

LATEST ABOUT THE MAINE.

Investigation of the Cause of the Disaster to the War Ship Is Now in Progress.

RESULTS THUS FAR POINT TO A PLOT.

Inquiry Will Not Be Made Public Until Facts Are Known—Americans in Havana Warned by Gen. Lee—Uncle Sam Is Ready to Fight If War Actually Comes.

Havana, Feb. 22.—The board of inquiry was busy yesterday taking evidence of the Maine disaster. The evidence was kept secret and will be held so until it is all in, as the rules of the board require. Capt. Sigsbee was the first witness. His testimony was confined to his own experience. In the afternoon members of the court made a personal investigation of so much of the Maine as shows above the water.

Spain has no official part in the investigation, but its representatives were present by invitation. The divers were at work all day, but they are not permitted to tell outside the court what they have learned nor to communicate with one another. They are under the immediate charge of Charles Morgan, gunner of the cruiser New York.

Another Day of Inquiry. Havana, Feb. 23.—The court of inquiry opened at half-past ten and took a recess at 12:30. Lieut. G. F. W. Holman, navigator and ordnance officer of the Maine, was examined at the morning session. The court met for the afternoon session at half-past one, and Lieutenant Commander R. Wainwright, executive officer of the Maine, was called to the witness stand. Lieutenant Commander Wainwright has been in immediate charge of the wreck since the explosion.

Warned by Gen. Lee. Havana, Feb. 23.—Americans in Havana have been quietly notified by Consul-General Lee that it might be well for them to send their families to a place of safety. These precautions were taken in view of the fact that there is strong suspicion that the volunteers, anti-American and anti-autonomy, have been inspired to make trouble in case the Maine inquiry proves that the catastrophe was due to design.

Points to a Plot. Havana (via Key West, Fla.), Feb. 24.—The situation, which may be changed at any moment by fresh discoveries, may be summed up, when this dispatch is sent Wednesday afternoon, substantially as follows: The divers having discovered cases of brown hexagonal powder for the ten-inch guns unexploded, and believing also that others unexploded will be found in the ten-inch magazine on the starboard side forward, the conviction grows that this magazine did not blow up. If this be so, and many have insisted from the first that it is, the further conviction is forced that the explosion which wrecked the Maine came from the outside on the port bow. As previously stated, the main portion of the wreck, as seen from above and noted from below, was blown to starboard.

Confidence in Blanco. The highest American officials here are confident that Gen. Blanco and the other high Spanish officials had no knowledge, direct or indirect, of the conception or execution of a plot to blow up the Maine, if such a plot existed, but they believe the junior Spanish officers, who from the nature of things are more conversant with modern explosives than their elders and superiors, were at the bottom of the disaster, if there were any outside agency. One thing seems certain: if the Maine was blown up by an outside agency, the agent was a mine and not a torpedo, as no torpedo could have produced such tremendous results.

Their Lips Sealed. Havana, Feb. 24.—The United States court of inquiry into the loss of the Maine met at ten o'clock Wednesday morning and examined Dr. Honerberger, Paymaster Ray and Chief Engineer Howell, of the battle ship. There was a recess ordered at noon, and it lasted until 1:30 p. m. Several witnesses whose names are not now obtainable were examined during the afternoon. Another visit was made to the wreck by Capt. Sampson, president of the court. The captain says he has no idea of the length of time the court will remain in session here. It all depends upon the testimony, and new features requiring further investigation may develop at any time. Capt. Sampson added that, sooner or later, every survivor of the Maine will be examined by the court, which seems to imply that sessions for that purpose will be held at Key West. Although this information is meager, it is absolutely all Capt. Sampson will give to the press. A correspondent sees him by appointment twice daily, but there is a rigid rule to observe silence until the facts in the case have developed through the testimony presented.

READY TO FIGHT. Uncle Sam Is Prepared for War Should There Be One. Washington, Feb. 24.—I do not propose to do anything at all to precipitate war with Spain. Up to the present I do not think war is either necessary or inevitable. I would be lax in my duty, however, if I did not prepare for the future. The situation is grave, and the policy of the administration will be determined almost entirely by the course of events from time to time. There is no necessity of alarming the people, but congress must be ready to assist the administration without making too many inquiries as to the course of current events.

