This point is intensely interesting and of the highest importance.

The divers employed in the forward part of the wreck are working in very dangerous quarters.

Diver Reddin, of the Maine, is a man of wonderful nerve. He was shaken up badly by the explosion, and had a miraculous escape through the top of the Maine's rear turret, yet he is doing good work.

Schluter, of the New York, is working well also. The Bache started to leave here yesterday, but was recalled by Captain Sigsbee before she got out of the harbor, pending the arrival of the tug Neptune.

Captain Sigsbee has again importuned the doctors to allow him to move the wounded to Key West but his request was refused. He was informed, however, that he could take them to Dry Tortugas if it should become actually necessary in order to save them from a Spanish mob.

A RELIC FROM THE MAINE.

The Medical Journal, Wet With the Waters of Cuba, Came Today.

The first article saved from the Maine reached the Navy Department this morning. It was the medical journal of the ship, still soaking wet and bad smelling from saturation in the foul, filthy waters of Havana's polluted harbor. It is without covers, and consists of 300 pages, letter size. Its last entry was on page 244, and was dated February 15, 1898, the day of the fatality. All the other pages were signed by Surgeon L. G. Heneberger, and the last page was evidently half completed and was unsigned, though in the same handwriting as the others. The doctor was evidently writing down the day's official record of the hospital when the explosion came, and gathering up his work had rushed on deck with it and clung to it when he went off in a boat to the steamer City of Washington. The book is particularly valuable, as it shows the name of every man on the ship and tells for the first time who were sick at the time the explosion came. The sick men are among those lost. It is explained that entries are made in the medical journals of ships at the close of the day, and no doubt is expressed from the officer's appearance of the book that in this instance the disaster interrupted Surgeon Heneberger in the performance of this duty.

STEAMERS SEQUESTERED.

The U. S. S. Marblehead Expecting Immediate Orders.

New Orleans, Feb. 23.—New Orleans shippers are advised that no more Cromwell Line steamers will sail for this port from New York until further orders from Washington. The affair is a complete mystery.

The American cruiser Marblehead, here for the Mardi Gras celebration, has suddenly stopped receiving visitors, and there was hustle and bustle aboard all day yesterday. She has orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice.

COMING TO WASHINGTON.

A Delegate From the Alleged Autonomist Government.

Havana, Feb. 23.—The autonomist government has confirmed the appointment of Senor Manuel Rafael Angulo, as delegate of the colonial government in Washington, to prepare a commercial treaty, according to instructions which he will receive from Senor Montoro and Senor Rodriguez, the colonial secretaries of the treasury and of commerce, respectively.

It has also decided to reserve the posts of directors in the hospitals and the asylum for persons of known non-partisanship, provided they acknowledge the new regime and return to the island.

Coal! Coal! Coal!

$5.25 per 2,240, delivered, Gayton stove, egg and nut. Powhatan Coal Co., 1358 C st. nw.; 'phone 620; or dealers generally. feb3-tf

Beautiful 50c Neckwear—especially the Ascots. Auerbach's, 623 Pa. ave.

The Weather—
Fair tonight and tomorrow; slightly warmer.

SICARD TO BE RELIEVED

He Is Too Ill to Command the Fleet at Sea.

HIS SUCCESSOR IS NAMED

The Navy Department Preparing to Send Commodore Schley to Take Charge of the Squadron, and the Admiral Will Confine His Operations to Shore Duty

Admiral Sicard has written the Navy Department that his health is bad, and as long as the squadron remains near Key West he can retain command if he stays ashore at that port.

If, however, the fleet goes to sea, he will be compelled to ask to be relieved. In this emergency, with the conceded necessity of an active man in command of the great squadron, it is said at the Department that Commodore Winfield Scott Schley will be ordered to assume charge of the active operations afloat.

This is accepted by naval officers as proof positive that the fleet will move toward Havana very soon.

Commodore Schley is at the head of the lighthouse board, and is considered one of the most energetic officers in the Navy.

SICARD RE-ENFORCED.

