

A Summary of Important Events.

FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER MARIK and his naval companions, bearing the report of the Maine court of inquiry, reached Washington on the night of the 24th.

ORDERS were issued, on the 24th, detaching Capt. Sigbee and other officers from the battleship Maine at Havana and ordering them to proceed home and await orders.

The naval appropriation bill, as reported to the house, on the 23d, carries a total of \$35,683,058, an increase over last year of \$3,764,432 and over the current estimates of \$2,514,824.

The president announced, on the 23d, that he had decided to appoint Judson Lyons, the negro national commissioner from Georgia, to be register of the treasury to succeed the late B. K. Bruce.

SECRETARY LONG has re-chartered the cruiser Abuel, recently purchased from the Brazilian government, and hereafter she will be known as the Albany, in honor of the capital of the Empire state.

BUSINESS was done at Lloyds, in London, on the 24th, in war risks to cover speculative acts, ten guineas per centum being paid against war being declared between Spain and the United States during the next six months.

SECRETARY LONG issued an order, on the 21st, that the Amazonas, the cruiser recently purchased at Newcastle-on-Tyne from the Brazilian government, shall bear the name of New Orleans, in honor of the principal city of Louisiana.

GERMANY has no inclination to interfere in the Cuban question. The Berlin Post says that Germany's complex commercial interests, as well as her regard for the German residents in the United States, forbid any interference.

An ominous sign that the strained relations between the United States and Spain will result in war is furnished by English ship owners, who have called to their agents in this country that all charters must contain the "war clause."

The Iron Trade Review, of Cleveland, O., announces its consolidation with the Industrial World, of Chicago. Both papers have represented the iron and steel and machinery trades of the central and western states for the past 25 years.

The United States has purchased, in England, from the firm of Vickers, Sons & Maxim, \$375,000 worth of rapid-fire guns for the navy. The United States wanted five times as many as this, but the firm could not supply them in time to be available.

The Philadelphia Methodist Episcopal conference at Chester, Pa., on the 21st, took a vote on the Rock River resolution providing that the laity shall have equal representation with the clergy in the general conference. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 159 to 66.

The medical board, which sat on the flagship New York, at Key West, Fla., to consider the retirement of Rear-Admiral Sicard, completed its work on the 23d. It was impossible to learn the decision at which the board arrived, but it is believed that it recommended his retirement.

A DISPATCH from Havana, on the 23d, said: "It is most probable, indeed it is most certain, that if the United States government claims indemnity for the loss of the Maine, Spain will put in a counter claim for hundreds of millions of dollars for damages through filibustering expeditions."

The Spanish minister called at the state department, on the 21st, and presented Messrs. Angulo, Valera and Cadenas, who are the direct representatives of the autonomous cabinet in Cuba. With this presentation negotiations toward a commercial treaty were expected to begin.

It is known positively that the negotiations between Gen. Pando's delegates, Ramirez and Charvez, and Gen. Calixto Garcia and other prominent Cuban insurgents, in which the radical autonomists made what are said to be final offers of practical independence, proved an absolute failure.

The Italian chamber of deputies, on the 23d, adopted, by a vote of 207 to 7, the committee's report recommending "political censure" against former Premier Crispi, who had been accused of complicity in the Bank of Naples scandals and also of trafficking in decorations.

SUPP. J. W. MILLS, of the Pomona (Cal.) agricultural experiment station, has succeeded in grafting a morning glory on a sweet potato vine. As a result both plants attained an unusually large growth. The sweet potato vine produced 21 pounds of potatoes, the average being from 10 to 12 ounces.

SENOR POLO, the Spanish minister, said, on the 23d, that the report from Madrid that he had notified his government that the American naval court of inquiry's report was that the explosion was of external origin was an error. He had had no means of ascertaining the fact and had made no report to his government.

The managers of the Joint Traffic association, on the 23d, approved the annual recommendation of the General Passenger association, granting special excursion fares of 1 1/2 per capita for students returning home for the spring holidays. Special passenger rates were approved also for the grand encampment of the Knights of Pythias to be held at Indianapolis, August 22-29 next.