To a senator who called upon him in order to ask some serious questions as to the policy of the administration, President McKinley, with the utmost frankness, uttered the above words.

There is now no doubt of the fact that the government of the United States is actually preparing for war with Spain. It does not follow that war will come, but the activity in both the war and navy departments is too unmistakable to be concealed.

Strength of Naval Militia. The navy department gave out the figures showing the strength of the naval militia up to date. This shows a total force of 4,445 officers and enlisted men, which is a gratifying increase from the 3,703 shown by the last report. The number of officers and men by states is as follows:

California, 386; Connecticut, 165; Florida, 186; Georgia, 225; Illinois, 522; Louisiana, 262; Maryland, 240; Massachusetts, 441; Michigan, 135; New Jersey, 364; New York, 472; North Carolina, 220; Ohio, 236; Pennsylvania, 216; Rhode Island, 130; South Carolina, 152; Virginia, 44. Total, 4,445.

Still in the Dark. Washington, Feb. 25.—Secretary Long, in answer to inquiries whether the department was suppressing information concerning the disaster to the Maine, wrote the following:

"Navy Department, Washington, D. C., Feb. 24, 1898.—No telegram has been received from either Admiral Sigsbee or Capt. Sampson or Sigsbee since Wednesday, and the department has received no information with regard to the disaster that has not already been made public. The department is waiting the result of the inquiry and public opinion should be suspended until some official information is received. (Signed) 'JOHN D. LONG.'"

A Correspondent's Story. Washington, Feb. 25.—The Evening Star has received the following cablegram from Mr. Charles M. Pepper, its staff correspondent in Cuba:

At this writing divers are developing important results. From examination of the interior wreckage they have secured evidence which seems conclusive that the explosion came from underneath the ship.

The further the investigation progresses the more untenable becomes the theory which the Spanish government adduced to show accidental cause. It is evident the Spanish case will be based on the claim that a fire preceded the explosion.

Said one diver who had been engaged in the work of getting bodies out from under the hatch:

"God may be merciful to the men who blew those poor fellows to eternity, the United States should not."

This was before Long's order prohibiting officers from talking. This diver evidently thought the explosion was not an accident. He had an expert's capacity and opportunity for judging.

KILLED BY COWARDS. A Band of Assassins Murder a Postmaster and His Child.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 23.—A special from Columbia, S. C., to the Constitution says: The most revolting crime ever perpetrated by white men in South Carolina was committed at Lake City, Williamsburg county, at one o'clock Tuesday morning when Postmaster Baker, a negro, and his family were burned out of their home, the postmaster and a babe in arms killed, his wife and three daughters shot and maimed for life. Baker was appointed postmaster three months ago. Lake City is a town of 500 inhabitants and the negro population in the vicinity is large.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The postmaster general has offered a reward of \$300 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who burned the post office at Lake City, S. C., and a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who murdered the postmaster at the same time, and he has also issued an order to discontinue the office at Lake City from this time.

ANOTHER MARINE HORROR. British Ship Probably Wrecked with Loss of Twenty Lives.

Vineyard Haven, Mass., Feb. 23.—The British ship Asia, Capt. Dakin, from Manila for this port, is supposed to have been wrecked on Nantucket shoals during the recent storm and her entire crew of probably 20 men have perished. The body of a man and a little girl were recovered from a portion of a floating hull near the Handkerchief lightship Tuesday afternoon by the tug E. V. McCaulley.

Slain by His Insane Mother. Cherokee, Ia., Feb. 24.—At Cleghorn Tuesday night, in a fit of insanity, Mrs. Jane Wilcox instantly killed her five-year-old son by shooting him repeatedly through the body as he lay in his bed. No motive is assigned for the deed. Mrs. Wilcox was formerly an inmate of the asylum at Independence, where she was sent shortly after the death of her husband, whose loss had affected her mind.

Illinois Legislature Adjourns. Springfield, Ill., Feb. 25.—After passing the revenue bill in the house and senate, killing the Harnsberger primary election bill in the senate and extending the inquisitorial life of the Berry police investigating committee to the end of the year, the extra session of the Fortieth general assembly adjourned sine die yesterday.

