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MAINE BLOWN UP

Big United States Battleship Destroyed in the Harbor of Havana.

Over a Hundred Sailors Dead and the Vessel a Total Wreck.

EXPLOSION WAS TERRIFIC

Entire City Shaken and Windows Broken in Many of the Houses.

Cause of Disaster Not Known When the Early Reports Were Sent.

THE NEWS AT WASHINGTON

Navy Department Informed by Captain Sigsbee but No Details Given.

Asked That Public Opinion Be Suspended Until Further Reports.

HAVANA, Feb. 17.—At 9:45 o'clock a terrible explosion took place on board the United States battleship Maine in Havana harbor. Many were killed and wounded. All the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII are assisting. As yet the cause of the explosion is not apparent.

The explosion shook the whole city and windows were broken in many houses.

The correspondent of the Associated Press has conversed with several of the wounded sailors and understands from them that the explosion took place while they were asleep, so that they can give no particulars as to the cause. It is believed the explosion occurred in a small powder magazine. What remains of the Maine is burning.

The wildest consternation prevailed in Havana.

Over One Hundred Dead.

Captain Sigsbee and the other officers have been saved. It is estimated that over 100 of the crew were killed, but it is impossible as yet to give exact details. Admiral Manterola has ordered that boats of all kinds should go to the assistance of the Maine and her wounded. The Havana firemen are giving aid, tending carefully to the wounded as they are brought on shore.

Captain Sigsbee says the explosion occurred in the bow of the vessel. He received a wound in the head. Orders were given to the other officers to save themselves as best they could. The latter, who were literally thrown from their bunks in their night clothing, gave the necessary orders with great self-possession and bravery.

Spanish Admiral Manterola believes that the first explosion was of a grenade shell that was hurled over the navy yard.

SIGSBEE SENDS A REPORT.

Asks That Public Opinion Be Withheld for the Present.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The secretary of the navy received the following telegram from Captain Sigsbee: "Maine blown up in Havana harbor, 9:40, and destroyed. Many wounded and doubtless more killed and drowned. Wounded and others on board Spanish man-of-war and Ward line steamer. Send lighthouse tenders from Key West for crew and few pieces of equipment still above water. No one had other clothes than those upon him."

"Public opinion should be suspended till further report. All officers believed to be saved. Jenkins and Merritt not yet accounted for. Many Spanish officers, including representatives of General Blanco, now with me and express sympathy." The secretary of the navy received

another dispatch from Key West at the same time with the above, but its contents were not made public.

The orders for the lighthouse tenders were at once sent to Key West in plain language, thus avoiding the delay that would have arisen from the use of cipher.

LONG HAS LITTLE TO SAY.

Is of the Opinion the Explosion Was of Accidental Origin.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Secretary Long received Captain Sigsbee's dispatch but a few minutes before the Associated Press dispatches from Havana were handed to him. He received the news with apparent calm and his first act was to comply with Captain Sigsbee's request that assistance be sent from Key West. He immediately wired Captain Forsythe at Key West to proceed with the naval tender Fern to Havana harbor.

Secretary Long then sent for Captain Dickens and the two discussed Captain Sigsbee's brief telegram. While neither the secretary nor Captain Dickens are inclined to discuss the probable cause of the accident, several suggestions were ventured upon. They believe that it may have been caused by a fire in the bunkers, heating the bulkhead near a magazine, or that an accident may have occurred while inspecting high explosives for torpedoes. Of course this is mere speculation and the secretary is anxiously waiting a more detailed report from Captain Sigsbee.

ONE OF OUR BEST VESSELS.

The Maine Was a Battleship of the Second Class.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Maine is a battleship of the second class and is regarded as one of the best ships in the navy. She was built at the Brooklyn navy yard and is 318 ft. long, 75 ft. broad, 21.6 mean draught and 6,682 tons displacement. She carries four 10-inch and six 6-inch breechloading guns in her main battery, and seven 6-pounder and eight 1-pounder rapid-fire guns and four gattlings in her secondary battery, and four Whitehead torpedoes. The commander of the Maine, Captain Sigsbee, is a favorite in the navy department.

The Maine was built in New York in 1890 at a cost of \$2,588,000. She had a steel hull and a complement of 874 men.

DE LOME IS GONE

Former Spanish Minister Says Farewell to Washington.

SAILS FOR EUROPE AT ONCE

Large Delegation From the Diplomatic Corps Gives Him a Hearty Adieu at the Station.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The late Spanish minister, Senor Dupuy de Lome, accompanied by Mme. de Lome, their two sons and a Spanish valet, left Washington at 4 p. m. for New York, whence they sail at once for Liverpool. A large delegation from the diplomatic corps, accompanied by their wives, gave a hearty adieu at the station to their late associate.