A RELIEF fund of \$9,233 and 21 carloads of provisions and clothing, collected in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma for the starving Cubans of Matanzas, was forwarded south from Kansas City, Mo., on the 20th. These relief measures are carried out under the management of the Kansas City Star, and agents of that paper will aid in the distribution at Matanzas, under the direction of United States Consul Price.

The General Transatlantic Co.'s mail steamer Ville du Rome was wrecked off Port Mahon, Balearic islands, in the Mediterranean, on the 23d. The supreme court of Montana has handed down a decision affirming the sentence of John P. Bloor, convicted of secreting and thus defeating the passage of what was known as the county salary reduction bill, while he was secretary of the state senate.

The activity at the Charlestown (Mass.) navy yard continues. Orders were issued, on the 23d, for the employment of 47 men in the engineering department, on the gunboat Machias, in making necessary repairs.

SECRETARY LONG has determined to bring into service the eight old single-turreted monitors used during the war, and since lying in League Island navy yard, Philadelphia.

On the 23d Capt. Sigbee was ordered to hold himself in readiness for sea duty. The other officers of the Maine who had not already left Havana were ordered home.

On the 23d the bureau of ordnance awarded contracts for supplying about 1,600 cast iron projectiles for seacoast fortifications. As rapidly as completed they will be shipped to the various places at which they are needed. Two Virginia companies were given the contracts.

COMMANDANT FORSYTHE, at Key West, has received orders from Washington to refuse to give out any information regarding the movements of the fleet. The order is very emphatic and does not mince words regarding reports.

The selection of the battleship Iowa for the commander-in-chief's flagship is regarded as significant, in view of Admiral Sicard's probable retirement. The president, it was said, would take two days for the consideration of the report of the Maine court of inquiry, and send it to congress promptly.

At noon on the 28th with a short message, at the same time having a copy of it cable to Minister Woodford to present to the Spanish government. The incessant rains of late have caused disastrous floods throughout Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Illinois, West Virginia and Kentucky, accompanied by loss of life through accidents caused by washouts and weakened bridges. Railroad traffic suffered severely.

The cold wave which recently swept in from the west did much damage to fruit trees and early vegetation in all the states which it has traversed. The injury was increased by the fact that the preceding warm had caused the trees to blossom freely.

MISS CLARA BARTON, head of the Red Cross society, Gunner Morgan of the Atlantic and four divers, with an unidentified body from the ill-fated Maine, arrived at Key West, Fla., on board the steamer Olivette from Havana on the 23d. Miss Barton went through to Tampa.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY issued an order, on the 23d, placing ten vessels of the revenue marine service under the control of the navy department, and when properly armed, they will be attached to the fleet at Key West.

It was announced in Madrid, on the 24th, that the Bank of Spain would lend the Spanish government 200,000,000 pesetas, (\$35,000,000), guaranteed by the new treasury bonds.

WHILE returning home from market on the 24th, Samuel Hagey and wife, living near New Hagerstown, O., were drowned while crossing the McGuire creek. The statement of the condition of the treasury, issued on the 24th, showed available cash balance, \$224,716,922; gold reserve, \$171,867,761.

A DISPATCH from Erie, Pa., on the 24th, said the crew of the lake gunboat Michigan had been ordered to the sea-board. JOHN S. HOPKINS, cashier of the People's national bank of Philadelphia, died suddenly, on the 24th, of heart disease.

The house committee on coinage, weights and measures has decided to prepare a bill for an assay office on the Pacific coast, to be located at Seattle, Wash. ORDERS were received at Newport, R. I., on the 24th, to ship crews for the new torpedo boats Gwyn and Talbot.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

The president and cabinet, having the report of the board of inquiry into the Maine disaster under consideration, on the 25th, gave out an advance statement, which declared that the evidence showed that the vessel was destroyed by a submarine mine, but that the findings failed to fix the responsibility for the explosion.

The cabinet session, on the 25th, lasted until nearly 5:30 o'clock. The entire situation was discussed at length, but no definite or final conclusion on any particular point was reached. The situation was regarded as decidedly critical, and it was feared that there would be great difficulty in avoiding trouble.