Seeks a Pension. Washington, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Harriet Adams, of this city, the dependent mother of J. T. Adams, a coal passer, who lost his life on the Maine on Thursday filed an application for a pension. This is the first pension claim filed in connection with the loss of life on the vessel.

Defense of Sheriff Martin. Wilkes Barre, Pa., Feb. 22.—The case for the defense in the trial of Sheriff Martin and his deputies was opened Monday. A number of witnesses were called who testified to the riotous behavior of the strikers before they started out on their march to Lattimer.

Deadly Dynamite. Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—The premature explosion of a charge of dynamite in the stone quarry at Sixty-sixth and Vine streets killed three Italian workmen, Mike De Sando, Franz De Succio and Mike Hornburth.

Crime of a Negro. Oakland, Cal., Feb. 24.—Henry Williams, a negro, aged 25, shot and killed Miss Ethel Gray, a white girl, aged 22, at her residence here, and then killed himself. He is said to have been infuriated with the girl.

Insults to Americans. New York, Feb. 25.—Passengers on a vessel from Cuba that arrived here yesterday tell of insults offered to Americans in Havana and to the American flag.

EMILE ZOLA FOUND GUILTY

The French Author Is Sentenced to Imprisonment for a Period of One Year.

ALSO MUST PAY FINE OF 3,000 FRANCS

Charge on Which He Was Convicted Was Making Libelous Comment Upon Conduct of Esterhazy Court-Martial—Notice of an Appeal from the Sentence Given.

Paris, Feb. 24.—In the court yesterday where MM. Emile Zola and Perreux have been on trial since February 7, charged by the government in substance with making libelous comment upon the conduct of the Esterhazy court-martial, the jury found Zola guilty as charged in all the counts of the indictment and declared there were no extenuating circumstances. M. Zola, on hearing the verdict, cried: "They are cannibals." M. Zola's sentence of one year imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs is the maximum punishment.



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M. Perreux, the manager of the Aurore, in which paper Zola published his charges against the conduct of the Esterhazy court-martial, was condemned to four months' imprisonment and to pay 3,000 francs fine.

Zola Appeals. Paris, Feb. 25.—Maitre Laborie, counsel for M. Zola, has lodged a notice of appeal on behalf of M. Zola from the sentence imposed upon him. To-day a similar notice will be filed in the case of M. Perreux.

LAST HONORS PAID. The Funeral of Frances E. Willard Takes Place at Evanston.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Evanston mourned in public Thursday for Frances E. Willard. Funeral services were held at 11 o'clock at the First M. E. church, commencing over an hour.

It was nearly one o'clock when the services were concluded and the pallbearers, to the strains of the huge organ, bore the casket through the grief-stricken crowd to the hearse, and the journey to Rose Hill cemetery began. The public vault, where the body will lie till spring, was covered and lined with flowers. Miss Willard's final resting place lies loved sister that of her mother and her loved sister Mary.

Oppose Sale of Cuba. London, Feb. 25.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says: Spanish statesmen of every shade of opinion are simply amazed and indignant at the idea that Spain would ever consent to sell Cuba. The suggestion would expose the monarchy to an irresistible movement of popular feeling, shared by the army and navy. From a financier's viewpoint it is equally impossible, because the price suggested would not half cover the Cuban debt, which is almost entirely held by Spaniards.

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MINOR NEWS ITEMS.

For the Week Ending Feb. 25. The business portion of De Kalb, Tex., was destroyed by fire.

Mrs. James Lynett (colored) died in Milton, N. Y., aged 103 years.

Every gambling house in Youngstown, O., was raided by the police.

The Illinois republican state convention will be held in Springfield on June 14.

The new wharf at Tampico, Mexico, was destroyed by fire, the loss being \$2,000,000.

James Vincent Cleary, archbishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Kingston, Ont., is dead.

Houses were blown down, trees uprooted and other damage done by a tornado in Honolulu.

A marble bust of the late Charles Robinson, first governor of Kansas, was unveiled at Lawrence.

The cotton mill strikers at New Bedford, Mass., have issued an appeal for aid to continue their fight.

In Fairfield county, S. C., 70 houses were destroyed by forest fires and seven women were burned to death.