Senor du Bose, the Spanish charge d'affaires, was busy at the legation office during the day with extended communications just received from Madrid. These did not relate to the recent incident. The legation is now turning its attention to other subjects, mainly to the new commercial treaty between Spain and the United States. Mr. du Bose has not been officially advised from Madrid of the appointment of Senor Luis y Polo Bernabe as minister at Washington.

Will Not Compliment De Lome.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Madrid correspondent of The Times says: In the official acceptance of Senor Dupuy de Lome's resignation the usual complimentary phrase appreciative of his services will be omitted. In this manner Spain hopes to satisfy the United States and to end the question.

RECEIVED A SET BACK.

Woman Suffrage Proposition in Iowa Turned Down Temporarily.

DES MOINES, Feb. 17.—The house killed the woman suffrage proposition to submit an amendment to the people by a vote of 50 to 47. Ladd changed his vote and a reconsideration will

WANT UNITED ACTION

Leaders of the Several Silver Parties Issue Addresses to the Public.

Enemies of the Gold Standard Must Work Together to Be Successful.

Conference in the Interest of Fusion in Session at Minneapolis.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The address on behalf of the Democratic, Populist and Silver Republican parties, which are the result of the conferences which have been in progress among the leaders of these parties at the capital for the past few weeks, were issued during the day. They seek to unite the members of three parties in future elections upon the financial issue as the question of paramount importance and are separate appeals to each of the parties to consolidate all along the line for this purpose. The address to Democrats is signed by Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas, chairman of the Democratic national committee, and is endorsed by the Democratic congressional committee; that of the Populists by Senator Marion Butler, chairman of the Populist national committee, and the 25 other Populist members of the senate and house, and that of the Silver Republicans by Chairman Charles A. Towne and the Silver Republicans in the senate and house and also by ex-Senator Dubois.

The Democratic Address.

The address of the Democratic leaders, after reciting the position of the present administration on the financial question and reviewing at length the currency measures proposed by Secretary Gage and the monetary commission, says:

In view of the great principles involved and of the danger so close at hand we urge the people everywhere to arouse themselves and at once to take steps to save themselves and their children from the fetters now being openly forged to bind them. In recent years there have been a number of instances of congressional districts where the advocates of gold and monopoly were largely outnumbered by their opponents, and where, nevertheless, by a failure to unite and act together, friends of the gold standard have been successful. Thus, as the result of a personal or partisan wrangle, the cause of truth and justice has been overshadowed, the interest of humanity ignored and the greatest good to the government subordinated to an ignoble strife. We appeal to you to let this not be the case again.

Victory Predicted if United.

Our only danger is in division. If we are in earnest we must have harmony amongst ourselves. If there should be those who would divide us, let them be summarily and emphatically rebuked by the people, who have none but high and patriotic motives.

After the bold declaration of the administration in favor of the gold standard no sincere bimetallist can ever again, by his vote or influence, give aid or encouragement to the Republican party. The issue is joined; we cannot avoid it if we would. Either the friends of bimetallism or the advocates of the gold standard, trusts and monopolies must succeed. Who is not for us is against us. We are asking no man to abandon his party or change his politics. We ask no one to yield any principle, but in this great contest we do appeal to all good men to stand solidly together for liberty and humanity, and strike down forever this conspiracy of gold and monopoly.

SILVERITE CONFERENCE.

Prominent Advocates of the White Metal Gathering at Minneapolis.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 17.—Senator Marion Butler and Senator Dubois have arrived here to attend the silver conference. Senator Butler said the purpose was to bring about "not fusion but honorable co-operation." He did not think the so-called mid-roader, who was only one in a thousand, would stand out against it. The situation in Minnesota is so similar to that in many other Western states that the decision of this conference will be looked upon as forming a precedent for action.

Chief Estimator Douglas Sufelides.

THIEF RIVER FALLS, Minn., Feb. 17.—Chief Douglas of the last estimating corps committed suicide near his home here. Pending an investigation of the coroner, no cause can be given for the deed.

NOT WARMLY RECEIVED.

Proposition For a General New England Strike Does Not Meet With Favor.

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—The proposition of the American Federation of Labor to order a general strike in the textile mills of New England seems to meet with a decidedly cool reception in the manufacturing centers where at present there is no trouble. There are two reasons put forward for this: First, that the operatives do not see what they are to gain by it, and second, they have pledged in the best of faith their financial help to carry on the struggle in New Bedford. In several cities the operatives met to discuss the general strike proposition. Only in New Bedford was any sympathy shown for it.