Five More Cruisers Will Join the White Squadron.

Navy Department officials are disappointed because the cruiser Montgomery, which left San Domingo for Key West a week ago today, has not arrived at that port. Three days only usually suffice for the trip.

Today the Nashville and Texas leave Galveston, and the Detroit and Marblehead leave Mobile and New Orleans for Key West, to reinforce Admiral Sicard's squadron.

The gunboat Machias, which for the past two years has been on the Asiatic station, left Madura this morning for Norfolk, where she will be at once cleaned and repaired.

That the Brooklyn is on her way to join the fleet is now almost certain. She reported to the department today from Santa Cruz, having just arrived from St. Thomas. The Cincinnati, also, is near Havana. Barbadoes, to which point the department says she was ordered, is only two days' sailing from Havana, but naval officers generally think she will not linger at that place.

The fleet will now include the New York, Indiana, Massachusetts, Iowa, Brooklyn, Montgomery, Marblehead, Vesuvius, Detroit, Texas and Nashville.

MARINES IN READINESS.

Fifty of Them to Leave Here Soon for Key West.

A large detachment of the marines from the Washington barracks will probably start for Key West this afternoon or tomorrow.

Secretary Long has ordered them to prepare for instant service, and has notified the commandant of the marine corps, Colonel Heywood, that they may be called upon at any moment.

It is understood that fifty marines will be sent to Key West to be put on board the fleet at Dry Tortugas, at the request of Admiral Sicard, and that the number may be increased at any time to 100, or nearly the full strength of the detachment here.

THE VIZCAYA IN NO HURRY.

The Time of Her Departure Not Definitely Settled.

New York, Feb. 23.—Lieut. Jose G. Ristori, of the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya, is authority for the announcement that the vessel will not leave this port either today or tomorrow, and may remain in these waters for two or three days beyond that yet.

The lieutenant came ashore at the Tompkinsville dock at 10:30 o'clock this morning at the head of a party of officers. They came over to the city accompanied by a detective to see the sights of the town.

It was announced that today would be a general reception day, and any one who desired to look over the vessel would be received on board. The patrol boats hovered about the cruiser as they have since her entry into the harbor.

SPAIN REFUSES.

Her American Organ Says She Will Not Give Up Cuba.

The New York Herald this morning prints the following:

Madrid, Feb. 22.—As the question of the purchase of Cuba is again being pushed in Washington, it may be of use to state—and I have it on the highest authority—that Spain will never, no matter what government is in power, consider any such suggestion or any compromise in Cuba beyond the broad measure of autonomy drafted by the liberal government.

This is an absolute, irrevocable decision. People who suggest anything else are only wasting time and arousing unfounded hopes in the minds of the rebels.

SPANISH SPIES CAPTURED.

The Buccaneer Seizes Two and Takes Them to Gomez.

Tampa, Feb. 23.—There are many spies employed by Spain in Florida, but several have disappeared never to be heard from again. Two new ones were brought here from Key West two weeks ago and sent to Jacksonville. When the Buccaneer left on Saturday night, the spies left also, and it is known that they are prisoners on board and will be landed in Cuba.

Two Spanish spies detailed to locate the expedition that left Pascagoula last week were bound and taken on board the tug and landed in Cuba, prisoners of General Gomez. The feeling against the spies is so great that anyone proved to be a Spanish agent will be in danger of violent handling.

Palings, spear head, $1.25 for 100. These are bright, sound; not dressed.

STOCK-TICKER GIVES IT UP.

No Longer Undertakes to Bolster Prices at the Cost of Honor.

New York, Feb. 23.—The stock ticker sends out this from Washington: "Since the arrival of the latest Havana mails today there is a marked change in the State and Navy Departments. The accident theory is hushed. All the evidence forwarded so far tends, it is said, to prove foul play to the Maine. The direct connection of Spain with the suspected plot is not yet entertained.

The question of indemnity, however, is being considered instead of a resort to war and a demand for $10,000,000 has been suggested.