The Bank of Southern Baltimore at Baltimore, Md., went into a receiver's hands with liabilities of \$170,000.

The president has signed the resolution passed by congress appropriating \$200,000 for the raising of the Maine.

The Chamber of Commerce building in Duluth, Minn., was partially destroyed by fire, the loss being \$100,000.

Jacob Dillenburg, 61 years old, and his wife, Annie, aged 73, were asphyxiated by gas at their home in New York.

Asa B. Stow, one of the pioneer circus proprietors of the country, died suddenly in Middletown, Conn., aged 73 years.

Richard Allen and Tom Holmes were lynched at Mayfield, Ky. Allen robbed a house and Holmes killed his wife six months ago.

The planing mill of the A. M. Stevens Lumber company and 20 dwellings were burned at Dyersburg, Tenn., causing a loss of \$200,000.

Family troubles caused a duel between Dr. J. H. Hartzell and W. K. Elliott at Little Rock, Ark., and both were fatally shot.

William J. Scanlan, the famous Irish comedian and song writer, died in the Bloomingdale asylum in White Plains, N. Y., aged 42 years.

A special train on the Erie railroad ran from Salamanca, N. Y., to Newburg, O., a distance of 220 miles, in 208 minutes, making a new record.

Thomas Ford, who cut the throat of his brother-in-law, escaped from jail at Mascot, Neb., and killed four men before he could be overpowered.

Gov. Stephens has appointed William C. Marshall, city councillor of St. Louis, to the Missouri supreme bench to succeed Justice McFarland, deceased.

Mrs. Daniel Manning, of New York, was elected president-general of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the annual meeting in Washington.

Ignatius Donnelly, the Baconian cryptogramist, was married in Minneapolis to Miss Olive Mary Hanson, aged 22, who was formerly Mr. Donnelly's stenographer.

Austin Gollaher, who was the boyhood companion of Abraham Lincoln, and at one time saved Lincoln from drowning, died in Hodgenville, Ky., aged 93 years.

Presbyterians Celebrate. Trenton, N. J., Feb. 25.—The two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Westminster confession of faith was celebrated by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, in the First Presbyterian church, of this city, Thursday. Addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Patton, president of Princeton university, and others.

Woolen Mills Burned. Waukesha, Wis., Feb. 24.—The woolen mills at Genesee, Wis., were destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon. Loss, \$25,000; no insurance. The fire originated in the picking room on the third floor, and the employes barely escaped. A bicycle factory was also destroyed. Loss, \$300.

Building Big Gun Carriages. Cleveland, O., Feb. 23.—Work on the big government contract is now under rapid headway at the Otis steel works. Five enormous gun carriages are being constructed there. They are for 13-inch guns, to be used on United States battle ships.

Must Go to Prison. New Orleans, Feb. 24.—The supreme court has affirmed the sentence of three years of the lower court in the case of W. P. Nicholls, former president of the Bank of Commerce, who was charged with wrecking that institution.

Noted Minister Dead. Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—Rev. Thomas Rosling Howlett, a well-known Baptist minister, died at his home here Tuesday night. Mr. Howlett was born in England 71 years ago. Mr. Howlett wrote a number of religious books.

Epidemic of Suicides. St. Louis, Feb. 24.—James McNamara, formerly of Springfield, Ill., and Clara Schaller, of Mascoutah, Ill., were found at a hotel in this city with their throats cut, making 11 suicides in this city within 48 hours.

Struck by Lightning. Newark, O., Feb. 22.—During Sunday's storm lightning struck a tree near Z. McKnight's house near Hanover, breaking every window. McKnight and wife were both knocked down.

Constables Shot. Bursonville, Pa., Feb. 25.—While resisting arrest here Adam Weaver shot and killed Edwin Mondeau, a deputy constable, and fatally wounded Constable at Atherholt.

Brothers Killed. Reagan, Tex., Feb. 25.—Jesse Kelley shot and killed H. N. and L. B. Dewalt, brothers, near here, in a quarrel concerning a valentine.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

A Daily Summary of the Work Being Done by Our Law-Makers in Washington.

RECORD OF EACH DAY BRIEFLY TOLD.

In the Senate Bills and Resolutions Are Discussed and Passed—In the House Important Measures Are Under Consideration—Busy Days at the Capital.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The Maine disaster and the Cuban question occupied the entire day in the senate yesterday. The resolution appropriating \$200,000 for raising the battle ship Maine and saving what property could be saved was passed. Senator Mason (Ill.) bitterly attacked the policy of the administration in Cuban affairs and Senators Wolcott and Lodge openly rebuked him. Adjourned on the 21st.

Washington, Feb. 22.—In the senate yesterday the joint resolution appropriating \$200,000 for the recovery of the bodies of officers and men and property from the wrecked battle ship Maine was passed and the bill providing for the taking of the twelfth and subsequent censuses was discussed, and the bill providing a government for the territory of Alaska was reported.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Senator Hawley's bill to add two regiments to the artillery force of the army was passed in the senate yesterday by a vote of 52 to 4. In executive session the Cuban question was discussed.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Both the military academy and the diplomatic and consular appropriation bills were passed in the senate yesterday and the Cuban question was debated. Senator Morgan (Ala.) expressed the opinion that the Cuban affair would eventually be submitted to the arbitration of the sword, but he did not want war precipitated by rash acts of legislation. Senator Foraker (O.) thought the day not far distant when the time for action by this country would arrive. Senator Thurston (Neb.) counseled calmness and prudence, for he believed that the country was rapidly drifting into a war with Spain.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The feature in the senate yesterday was the speech of Senator Spooner (Wis.) in favor of the right of Henry W. Corbett to a seat in the senate from Oregon under appointment of the governor.

House. Washington, Feb. 19.—Aside from adoption of the resolution giving the secretary of the navy permission to use \$200,000 in the work of raising the battle ship Maine, the time in the house yesterday was devoted to a continuation of the debate on the bankruptcy bill. A bill appropriating \$4,000,000 to provide a battle ship to replace the Maine was introduced by Mr. Foote, of New York.

Washington, Feb. 21.—In the house on Saturday the bankruptcy bill, which contains both voluntary and involuntary features, was passed by a vote of 158 to 125. Mr. Hitt (Ill.) introduced a joint resolution appropriating \$1,000,000 for the representation of the United States at the Paris exposition in 1900.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The sundry civil appropriation bill was reported in the house yesterday with a reduction of \$8,861,890 from the official estimate. At the night session 38 pension bills were passed.

Washington, Feb. 23.—In the house yesterday bills were introduced to revive the grade of lieutenant general of the army and to establish a military post at or near Indianapolis. Mr. Johnson (Ind.) spoke against the annexation of Hawaii.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The sundry civil appropriation bill was considered in the house yesterday. A resolution was introduced to investigate the murder of Postmaster Baker at Lake City, S. C., by a mob.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Mr. Boutelle (Me.) introduced a bill in the house yesterday providing for the relief of the survivors of the victims of the United States battle ship Maine. Thirty additional pages of the sundry civil appropriation bill were disposed of and the senate bill to prohibit the passage of local or special acts by territorial legislatures and to limit territorial indebtedness was passed.

Indiana Populists. Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 23.—The populists in convention here yesterday nominated a state ticket headed by H. H. Morrison, of Greencastle, for secretary of state, and adopted resolutions against fusion and government by injunction, and for free silver at the ratio of sixteen to one, female suffrage, prohibition and the abolition of the issue of money to national banks.

Secretary Alger Returns. Washington, Feb. 24.—Secretary Alger has returned from Fort Monroe greatly improved in health, and called on the president at the white house. He walked with a firm step and seemed to have almost completely recovered from his recent illness.

President McKinley Attacked. Madrid, Feb. 25.—Gen. Woodford gave a banquet here in honor of the new Spanish minister to the United States. At the same time Spanish newspapers bitterly attacked McKinley's policy and accused him of treachery and duplicity.

New Battle Ships. Newport News, Va., Feb. 25.—The battle ships Kentucky and Kearsarge will be launched here March 24, and it will be the first double-launching of first-class battle ships in the world.

Eleven Drowned. London, Feb. 24.—Two government cutters have been capsized in a gale off Wells, Norfolk, drowning 11 persons.