

THE ANNIVERSARY

Of the Blowing up of the Battleship Maine, at Havana,

WAS SIGNALIZED YESTERDAY

At Philadelphia with the Beginning of Work on the Powerful Man-of-War Which will Bear the Name of the Historic Vessel—The First Piece of the Keel Laid at Cramp's Shipyards.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 15.—The anniversary of the blowing up of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor, was marked here with the beginning of work on the powerful man-of-war, which will bear the name of the historic battleship, the destruction of which did much to precipitate the war with Spain.

The new Maine will be built by the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, and at the company's yards at 11 o'clock today, the first piece of keel of the vessel was laid. There was no formality in the proceedings, but the shipyard was thrown open to the public and a great cheer was given by the crowd as the group of workmen set in place the first steel piece of the keel. Other pieces of the steel keel were immediately hoisted and placed by the side of the first and thus was started what will be one of the most powerful fighters of the new navy.

The Maine will be a sister ship to the Ohio and Missouri, the contract price for each of which is \$2,885,000. She is to have a speed of eighteen knots, with a length on load water line of 388 feet, and a beam of seventy-two feet, two and one-half inches; she will have a normal displacement of 12,500 tons and a draught of twenty-three feet, six inches. Her main gun will be large enough to carry 2,000 tons of coal and her complement of officers, seamen and marines will be about six hundred men.

The Maine's armament will consist of four twelve-inch breech-loading rifles, sixteen six-inch rapid-fire rifles, twenty six-pounder and four three-pounder guns, and a few smaller pieces. The twelve inch guns will be of forty calibre, and of the new high powered type, designed to use smokeless powder. With a muzzle velocity of 2,000 feet per second and firing at 850 pound shell, each gun will have an energy of 48,000 foot-pounds, equal to the penetration of four feet of solid iron at the muzzle.

The builders will endeavor to have the new battleship ready for launching on February 15 of next year, and to have her ready for service on the third anniversary of the sinking of the Maine in Havana harbor.

FROM CONSULS

Come Interesting Stories of Affairs Abroad—Manufacture of Artificial Silk—Merchant Marine of France.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15.—A very curious report comes to the state department from Consul Frankenthal, at Berne, Switzerland, on the manufacture of artificial silk from gelatine. The consul says that his information is from Professor Hummel, of Yorkshire College, in Leeds, England, who is now the inventor of the process, and who has submitted specimens of his product to Swiss silk manufacturers. The accuracy of the statements contained in the report must be gauged by this standard.

The gelatine to be turned into silk is heated at a certain temperature, which heats it continually in liquid form. The reservoir containing this liquid has a cover, with innumerable small openings, through which the gelatine oozes in very fine streams. These tiny threads are discharged on an endless strip of linen cloth, running over pulleys. When this strip has travelled far enough to dry the gelatine the threads are picked up automatically and wound upon spools.

The whole operation is said to require very little attention, a single workman overseeing enough machines to produce 470,000 yards of thread per day—equal to the production of 24,000 cocoons. To make the gelatine threads proof against being dissolved in warm water or any other solution, they are lightly washed on drums, and subjected to the fumes of formaldehyde in a close room for several hours. Coloring matter added in very small proportions to the liquid gelatine produces any shade of thread desired. This artificial silk is said to be extremely brilliant, and very uniform in thickness.

The greatest drawback to its usefulness is its low tensile strength. But this it is said, can be overcome by mixing the gelatine fibre with real silk fibre or cotton. The statement is made that this silk can be produced at \$15 per pound. Colloid silk now costs about \$25 per pound, while natural silk is worth \$25.

Consul Skinner, at Marseilles, sends to the state department an abstract of the annual report of the Marseilles chamber of commerce to the minister of commerce on the state of the French Merchant marine. It appears from this report that the subject of the merchant marine is being considered in France with quite as much interest as in the same subject in the United States. The chamber reports a gain in the condition of affairs, the French merchant marine, in 1897, but state this is far from reassuring. Comparison is made with the statistics of Genoa, Antwerp and Rotterdam, whence the following gains of 1897 over 1896 are reported: Genoa, 516,000 tons; Antwerp, 646,000 tons; Rotterdam, 731,000 tons.

The gradual disappearance of the French flag from commerce is declared to be "in spite of the law of 1893, which the public powers recognized to be absolutely inefficient."