There is anxiety in the American circles as to whether the country will approve this method of compromise if the worst should come out of the inquiry.

MILITARY ACTIVITY.

Reports From Many States of Preparations for an Emergency.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—Major General Snowden, commander of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, has issued general orders to every officer in the State to recruit his command up to the full quota required by law. Officers were instructed to have their men ready to march, fully armed and equipped, at twenty-four hours' notice.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 23.—While the officers of the State militia disclaim any preparations for war, there is at present an unusual activity in that body. It is said that the adjutant general has received orders from Washington, but he refuses to be questioned on that subject. Within two weeks the State has received 80,000 ball cartridges for the militia arm, the Springfield rifle, making the present supply about 150,000 rounds, or ninety rounds for each militiaman.

Circulars just issued by the State give full instructions of needed equipments and directions for packing and carrying baggage and equipment for every arm in the service. On Governor Dyer's recommendation the legislature has passed a bill providing for the omission of the State camp for the brigade this year, and the $18,000 thus saved will be expended in the purchase of new uniforms, tents and equipments. The present strength of the militia is 1,600.

Louisville, Feb. 23.—Adjutant General Collier says the State guard is well equipped, with the exception of cannon, having only a battery and two Gatling guns. Most of the Kentucky troops have seen service and can be ready to move in twenty-four hours.

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 23.—South Carolina's militia service is in very good shape. Work on the Charleston harbor defenses is going on day and night.

St. Paul, Feb. 23.—The Department of Dakota has received orders to be in readiness for the field.

Col. McArthur, adjutant general of the department, said that all troops in this department could be under way before tomorrow noon. Every soldier is on a railroad line.

There are 2,500 men in the department.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Adjutant General Reece on last Friday received an order from the adjutant general of the United States Army to forward to Washington at the earliest possible moment a roster of the troops composing the National Guard of the State of Illinois, together with an estimate of the shortest possible time in which these troops could be mobilized; also, the shortest time in which the Illinois troops could be landed at Key West, Fla.

This report will include the number of men available for active duty in the artillery, cavalry, infantry, and signal corps, the state of discipline and equipment, number and condition of cavalry and artillery horses, condition and number of tents and other appurtenances and food supply for troops about to go on active campaign. The available force of the Illinois National Guard is more than 6,000 men, horse, foot and artillery.

Bound Brook, N. J., Feb. 23.—The Taylor Iron Works at High Bridge, N. J., have been working at full force and taking on as many hands as possible for the last week.

They are making twelve, fourteen and sixteen inch shells for the Government. The shells are to be used for the long-range mortars on the seaboard defenses. They are made of steel, and are about six feet in length and weigh 750 pounds.

The average number turned out is one hundred a day, and as soon as they are completed they are sent to the Government arsenal at Dover, where they are loaded with 200 pounds of a new and high explosive resembling gun-cotton.

Colonel W. J. Taylor, one of the officers of the company, refused to talk, except to say that they are making the shells. The workmen are forbidden to say anything, and the high board fence around the works is guarded night and day.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 23.—A military company was formed in Reading yesterday, which will tender its services to President McKinley in case of war with Spain. Thirty names have already been pledged. Conrad Bauer, of No. 1132 Elm street, this city, is at the head of the movement. He served in Company F, One Hundred and Ninety-second Pennsylvania Regiment, during the war.

Ex-Lieutenant Harry Phillipsi, of the Reading Artillerists, and other retired members of the National Guard, have organized a company composed entirely of ex-members of the Pennsylvania and New York National Guard and regular army. Exactly ninety-eight "war horses" from this and New York State now resident here have responded within the last two days.

The Leinbach Light Artillery was this forenoon formed entirely of members of the Keystone Fire Company with sixty-eight members. John Leinbach was elected captain. He served during the late war.

TAKING GEN. LEE'S ADVICE.

At the Same Time Several Americans Take Leave of Havana.

Havana, Feb. 23.—The Olivette will leave this port today carrying a large number of Americans, and among them two of Capt. Sigsbee's wounded sailors. Just at what hour she will leave is not yet known.

