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NO DELAY INTENDED

President Will Send the Maine Report to Congress as Soon as It Arrives.

Findings of the Court Expected to Reach Washington Thursday.

Belief that the Explosion Was External Growing in Official Circles.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The procedure in connection with the submission of the report of the Maine court of inquiry by the president to congress is now clearly outlined and a cabinet officer explained the general line of action at present intended to be pursued upon receipt of the report, which is expected to reach Washington next Thursday. A copy of it will be laid before the Spanish government very early, and, as soon as it can be consistently done, the report will be sent to congress and made public at the same time. The report to congress will be accompanied by a message from the president stating that, after receiving the report, the conclusions were laid before the Spanish government and appropriate action from that quarter asked. It is stated positively that no part of the report and

No intimation of the findings has reached the executive authorities in Washington as yet. At the same time it is a noticeable fact that the current official opinion is beginning to follow that of the unofficial opinion expressed so positively and persistently at Havana and Key West that the cause of the explosion was external to the battleship. Officials high in the administration state that while they were wholly without exact information as to the findings of the court of inquiry they found themselves sharing in the apparently intangible conviction that the cause of the explosion was not accidental. Opinion expressed by the Maine survivors who reached here last Saturday doubtless contributed largely to this view in official circles. In this connection it is understood that one of the officers who arrived on Saturday stated, not as opinion but as his personal observation on the night of the disaster, that

There Were Two Distinct Explosions. The tendency of this is to support the theory of external cause, as this is based on the idea that the first external explosion was followed by a second internal explosion.

Intense interest in the report was manifested during the day at the White House and at the state, war and navy departments. The president received a number of congressional leaders, among them being Speaker Reed and Chairman Hitt of the house committee on foreign affairs. The visit of Mr. Reed naturally attracted much attention, as he seldom leaves the congressional sphere to make calls on the executive branch, and it was naturally inferred that the purpose of his visit was to confer upon the Cuban situation and its future before congress, though neither he nor Mr. Hitt was communicative. Secretary Long also had an extended conference with the president.

Submarine Boat Made Another Trip. NEW YORK, March 23.—The Holland submarine boat made another trip from Perth Amboy, N. J., during the day. At a depth of 15 feet under water she showed good speed and was handled with ease. The boat's conning tower will be filled with electric lights before another trip is made.

Warships Coaling at Jamaica. KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 23.—The United States cruiser Cincinnati arrived during the morning at Port Antonio from Barbadoes and the United States gunboats Wilmington and Castine reached the same port shortly afterwards from St. Lucia. The three warships are coaling.

French Fleet May Be For Spain. LONDON, March 23.—The St. James Gazette, commenting on the mobilization of the French fleet, suggests it may be connected with the Spanish question, and says: "If the trouble between Spain and the United States should become acute, it would precipitate issues of great moment for France."

DR. KLOPSCH REPORTS.

Over Two Hundred Thousand Cubans Are Helplessly Destitute.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Dr. Louis Klopsch, now in Cuba in charge of the American relief work, cables from Havana under date of March 21 to The Christian Herald: "The situation is simply this: Two hundred and five thousand reconcentrados in over 400 accessible towns are helplessly destitute. Unless we can get regularly, without a break, 300 tons of corn meal and 50 tons of lard or bacon every week, we cannot effectively relieve the suffering. Sporadic and unsystematic efforts defeat all good intentions. Canned goods are useless and condensed milk should be substituted. Fifteen thousand dollars weekly will feed every starving man, woman and child in Cuba. Small, irregular shipments are only tantalizing."

IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Colonel Salcedo Brings That Report of the Cuban Army.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 23.—Colonel Salcedo of the Cuban army, who has arrived here after a severe experience in an open boat, said: "The Cuban army is in excellent health and condition. General Calixto Garcia has 16,500 men in the eastern department, between Santiago de Cuba and Camaguey. These forces have 12 field pieces, 2 dynamite guns and 2,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition."

ON A LARGE SCALE

War Preparations Continuing Without Interruption.

NO VESSELS ON THE MARKET

Negotiations Along That Line Are Not Assuming a Very Promising Aspect.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The army and navy preparations are continuing without interruption, although they have now become so regular as to lapse into routine on a gigantic scale. No further purchases of warships were concluded during the day, and the negotiations are not assuming a promising aspect, except in showing that the United States can command the market as against Spain.