Consul Thucakara writes from Havre on the same subject, giving the report of the parliamentary committee appointed by the French chamber of deputies to investigate the problem of upbuilding the French merchant marine. This report says in part that the committee "recognizes the state of the merchant marine as critical, especially in regard to its ability to successfully compete with that of other nations." Further, the report says: "Its relative inferiority already demonstrated, becomes more and more apparent each day, and with each advancing stride made by the steamship lines of other countries."

"This state of affairs, if prolonged, would lead to the most disastrous social, political and military results; and it is but natural the government should give attention to the best methods of ameliorating such a serious condition of affairs, the remedy of which, in the very nature of things, cannot emanate from private sources."

The committee, after considering various plans, finally decided on a revision of the bounty laws, a section of the new law being quoted by the consul. It is a very involved schedule of bounties. The first article provides for a shipping bounty as compensation for the charges imposed upon merchant vessels in training seamen who may be drafted into the national navy. The bounty is computed in centimes per ton for various classes of vessels, ranging from 2,000 tons to 4,000 tons and above. This bounty is for steamships. That on sailing vessels is half the amount in every case.

Article 2 provides a bounty "to develop the maritime industries of France



No sooner is San Francisco's poison case settled than New York has a poison case of its own. The whole country is interested in the case because of the rapid punishment which will undoubtedly be dealt out to the guilty parties. Two months ago Henry Barnett, one of the officers of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, took bromo seltzer before breakfast. As he was shaving himself he said: "You have taken poison enough to kill twenty men." The usual remedies were applied, and the third day he was able to sit by the window. But he had a relapse, and died shortly after.

DEATH IN THE MAIL.

front. Then he makes three cuts through the web pieces, so that it may produce the back and front for the four fingers. Next an oval hole is cut for the insertion of the thumb-piece. Before completing the work on the first and fourth fingers, long stripes, or gussets, are sewn on the inner side; in the second and third fingers gussets are sewn on both sides. Afterwards small diamond-shaped pieces are cut, fitted, and sewn at the interdigital folds or base of the fingers. The ornamental embroidery is then stitched on the back, the buttons or fasteners fitted, and the wrists hemmed; then the glove is finished. In sewing a toothed vise or clamp is used to regulate the size of the stitches. Glove-workers are divided into three classes: Those who seam the fingers and put in the thumb are called the makers; those who hem the edges at the wrist, welters; and those who embroider the back, pointers. The average earnings of all classes is only two dollars a day. In our own country no less than \$15,000,000 are invested in the glove industry, which first settled in Gloversville, N. Y., in 1809. At this time the skins used were those of deer received by traders in exchange for tin. Rough mittens were the first product of this settlement, and the first load of gloves that went to Boston was forwarded in 1825.—Woman's Home Companion.

Work for Children.

machines, the intricacies of music, the management of a printing press, may be used to busy children.—Woman's Home Companion.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Routine Proceedings of the Senate and House—A Number of Measures Passed—The Capital Removal Bill. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 15.—The house was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Wade. The education committee reported favorably upon house bill 225, to amend section 2, of chapter 45, of the code.

The committee on private corporations reported favorably upon house bill 12, amending the law for the incorporation of savings banks. The committee on immigration and agriculture reported favorably upon house bill 232, appropriating public money to encourage agriculture.

The judiciary committee reported favorably upon house bill 216, to amend section 24, of chapter 54, of the code.

The committee on claims and grievances reported adversely on the claim of the Grand Rapids Furniture Company for balance due on chairs; also on house bill 193, providing for the destruction of the chicken hawk.

A statement from the superintendent of free schools was ordered printed in the Journal.

Mr. Morrow offered a resolution directing the clerk of the house to lay before the house the full correspondence pertaining to the pardon of Robert McDowell, who was sentenced for life for arson.

The following house bills were passed: 102, for the prevention of accidents and preservation of life and health of employees; 65, amending the act pertaining to Marshall College; 215, relating to the taxation of express companies.

The speaker announced as the committee under Mr. Davis' resolution concerning consideration of proposed constitutional amendments, Messrs. Davis (of Harrison), Dent, Logan, Mansfield, Fisher, Davis, (of Mineral), Hurst, Bee, Darst, Oldfield, Hall, Haptonstall, and Hunt.

House bill 6, providing for a state board to be known as "the West Virginia Humane Society," was passed by a vote of 26 to 15.

House bill 230, to establish the independent school district of Terra Alta, came up as a special order of business, on its third reading, and was passed.