TORPEDO BOATS FOR HAVANA.

A Squadron of Spanish War Vessels Leave Cadiz.

Madrid, Feb. 23.—A squadron of torpedo boats has left Cadiz for Havana harbor.

Handsomest $3 Spring Hats Auerbach's ever shown! 623 Pa. ave.

Posts, squared for picket fence, either cedar or chestnut.

LEE MAY QUIT HAVANA

Senator Proctor to Meet Him on Board the Cushing.

NEW DISPATCHES COMING

The President Feared to Entrust Them to the Telegraph Company, and a Special Train Is Waiting With Steam Up — Spanish Spies Shadow Mr. Proctor.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 23.—High officials here are authority for the statement that orders were issued on Sunday to have a Plant System special train ready to convey Gen. Lee from Tampa to Washington.

A change of orders, however, was brought about when President McKinley decided to bring Gen. Lee no further than Key West, where, it is said, he is to meet Senator Proctor, and valuable information, too important to trust to the wires, even in cipher, will be placed in Senator Proctor's hands and disposed of as the Senator and the President have agreed secretly.

A special train will be kept in readiness at both Jacksonville and Tampa, and Gen. Lee will meet Senator Proctor on board the Cushing today or Thursday. Spanish spies have gone to Tampa for the purpose of shadowing Mr. Proctor's movements, and this may cause a change in arrangements.

The Vermont Senator arrived in town quietly and went to the depot in company with prominent citizens and officers and left for Tampa.

From Tampa he went to Key West, and a special train will await his return. That he is on an important mission can be seen by the secrecy of his movements, and the peculiar activity of the authorities in train orders.

This morning's Havana dispatches would seem to indicate that when Gen. Lee does leave that city it will be for good.

A large number of Americans are here from Cuba, and one and all say that no citizen of this country is safe in Havana, be he who he may. Intense excitement prevails.

JUDGE DAY APPROVES IT.

He Says That Americans in Havana Are in Danger.

Judge Day said this morning that he considered that American citizens in Havana were in great danger, and that General Lee's action in warning them to leave the city had his entire approval, although he had no official knowledge of such action on the part of the Consul General. He said:

"As the situation is extremely unpleasant, to say the least, I think General Lee, if he has taken such a course, has acted wisely.

"I have not, however, received word from him in regard to any action of this kind. I got my first intimation that such was the case from The Times this morning.

"You may say that I consider that Americans who are in Havana today are being in danger."

BILL TO REVIVE THE GRADE

A Lieutenant Generalship Proposed for Miles.

General Miles anticipates a war with Spain. He is now at the head of the army. If his belief that this country and Spain will have war is realized, General Miles wants to remain at the top of the army list and to make this possible, his friend, General Henderson, of Iowa, introduced in the House the following joint resolution:

That the grade of lieutenant general be and the same is hereby revived in the Army of the United States; and the President is hereby authorized, whenever he shall deem it expedient, to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a lieutenant general, to be selected from among those officers in the military service of the United States not below the grade of major general, distinguished for courage, skill, and ability, who, being commissioned as lieutenant general, may be authorized, under the direction and during the pleasure of the President, to command armies of the United States.

ORDERED BACK TO DUTY.

Naval Officers on Leave to Rejoin Their Ships.

London, Feb. 23.—An order has been received at the United States embassy here ordering all officers of the United States Navy at present in England on leave to rejoin their ships at once.

Lieut. Bradford Jones and Lieut. Commander Williams, who arrived in England with their wives and families a few days ago to spend several months in Europe, sail by the Cunarder on Friday.

CUBA IN THE HOUSE.

A Resolution Introduced Which Will Provoke Debate.

A resolution was passed without a dissenting vote this morning, calling upon the Secretary of State to furnish the House with all information in possession of the Department showing what the Government has done to prevent expeditions from this country to Cuba.

The object of this resolution is to bring up the Cuban question in the House for debate, when the information is furnished.

And everything else made of wood can be found at Libbey & Co.'s, 6th and N. Y. ave.