In the Kings county (N. Y.) criminal court, in Brooklyn, on the 25th, 14 or 15 indictments were handed down by the grand jury against former city officials and contractors of Brooklyn. It is said that the indictments charged a conspiracy by which the city was defrauded out of \$80,000 by means of fraudulent contracts.

A REPORT that Japan has requested Russia to evacuate Port Arthur, finds credence in the Japanese press of Yokohama, which regard the recall of M. Alexoff, the Russian customs agent at Seoul, as a sign that Russia has changed her policy in regard to Korea.

The purchase by the United States of M. C. D. Berden's yacht Sovereign has been recommended by the naval board appointed to select vessels for the navy. No one connected with the board would state the price asked for the Sovereign.

HON. TRUMAN P. HANDY, who it is said, had the distinction of being the oldest active banker in the United States, died at his home in Cleveland, O., on the 25th, aged 91. Death was due to a heavy cold, followed by stomach complications and pneumonia.

The Wilmington Methodist Episcopal conference, at Lewes, Del., on the 23d, adopted, by a vote of 132 to 5, the proposition of the Rock River (Ill.) conference favoring the equal representation of lay and ministerial delegates in the general conference.

FAILURES throughout the country, as reported by Dun & Co., during the week ended March 25, were 251, as compared with 291 for the corresponding week last year. For Canada the failures were 21, against 50 last year.

The Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Audaz arrived at Waterford, Ireland, on the 25th, with her bows stove in and her stem twisted completely around from about ten feet from the stern.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

Recent Deaths. Rudolph Uhlman, the pioneer photographer of St. Joseph, at Hot Springs, Ark., of inflammatory rheumatism. He was 68 years of age, and resided in St. Joseph 40 years.

Samuel Somerville, a well-to-do farmer of Sullivan county, aged 80 years. He came from Virginia nearly fifty years ago, and served four years in the late war.

The Rain, Sleet and Snow-Storm. The rain, sleet and snow-storm of the 23d and 24d caused great damage in Missouri, especially in the northern and central portions. Many streams were made torrents, flooding farm lands and sweeping everything before them.

Fears were entertained for peaches and early fruits that the warm weather had almost caused to bloom. In many localities rain fell 60 hours without ceasing, and then turned to sleet and snow.

Beat His Wife to Death. At Winona, Shannon county, Oscar H. Baker is charged with having beaten his wife to death. When the officers arrived at the house Mrs. Baker was found dead, her body on the floor and her feet on the bed, her head being a mass of cuts and bruises and the skull frightfully crushed.

The husband was sullenly sitting by. He was at once placed under arrest. The floor and wall were spotted with blood, showing evidence of a terrible struggle. A bloody knife was sticking in the wall. The murderer, after the awful deed, had washed the woman's face and tried to wash the blood off his own clothes.

They are alleged to have been addicted to drinking, and quarreled frequently over money matters. In the Great Fruit Region. Reports to St. Louis papers from the fruit district of southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas say that the cold spell has not injured the fruit crop to any great extent.

Some of the trees which were budding will bear little or no fruit, because there was a hard freeze. The damage to the fruit crop of southwest Missouri will not exceed 10 per cent., while some farmers maintain that the freeze was an actual benefit, and insures a better fruit crop by killing off the first buds and thereby preventing overloading of trees.

The recent heavy rains throughout that part of the state make the outlook for good crops very promising. Tom Brown's Aerial Ship. Thomas J. Brown, train dispatcher for the Missouri Pacific at Sedalia, who was recently granted a patent on an aluminum aerial torpedo ship, and who has been negotiating with the government for the sale of the invention, has received a request from the government to submit his plans to the board of ordnance and fortifications of the war department.

Shot the Fiddler. At Bradleyville, Taney county, Scott Masterson's son was married, and the event was celebrated by a dance at Masterson's house. A difficulty arose, and a fight resulted, in which Masterson shot Jake Lahey through the breast. Lahey was a fiddler.

A Tornado. The western portion of Richmond was visited by a tornado early the other morning. Three houses were demolished and others were lifted from their foundations and turned completely around. Several persons were slightly injured.