House bill 18, amending the Charles Town charter, was passed; also house bill 201, to amend section 15, of chapter 23, of the code; house bill 45, requiring owners of dams in Brooke county, to construct chutes to permit fish to pass; house bill 157, amending the act creating the independent school district of Grant, Harrison county.

House bill 21, creating a state board of undertakers, was taken up out of order and advanced to its third reading.

House bill 23, regulating hours of labor on public works; house bill 73, relating to duties of university regents; house bill 14, amending the act relating to the West Virginia reform school; house bill 23, amending the charter of Moundsville; house bill 84, to amend section 60, of chapter 29, of the code, were rejected.

House bill 22, for the payment of witnesses before grand juries, was indefinitely postponed.

House bill 255, providing for the removal of the state capital to Parkersburg, was offered by Mr. Harnish. The house refused to dispense with the reference to committee. Adjourned.

The senate was opened with prayer by Rev. J. W. Stump. President Marshall announced the appointment of Messrs. Smith, Lanham and Beavers as additional members of the committee on enrolled bills.

Mr. Kidd introduced senate bill 131, to amend the code concerning and regulating the application of joint stock companies and concerning the license.

Mr. Whitaker introduced senate bill 133, to regulate the manufacture and sale of food products.

Mr. Fast offered senate joint resolution 20, to give precedence to the general appropriation bill and the resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution on the calendar of both houses. The resolution was adopted.

Senate bill 62, to amend the code concerning state and local boards of health, and senate bill 67, to amend section 12, of chapter 56, of the code, relating to toll roads, and turnpikes were passed.

House bill 27, for the incorporation of Fairmont, West Fairmont, and Palatine, was advanced to its third reading.

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NARROW ESCAPE

Of Cruiser Marblehead from Collision with the Etruria.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The passengers of the Etruria, which arrived yesterday, had the experience on Monday morning of narrowly averting a collision with the United States cruiser Marblehead.

At 10 o'clock, on the morning named, when about seventy miles from Sandy Hook, the officers on the bridge of the Cunarder were startled by the apparition, as Captain Ferguson, described it, of a large vessel, looming out of the thick clouds of driving sleet and snow on the port bow, only a few lengths ahead of the Etruria, and making directly across the bows of the latter vessel. Chief Officer Barr was the officer on the watch, and was on the bridge with Captain Ferguson. Instantly Mr. and signalled to reverse the engines.

When the Etruria had slowed down to a standstill the order was given to go full speed ahead, and with the helm hard a-starboard, the Cunarder passed closely under the stern of the Marblehead. So close, in fact, were the two vessels, that, despite the mist, the officers on the bridges waved their hands to one another, in thankfulness, no doubt, of the escape from the collision, which for a few minutes seemed so imminent.

At the time the cruiser was headed to the eastward. She left Boston for Havana about the middle of last week.

On Friday, however, the Marblehead, covered with ice, was reported to have sought shelter at Provincetown, Mass. That she was in the path of the incoming liner would seem to indicate that she had resumed her long journey southward, but had been caught by the blizzard, and was riding it out on the Long Island port.

Captain Ferguson, of the Etruria, was averse to saying much about the escape, but he remarked that if his vessel had struck the Marblehead abeam, the result would have happened undoubtedly, if the engines had not been reversed the cruiser must assuredly have gone to the bottom.

Hardwood Lumber Company.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 15.—A big lumber concern was chartered yesterday by the secretary of state, under the name of the Panther Hardwood Lumber Company, of Welch, Brooke county.

It will operate saw-mills and planing-mills, and carry on a general lumber business, buy and sell real estate, operate tanneries, pulp and paper mills; conduct boarding houses and hotels, and carry on a general wholesale and retail mercantile business. It will have a subscribed capital of \$100,000 of which \$10,000 has been subscribed. The authorized capital is \$200,000. The chief stockholder is William M. Ritten of Welch, with 999 shares. The other incorporators are R. E. Pendleton, C. W. Adams, and F. S. Hamlin, of Welch, and Walter H. Harman, of Panther.

Ice Gorge at Niagara.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Feb. 15.—Above the falls, in many places, the ice is packed in the river in high piles, and extends many feet from the shore. Much dynamite has been exploded to drive it from the inlets leading to the different power plants. The jam in the gorge, at the foot of the falls, grows with the days. Some of the hills are nearly 50 feet high. One of them is called a mountain, and is said to be over 100 feet high. Such a large quantity of ice has not been known in the Niagara river for years, and the situation is a decidedly undesirable one, and makes owners of property close to the banks of the river apprehensive for the result when the river begins to free itself. Should mild weather set in, and the ice moved, it would undoubtedly sweep everything before it.