The Ordnance office of the war department presented a very busy scene when bids were opened for furnishing the department about 1,600 cast iron projectiles for seacoast cannon with which to man the fortifications. There were an unusually large number of firms who bid for the contract and the prices at which they proposed to furnish the projectiles show a wide range.

DEFENSE OF DRY TORTUGAS

Council at the War Office to Discuss the Project.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—An important conference was held in the office of the secretary of war during the day in regard to the fortification of Tortugas harbor. There were present Secretary Alger, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt of the navy department, General Miles, General Wilson, chief of engineers, and Colonel Henry M. Robert, corps of engineers. The last named officer was stationed in the Florida district many years ago in charge of river and harbor works and fortifications, and his advice, therefore, is valuable as to the details involved in the establishment of a coaling station at Tortugas and the construction of fortifications and harbor defenses. After an extended discussion no conclusion was reached and another conference will be held soon.

The Texas Starts Northward.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The battleship Texas started northward from Key West during the day, thus settling the question as to the formation of a second squadron at or near Hampton Roads. It is expected the Massachusetts will follow in a few days, but the final orders for that move have not been made.

Prominent Duluth Man Suicides.

DULUTH, March 23.—Truman E. Welch, superintendent of both the Duluth Gas and Water companies and the Commercial Light and Power company, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. Mr. Welch was one of the most highly respected citizens of Duluth, and no cause can be found for his rash act.

WAITING FOR CUBA

No Desire on the Part of Senators to Take Up Important Legislation.

Belief Quite Decided That the Administration Is Prepared to Act.

Senator Thurston Declares the Time for Intervention Is at Hand.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The short session of the senate was quite unusual for the early part of the week. That no one was prepared to go on with any pending measure was given as the explanation, but privately the opinion was stated by some of the senators that while the Cuban question remained in such suspense there was no desire to take up important legislation. The outlook as to Cuba was discussed among senators almost to the exclusion of other topics and the belief was quite decided that the administration is preparing to take a positive position within the next week. Several senators made the prediction that the United States would intervene. Being pressed for a reason they stated that they had reached this conclusion after more or less conference with executive officers, but at the same time saying quite emphatically that they had no positive information on this point. Other senators thought the recognition of Cuban independence more probable than intervention. Almost all expressed the view that some action surely will follow the report of the Maine court of inquiry regardless of its purport.

THE TIME IS AT HAND.

Senator Thurston Believes the United States Should Intervene at Once.

OMAHA, March 23.—"If the time for the intervention of the United States in the affairs of Cuba is not here now it never will come," said Senator Thurston. "I wired Senator Allen to announce that I would speak on the Cuban question in the senate next Thursday." The senator says that the only solution of the trouble is such intervention unless the people of the United States are willing to look on and see the work of starvation, already so far advanced, completed. The reconcentrados are absolutely without hope and if the death lists in any parts of the island are decreasing it is only because the material for starvation to work upon is giving out.

CHANDLER IS AUTHORITY.

Says the President Will Soon Issue a Proclamation.

CONCORD, N. H., March 23.—Senator William E. Chandler, in an editorial in the Concord Monitor, says that President McKinley is about to take action in the name of the United States to relieve the famine and sickness in Cuba. "Food and medicine and clothing," he says, "given by the generous people of the United States will be sent with the approval of Spain if she consents, or will be carried by American steamers and soldiers without that approval, if she does not consent." "The end of the starvation and torture is near at hand. Every humane person in this whole land should sustain and bless the president in his coming proclamation, which is to cause the name of William McKinley to be held in sacred reverence by the Cuban generation as long as will be revered the name of Abraham Lincoln by the colored race in America."

Advertise for Naval Recruits.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The government has issued naval enlistment posters which are being sent throughout the country. Applications are received at the following recruiting stations: Boston, Brooklyn, New York, League Island navyyard, Washington navyyard, United States steamer Michigan at Erie, Pa., New Orleans, Mare Island navyyard, Norfolk navyyard and Gloucester, Mass.

Funeral of Blanche K. Bruce.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The funeral of Blanche K. Bruce, ex-slave, ex-senator and twice register of the treasury, was held here during the day. The Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal church was crowded with the representative colored population of the city.

MUST PAY IN FULL

Bills for Settlement of Remaining Pacific Railway Debts Agreed Upon.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The senate committee on Pacific railroads decided to report the bills for settlement of the Central Pacific and the Sioux City and Pacific debts. The secretary of the treasury, the secretary of the interior and the attorney general are created a commission to settle the debts and to make such extensions as may be necessary to secure the government's interests. In the case of the Central Pacific an amendment was adopted providing that the full amount of the government's principal and interest must be paid. No limitation was placed on the Sioux City and Pacific, and it is probable that Senators Morgan and Harris will make a majority report in favor of a similar restriction to that placed on the Central Pacific settlement.