Amended by the Labor Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Grosvenor bill for the arbitration of labor disputes was reported back to the house with amendments by the committee on labor. The amendments require the arbitration board to commence their hearing within five days from the date of the appointment of the third arbitrator and to file their award in 20 days therefrom.

Pittsburg Municipal Elections.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 17.—The municipal election here resulted in a decided victory for the Republicans, notwithstanding the division in their ranks caused by the municipal league or reform ticket.

MRS. BERTOCH CONFESSES.

Iowa Woman Under Arrest Details the Killing of Her Husband.

CLINTON, Ia., Feb. 17.—Mrs. Ernestine Bertoch, who is under arrest charged with complicity in the murder of her first husband, Charles Selhausen, has confessed the details of the crime. She says Theodore Bertoch, whom she afterwards married, put poison in preserves in the presence of herself and her son, William Selhausen. Her husband ate heartily of the preserves and died. Bertoch is now on trial for the crime, but his wife's confession cannot be used against him.

Lloyd's Steamer Ashore.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 17.—The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Modusa, from Trieste, Dec. 20 via Bombay, Jan. 19, for Rangoon, is reported ashore at the Andaman islands, in the Bay of Bengal. Assistance has been sent her.

BANKRUPTCY BILL

House Agrees to Take the Final Vote Saturday Next.

LOUD BILL COMES UP SOON

Unanimous Consent Given for Consideration of the Much Discussed Postal Measure March 1, 2 and 3.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The house put in a busy day. The time was devoted to the consideration of bills and joint resolutions presented under the call of committees and 16 of more or less public importance were passed. An order was also entered by unanimous consent for the consideration of the Loud bill relating to second class mail matter on March 1, 2 and 3, and the order for the consideration of the bankruptcy bill was modified so that the final vote shall be taken on Saturday, instead of Monday, as arranged last week.

DISCUSSED PACIFIC ROADS.

Resolution of Inquiry Precipitates a Lively Debate in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—A resolution of inquiry offered by Mr. Harris (Kan.) precipitated a spirited discussion of the Pacific railroad question in the senate. The resolution called upon the attorney general for the reasons which induced him to abandon his plan of redeeming the first mortgage bonds of the Kansas Pacific branch of the Union Pacific and having the road operated by a receiver. Mr. Harris denounced the present plan to sell the road at the bid of the reorganization committee as defrauding the government of something more than \$8,000,000. Mr. Foraker (O.) explained the view taken of the matter by the administration, showing the president was convinced the reorganization committee proposed to pay for the road all that it was worth. The resolution was finally passed in amended form.

MANY FISHERMAN LOST

Blown Out Into Lake Erie at Buffalo and Are Believed to Have Perished.

Heavy Wind Prevailed, Causing the Ice to Break Away From the Shore.

No Authentic Information Regarding the Loss of the Clara Nevada.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 17.—A number of men, estimated at between 20 and 30, who were fishing through the ice on Lake Erie several miles up the lake, are believed to have lost their lives or are adrift on the ice on the lake. A heavy wind blowing from the East caused the ice to break away from the shore and nothing can now be seen or heard of the men. A large rescue party are on their way through a blinding snow storm up the lake shore, but will not return before morning.

HOPE FOR HER SAFETY.

Conflicting Rumors Regarding the Clara Nevada.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 17.—No further news has been received concerning the reported loss of the Clara Nevada in Alaskan waters. Owing to the many conflicting rumors hopes for her safety have not yet been abandoned. On account of the remoteness of the scene of the reported disaster, it is impossible to get anything authentic. Unless some unexpected steamer arrives no definite news is expected for several days.

THE RUINS COLLAPSED.

Walls of the Union Storage Building Fell, Burying Several Boys.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 17.—The south wall of the Union Storage company's building, which was destroyed in the big fire last Wednesday, fell shortly before 11 a. m. A number of boys were at play about the ruins and it is believed that at least five were caught by the falling wall and are buried under the debris.

Two persons, Samuel Lewis, a colored man, and Charles Cramer, a boy, were taken out alive. They were not dangerously hurt. Young Cramer says a number of his companions were caught under the wall. A large force is clearing the debris. Parts of the wall still standing are in an extremely dangerous condition and the searchers are in danger of being buried.

PARIS IS CALMING DOWN.

Interest in the Zola Trial, However, Is Unabated.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—The excitement caused by the Zola trial has greatly abated, but the interest is absorbing and grows daily. When the trial is finished the discussion will be moved to the chamber of deputies and the senate, where the cabinet will be on its trial.