Glove Manufacture.

The art of glove-making, once followed exclusively by women, is now pursued largely by men.

This is due chiefly to the introduction of machinery, used to-day for sewing and pressing the seams, and to improved means for drafting patterns which were formerly of paper or wood. Then the glow, laying his pattern on the leather, would mark it in outline with a lead-pencil and cut it out with shears. The glove, which was sewn by hand and the seams pounded, then went through the process of pressing. This was done by placing it between two boards, on which the glove-maker sat while making another pair. In the manufacture of the modern glove the operator, having cut the leather, folds it over so that the back is larger than the

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Examination of Beef Rations—The Garcia Funeral Incident.

HAVANA, Feb. 14.—Brigadier General George R. Ernest, of Major General Brooke's staff, has completed the examination of between 800,000 and 900,000 rations of beef in army store-houses. He found that there was less than 2 per cent of bad beef, which was received in the same shipment as the beef condemned last week. One box in every ten was opened and examined, and also every box that was smelling bad.

In the matter of the withdrawal of Cubans from the Garcia funeral procession on Saturday, the better element of Cubans are now realizing that a mistake was made in the childish attitude and behavior of their generals on that day. Public opinion is fixing the blame upon the representatives of the Cuban assembly and upon Fernando Freyre, one of the vice presidents of the assembly and General Andrade, who, it is alleged, were responsible for the orders to withdraw. Condemnation of Saturday's action is growing and expressions of regret and apologies will probably be tendered to Major General Brooke.

General Maximo Gomez has left Sagua and proceeded to Santa Clara. Overtures in his honor continue with unabated enthusiasm.

Monsignor Santander, bishop of Havana, has declined to allow Father Thomas Sherman, who recently arrived here from Porto Rico, to hold prayer at the cemetery to-morrow, when the ladies of this city decorate the graves of those who lost their lives through the blowing up of the United States battleship Maine. The city council has decided to be represented at the ceremonies by three of its members.

During a severe wind storm last night, three hundred tents in the camp of Major General Fitzhugh Lee were blown down, among them being that of Lieutenant Colonel Maus, chief surgeon of the seventh army corps. The consequence was that 1,500 soldiers were temporarily deprived of shelter.

Flour Mill Combine.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 14.—The Evening Wisconsin to-day says:

It was admitted here that the flour mill syndicate of which Thomas A. McIntyre is the head, had carried the day. All the Duluth mills except Freeman's, a small concern, are reported to have been secured in addition to the majority of the mills in Minneapolis. It is also learned that the largest mills in New York and Buffalo in addition to several large Milwaukee plants, have been captured. It is believed that when the concern is fully organized a large majority of the spring wheat mills in the country will be found in the deal. The capitalization of the trust, it is reported, will be about \$35,000,000.

Race Question in Havana.

HAVANA, Feb. 14.—Holman's Washington cafe, on the Central Park, has been ordered closed by Senor Federico Mora, civil governor of Havana, because of the refusal of the proprietor to serve drinks to a mulatto, the Cuban General Ducesse. Mr. Holman, who is an American, says he will reopen, claiming that he is sustained by the American authorities. It is considered that the controversy will raise the race question.

New Mexican Treaty.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 14.—The department of state had received a report from Ambassador Clayton at the City of Mexico, showing that the governments of the United States and Mexico have just agreed on the terms of a new extradition treaty to replace that which lapsed about a fortnight ago. Fugitives from justice in either country will be disappointed in not securing the asylum they had expected, for the treaty will be retroactive so as to cover crimes committed since the expiration of the former treaty.

WHAT'S the secret of happy, vigorous health? Simply keeping the bowels, the stomach, the liver and kidneys strong and active. Burdock Blood Bitters does it.

YOU are making a great mistake in not getting a 16 cent trial size of Ely's Cream Balm. It is a specific for colds and cold in the head. We need it, or the 50 cent size. Druggists all keep it. Ely Brothers, 56 Warren Street, New York.

Cataract caused difficulty in speaking and to a great extent loss of hearing. By the use of Ely's Cream Balm droppings of mucus has ceased, voice and hearing have greatly improved.—J. W. Davidson, Attorney at Law, Monmouth, Ill.

A new Dryfus has come to light in crests of the French army. He has already been the cause of a riot in Paris. One of his friends was driven off the Bou-

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