NAVAL BILL COMPLETE.

As Introduced It Will Carry Nearly \$37,000,000.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The house committee on naval affairs has completed the naval appropriation bill and it will be reported to the house soon. While the footings of the various items were not completed when the committee adjourned, the bill is roughly calculated as carrying between \$30,000,000 and \$37,000,000, of which about \$3,000,000 will be expended on this year's work on the three new battleships, six torpedo boats and six torpedo boat destroyers.

VOTE UNANIMOUS

House Passes the Relief Bill for Maine Victims.

COUSINS AROUSES ENTHUSIASM

Debate Saved From a Sordid Tone by the Eloquent Plea of the Iowa Congressman.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The house unanimously passed the bill for the relief of the survivors and victims of the Maine disaster. The bill reimburses the surviving officers and men for the losses they sustained to an amount not to exceed a year's sea pay and directs a sum equal to a year's pay to the legal heirs of those who perished. There was quite a spirited debate over an amendment suggested by Mr. Cannon to give the survivors each a year's pay out of hand instead of attempting to reimburse them for actual losses. Some old alleged scandals in connection with the reimbursement of the survivors of the Samoan disaster were raked up, but the debate in the end was saved from a rather sordid tone by a beautiful tribute paid to the gallant dead by Mr. Cousins (Ia.) in a short but eloquent speech. He aroused the galleries to spontaneous applause when he said that while the vultures might be watching over the dark waters of Havana harbor for the belated dead, above all the eagle's piercing eye was watching for the truth.



ROBERT G. COUSINS.

Senate Did Little Business. WASHINGTON, March 23.—The senate, after passing some minor bills to which there was no objection, adjourned at 1:55 for the day.

Canada Bars Our Nursery Stock.

OTTAWA, March 21.—The bill prohibiting the entry into Canada of nursery stock from the United States was signed during the day by the governor general. It goes into effect at once.

Turks and Bulgarians Fight.

SALONICA, March 21.—Rumors are in circulation here of encounters at various points on the frontier between Bulgarian bands and the Ottoman troops.

BUTTE'S HOTEL FIRE

Destruction of the Hale House Resulted in at Least a Score of Deaths.

That Number Known to Be Missing and Search May Disclose More.

Two Hundred and Fifty in the Building When the Fire Started.

BUTTE, Mon., March 23.—The loss of life by the burning of the Hale House is still unknown, but it is certain to reach more than a score. Two men are dead from injuries received in jumping from windows, three are dying and twenty are missing, while a search of the ruins may disclose the fact that many transient lodgers lost their lives also.

The Hale House was a large 3-story brick building and was used as a lodging and boarding house by miners in the employ of the Anaconda company. There were 250 men and women in the building when the fire broke out. Of these it is believed that about 200 escaped without injury.

Had a Good Start When Discovered.

The fire started in the bakery in the center of the building and had a good start when discovered. When the firemen arrived, men in their underclothing and others half dressed were clambering down the fire escapes in the rear. Many others, together with the servant girls, were at the windows in the front of the building frantically calling for help. They were cut off from the rear of the building by the dense smoke. The ladders were run up, but not before many of the frightened people had jumped. Others, including all the female help, were gotten out by the firemen. On the side of the building many made ropes of their bed clothes and sought to escape in that way. Some of them succeeded, but in many cases the ropes broke and the men dropped many feet to the ground.

Twenty Known to Be Missing.

It is possible some of the missing men may turn up yet. Early in the day the list of the supposed dead ran up as high as 50. This was because many of the men who escaped did not report for work at the mine. Little by little, however, the list decreased as men reported, until 20 known lodgers were unaccounted for. It is possible, however, that a number of transient roomers who are not well known may be dead in the ruins. Only an examination will settle that point, and this cannot be made until the ruins cool off.

The Hale House belonged to the Anaconda company. It was built in 1855 at a cost of \$70,000, and with the furniture and belongings of the lodgers the loss will reach fully \$100,000.

CLOSE TO THE DERVISHES.

Anglo-Egyptian Force Is Ready for an Attack.