Confirmed By the Senate. Nominations of the following to be postmasters of Missouri towns have been confirmed by the United States senate: W. L. Silliman, Clarksville; G. F. Robinson, Jefferson City; W. F. Bloebaum, St. Charles.

Caused a Stampede. An explosion of chemicals in the laboratory of the Sedalia high school caused almost a stampede of the pupils. A large bay window was blown out and the laboratory was partly wrecked.

Dunkards to Go to North Dakota. A colony of 125 Dunkards left at Warrensburg recently for North Dakota to make their homes there, where they will be joined by a number from Indiana.

The Emory Wheel Burst. At Kansas City, Edgar Farley, aged 17, was working at an emery wheel when it broke, one-half of it crashing through the boy's skull. He died.

Damage Caused By Rain. The recent rains have caused considerable damage to farm and railroad property throughout the state. Heaviest rains were along the Missouri.

The St. Charles Bridge. A bill to extend one year the time for beginning the construction of a bridge across the Missouri at St. Charles has passed the United States senate.

Will Respond Promptly. Adjt.-Gen. Bell stated the other night that in case the president made a call for troops the national guard of Missouri would respond promptly.

To a Better Country. A number of Italians, who located several years ago at Sunny Side, southeastern Arkansas, have removed to Knobview, Crawford county.

An Awful Profit. At Sedalia John Hardesty and John Kirkpatrick, strangers, were arrested, charged with plating one-cent pieces and passing them for dimes.

Gov. Stephens in California. Gov. and Mrs. Stephens left Jefferson City the other day for a month's stay in California, where the governor will recuperate.

Made Assistant Postmaster. Clarence G. Hackett has been appointed assistant postmaster of Sedalia by John M. Glenn, the newly-appointed postmaster.

Courthouse Destroyed By Fire. Fire destroyed the Mercer county courthouse. The contents, including all county records and documents, are a total loss.

To Help the Cubans. The Time and Tide club gave an entertainment at Knobview on the opera house to raise money to help the Cuban relief fund.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS.

Will Intervene in Cuban Affairs Upon Humanitarian Grounds Within a Week.

AN ACTIVE DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Secretary Long Makes Assignments Practically Placing the Navy on a War Footing—Startling Developments Crowd Each Other—The Next Important Move.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The last day before the arrival of the report of the Maine court of inquiry was one of unexampled activity in all quarters. Advice came early that the Spanish torpedo flotilla had sailed from the Canaries for Porto Rico, and from this moment the most energetic warlike measures followed one another in constant succession.

The movement of this fleet has been watched with the keenest interest, as it was felt to involve serious possibilities which might compel the United States government to protest against the movement as of a hostile character.

Immediately on the receipt of the official dispatch from one of our naval attaches abroad, briefly announcing the sailing of the fleet, the fact was made known to the president and an earnest conference was held between him and Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt. The seriousness of the movement was fully considered, and the president was advised that naval strategists regarded it as essential that this torpedo fleet

Should Not be Allowed to Reach Western Waters. What, if any, conclusion was reached is not known. Later in the day the Spanish minister, Senor Polo y Bernabe, called at the state department, and spent some time with Judge Day. It was naturally inferred that the approach of the Spanish flotilla was one of the subjects referred to. Whether, however, there was any suggestion against the move was not disclosed either by Judge Day or the Spanish minister, but more recently the strictest reticence regarding the conference, and refused to speak concerning it.

Important News Followed Rapidly. The first was the announcement by Secretary Long, indicating the placing of our squadron and fleet on a war footing.

"Admiral Sicard has been granted leave every month to the regret of the navy department, and altogether on account of his health. "Capt. Sampson has been made commander of the fleet at Key West. "Capt. Evans has been ordered to take command of the battleship Iowa. "The orders to the squadron in Hampton Roads have not yet been issued."

Although the announcement did not say it, it soon became known that Commodore W. S. Schley was slated to command the "flying squadron." This announcement was recognized at once as of unusual importance at this juncture.