There are still 13 witnesses to be examined, and then will come the addresses of the advocates general, M. Van Casset, M. Laborie and M. Clemenceau. M. Laborie is expected to speak four or five hours. M. Zola will speak very briefly.

UNDER MILITARY ARREST.

Prominent Officers of the Iowa National Guard Accused of a Serious Offense.

DES MOINES, Feb. 17.—John Hume, W. H. S. Matthews, Emory Worthington, all prominent officers in the Iowa National Guard, will, it is stated, be placed under military arrest, charged with tampering with the returns at the first election of commander of the first brigade. The case involving contested points in the election has been pending in the supreme court for years.

Gold Near Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG, Man., Feb. 17.—A find of rich gold bearing quartz is reported from Black Island lake, Winnipeg. This is near Hale river, where gold quartz has been found and more or less developed. The vein is said to be over 12 feet wide and pans gold freely.

Cut Legislative Salaries.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A dispatch to The Times from Montevideo says: The new council of state has reduced the salaries of members of the legislature by one-half. The reduction, according to the dispatch, removes a prolific source of political corruption.

PEASANTS IN OPEN REVOLT.

Serious Fighting and Loss of Life in Portions of Hungary.

VIENNA, Feb. 17.—The agrarian socialist movement in Hungary is becoming most serious. At Kistarkany, in the Kaschau district, 1,000 peasants are in open revolt. They have murdered the local magistrate and are holding the village against the troops sent to restore order.

At Agrud, in the same district, in a desperate fight between the gendarmes and the peasants, 4 were killed and 20 wounded. There have been many arrests and much disorder in other districts.

POPULACE PREFER WAR.

Spaniards Enraged at Talk of Apology to Uncle Sam.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A special from Madrid says the populace of that city is greatly enraged owing to the belief that the Spanish cabinet has apologized to the United States. The populace, the dispatch adds, is opposed to such a course and exceedingly hostile to the government, and may make a demonstration. In conclusion the dispatch says:

"The people prefer war to an apology, thinking that Spain will suffer the least thereby, as war would be exceedingly disastrous to the large commerce of the United States."

OFFICIALS EXONERATED.

Minnesota Prison Investigation Commission Files Its Report.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 17.—The commission appointed some months ago to investigate the charges that some of the convicts of the state prison at Stillwater had been subjected to cruelty by Deputy Warden Lemon has filed its report with Governor Clough. The substance of the report is as follows:

"We find that none of the charges against any of the officers of the prison of cruelty to convicts, or of any other character, have been sustained, and we exonerate them all from any suspicion of improper treatment of the convicts under their charge; and we find that the prison is in excellent condition, both as a place for the confinement of criminals and as to its general conduct and management, and so thoroughly were we convinced on all these points that we congratulate the state upon its possessing such an unexceptional penal institution as the state prison at Stillwater."

Stood Well in the Community.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—William P. Moody, an employe of the banking firm of Dunlap Bros., has been arrested on the charge of embezzling \$29,000 from the funds of the Oak Park Building and Loan association. Moody stood high in the estimation of his employers and in the suburb of Oak Park, in which he lived.

The Doctor Was Discharged.

MAINTHLETOWN, Ia., Feb. 17.—K. C. Roberts, the Christian Scientist physician, who was arrested two weeks ago upon the death of Mrs. Rachael Rambaugh on the instance of the coroner, Dr. F. P. Lierle, who desired to convict him of illegitimate practice of medicine, has been discharged.

Will Have to Discharge Coal.

FORT SAID, Feb. 17.—The first class British battleship Victorious, which sailed from Malta on Feb. 11 for China, and which went ashore outside the bar while entering this port, will have to discharge her coal and probably her guns before she can be floated.

Cuban Amazon Captured.

HAVANA, Feb. 17.—It is announced in Spanish circles that Senorita Isabel Rubio, who is described as an Amazon, was captured after being wounded in a skirmish between a detachment of Spanish troops and some insurgents in the province of Pinar del Rio.

Granted Temporary Liberty.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 17.—The court of appeals entered an order granting the seven Covington councilmen who are confined in jail by order of Judge Tervin liberty temporarily. The order directs an appeal to be taken to the court of appeals and grants bail to the respondents pending the hearing of the case on appeal.

Big Water Power Deal.

KAUKAUNA, Wis., Feb. 17.—The deal by which the power at Quinesec and the paper and pulp mills, with 1,000 acres of land, passes from the hands of the Quinesec company to the Kimberly & Clark company, will be consummated this week. The price paid is about \$300,000.