BARA CAMP, Nubia, March 23.—The Anglo-Egyptian force is hourly expecting an attack. The army marched six miles during the day to Rashudi and is now awaiting the reports of the patrols who are feeling for the dervish army.

Sailed for the North.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 23.—Steamers City of Seattle and Utopia have sailed for Dyes and Skaguay, Alaska, with 430 passengers from this port. The ship Yosemite also sailed from the same port with 67 passengers and 2,000 tons of cargo. She carried 80 head of burros. Steamer Excelsior has sailed for Copper River with 157 passengers.

For Defense of Galveston.

GALVESTON, Tex., March 23.—Four mortars, completing the 8-mortar battery at Fort Point, reached Galveston during the day and will be mounted at once. Light Battery K is bivouached on the reservation preparatory to the building of quarters.

Spanish Report Not Received.

LONDON, March 23.—The Madrid correspondent of The Daily Mail says: "Senator Sagasta, the premier, declares that the government has not received the report from the Spanish naval court on the Maine disaster."

THIS MAY BE THE REPORT

Bulky Document Issued Over to Admiral Seward by Lieutenant Marix.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 23.—Judge Advocate Marix of the court of inquiry came ashore at 3 o'clock, p. m., accompanied by an armed orderly from the Iowa, who carried a bulky package of official documents, which was handed over to Rear Admiral Seward. It is believed the documents are the full findings of the court of inquiry. Lieutenant Commander Marix, when questioned on this subject, refused to either deny or confirm, but an officer from the Iowa said the documents were the long-expected report on the Maine disaster. The papers were immediately examined by the rear admiral and Commander West. It is presumed that if these documents are the anxiously expected report they will be taken to Washington by Lieutenant Commander Marix.

NEW ORLEANS AND ALBANY.

Brazilian Cruisers Rechristened by Secretary Long.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Secretary Long has issued an order that the Amazonas, the cruiser recently purchased at Newcastle-on-Tyne from the Brazilian government, hereafter shall bear the name of New Orleans. The secretary has also rechristened the cruiser Abreual, sister ship of the Amazonas, and hereafter she will be known as the Albany, in honor of the capital of the Empire state.

COMMITTEE IS MISTAKEN.

Sir Julian Pauncefote Denies That England Is After Hawaii.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Much surprise has been created in England by the passage in the recent report of the senate committee on foreign relations respecting the attitude of Great Britain toward Hawaii, and Sir Julian Pauncefote, under instructions from his government, has informed the department of state that the committee of the senate are under an entire misapprehension, and that there is no ground whatever for the allegations contained in the statement.

MINOR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Minnesota Populists will meet in state convention at Minneapolis on June 15.

The Pennsylvania railroad depot in Jersey City has been damaged by fire to the extent of \$100,000.

Representative King of Utah has introduced a joint resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba.

In a shooting affray at Senatobia, Miss., Sheriff Bray was killed and Deputy Sheriff Gilmore dangerously wounded.

Monday's statement of the condition of the treasury shows available cash balance, \$223,742,043; gold reserve, \$171,179,797.

The ore shipping season has opened, the Duluth and Iron Range railroad having begun to ship ore from the Chantier mine at Ely, Minn.

John Calloway, a negro, was lynched near Round Mountain, in North Alabama, Sunday night for paying attention to a young white girl.

Wenzel Toepfer, well known throughout the United States as a manufacturer of iron supplies for brewers and malsters, is dead at Milwaukee.

Joe Choyanski, who for 14 years has been one of the star pugilists in the roped arena, the hero of 50 fistic battles, is suffering from blood poisoning.

President Gates of Amherst college has been given a year's vacation by the trustees, and it is generally believed he will not return to the institution.

The Duke of Talleyrand and Sagan is dead. He was born in Paris in 1811. His second wife was a daughter of the late Marshal Boniface, Comte de Castellane.

STRICT PRESS CENSORSHIP.

News Unpalatable to the Spanish Government Promptly Suppressed.

NEW YORK, March 23.—A dispatch to The World from Madrid says: "Instructions have been given since Friday night to the press censor to stop all foreign and domestic telegrams—and even telephone messages—containing news unpalatable to the government. Unauthorized details of naval and military preparations, of the movements of war vessels, particularly of the flying squadron; of the purchase of vessels of war and stores abroad are especially interdicted."

Hitherto no step had been taken to prevent the Madrid press from publishing frequent abundant information. The same press censor will also stop telegrams sent from Madrid to newspapers in America, England and France when they contain news which is deemed likely to create alarm.