Admiral Sicard has been in command of the fleet at Key West throughout the critical period of the Maine disaster. Capt. Sampson has been in command of the Iowa, but more recently has been conspicuous before the public as president of the Maine court of inquiry. Capt. Robley Evans is better known as "Fighting Bob."

The Next Important Move Was a determination to create a joint commission from the war and navy departments, so as to bring them into harmonious action on all measures. Capt. Parker, to the naval aid of Secretary Long, was designated to represent the navy department in this common plan of action. The representative of the war department has not yet been named. It will not be necessary for these two officers to leave Washington, as they can best arrange a joint plan of action in conference with the bureau chiefs of the two departments here.

Then, at the close of the day, came the announcement that the navy department had succeeded in purchasing eight steam yachts and four steam tugs, presumably at or near New York, for use in the auxiliary navy fleet. The boats are about 400 tons each, and in an emergency would be suitable as torpedo boats. The yachts purchased are among the fleetest along the Atlantic coast, and are said to be somewhat superior to the Mayflower, recently purchased of the Ogden Goebel estate.

This acquisition to the navy is regarded as an exceptionally valuable one at the present time, as the greatest need is felt for small craft suitable as torpedo boats and dispatch boats. There was additional satisfaction at the navy department at the large number secured in a single purchase.

The name and amounts paid for the various yachts and tugs are not disclosed, as it is said this would prove an embarrassment to the government in promoting speculation on other craft for which negotiations are now proceeding.

Throughout the day the White House presented an animated appearance. Senators and representatives from both political parties calling to confer with the president.

The President Discusses the Situation with Callers. The president said to several of his visitors yesterday, in discussing the question, that he would do everything consistent with the honor and dignity of the country to avert war, and he still believed war could be averted. He also said that he believed the government of Spain was as anxious for peace as we are, but at the same time, he did not hesitate to admit the gravity of the situation.

The president frankly acknowledges that he believes the report of the board of inquiry will find that the Maine was blown up from the outside.

His programme has been definitely decided. It is his purpose to treat the blowing up of the Maine as an accident. The report of the board will be sent to congress on Monday, with a very brief message relating the events leading up to that point, and informing congress that the facts contained in the report have been cabled to Madrid to be laid before the Spanish government by Minister Woodford, and demand will be made upon Spain, but the laying of the facts before the Spanish government will be equivalent to calling upon Spain for an explanation.

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CASTOR For Infants and Children The Kind You Always Bought Bears the Signature of Always Bought CASTOR

What Puzzled Him. The most ignorant man in America lives in St. Louis. The other day he asked his employer, who was reading a paper: "Say, boss, which does you read, the black or the white?"—Kansas City Star.

For Children who Take Cold easily and are subject to croup, no remedy is so helpful as Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey. It will relieve the croup at once and cure a cold in one night. It should be in every house ready for an emergency.

Caution to the Public. Many imitations of Waller Baker & Co.'s well-known chocolate in blue wrappers and yellow labels have been put on the market. The genuine article bears the name of Waller Baker & Co., Limited, Dorchester, Mass., and their trade-mark, "La Belle Chocolaterie," is on every package.

For Lung Soreness, deep-seated coughs, throat disorders, and all bronchial troubles, Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey is an efficacious remedy. The first dose gives relief. It will cure a hacking grip cough or a cold in one night.

OVER-WROUGHT NERVES OF WOMEN. Extracts From Letters Received by Mrs. Pinkham. "I am so nervous and wretched. I feel as if I should fly." How familiar these expressions are. Little things annoy you and make you irritable. You can't sleep, you are unable to lift ordinary burdens, and are subject to dizziness.

DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—Will you kindly allow me the pleasure of expressing my gratitude for the wonderful relief I have experienced by taking your Vegetable Compound. I suffered for a long time with nervous prostration, headache, loss of appetite, a heavy bearing-down feeling, and back pains in the groins. I could not sleep, was tired all the time, had no energy. Life was a burden to me. The pains I suffered at times of menstruation were something dreadful. I thought there was no cure for it. I saw your advertisement in the paper, and my husband advised me to try your medicine. I bought five bottles, and now I am well and happy. Your medicine saved my life. Mrs. JENNIE BREWSTER, Youngstown, Pa., writes: