IRONCLADS MAKING READY.

THE KATAHDIN AND MIANTOYOMAH TO BE BROUGHT OUT.

OFFICIALS EXPLAIN PROCEEDING.

The Two Vessels to Go Into Commission After Having Laid Up For Two Years at Navy Yard.

A Washington special says: Orders were issued at the navy department late Tuesday evening to put the ironclads Miantonomah and Katahdin into commission on the 10th instant. They are now at the League Island navy yard, where they have been laid up for a year or two past.

It is said at the department that the purpose for putting them in commission is to make berths for the survivors of the Maine, now at Key West waiting on the court of inquiry which, without doubt, will have finished with them by the 10th.

The Miantonomah is a formidable double-turreted monitor carrying four ten-inch guns. She is of 3,990 tons displacement and steams ten and a half knots per hour. In addition to her main battery she carried a good secondary battery of rapid-fire guns and her turrets are clad with eleven and a half-inch armor.

The Katahdin, otherwise known as the Ammen ram, is a freak in naval architecture and although opinions are divided as to her qualities, there is little doubt that her presence in any harbor would make an enemy anxious.

She lies mostly under water with a turtle back of steel varying in thickness from two and a half to six inches, and the theory of her designer, Admiral Ammen, was that this armor plate could not be struck directly by a shot from another vessel and that any such shot would be harmlessly deflected by the sloping steel deck. In action the conning tower and smoke stack are about all of the ship that would present a mark. The former is made of steel eighteen inches thick.

The Katahdin is a ram pure and simple, having in the way of weapons of offense nothing except her sharp steel beak and a few small rapid fire guns to keep off boarders or torpedo boats.

INSURES FREEDOM IN CUBA.

Such Is the Opinion Expressed By a French Diplomat.

A dispatch to the New York Herald from Paris says:

In The Intansigeant, Heri Rocheford writes: "To really grasp the situation, the explosion on the Maine must be regarded as the first battle between Spain and the United States. We only see it in the last stage of the advance of the Cubans toward independence. The catastrophe has caused the death of 254 unfortunate sailors, but it has also saved the lives of millions of combatants, for it insures the final triumph of the insurrection before many weeks."

CONGRESSMEN OFF FOR CUBA.

Will Make a Personal Investigation of Affairs on the Island.

A party of senators and members of the house left Washington Tuesday afternoon for a trip to Cuba. They went by Fortress Monroe and from there took a private yacht for Havana.

The party consists of Senators Gallinger, Thurston and Money and Representatives Amos J. Cummings and William Alden Smith and their wives.

Senator Thurston said that the trip was undertaken for the purpose of making a personal investigation into affairs in Cuba.

"It is not," he said, "in any sense an official tour, but it will naturally give us a better opportunity for investigation than we can possibly have from this distance."

SAUNDERS ADMITS GUILT.

Express Robber Is Sentenced To Two Years In Pententiary.

L. L. Saunders, who robbed the Southern Express company of $4,000 at Social Circle about a year ago, was taken into court at Monroe, Ga., Tuesday morning, and pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

NAVAL FUNDS ALLOTTED.

Apportionment Among Southern States By the Navy Department.

The navy department has just completed the allotment among the states of the appropriation of $50,000 made for the assistance of the naval militia organizations. The allotments are smaller this year than heretofore, hence the effort now being made to secure from congress an increase of the appropriation to $60,000. The allotments for southern states are as follows: Florida $6,000, Louisiana $2,289, Georgia $2,424, North Carolina $2,483, South Carolina $1,641, Virginia $475.

VIZCAYA AT HAVANA.

Spanish Battleship Is Welcomed By Queen Regent's Subjects.

A special from Havana says: The Spanish cruiser Vizcaya arrived off Morro castle at 6 o'clock Tuesday evening, after a good voyage from New York.

She was met by scores of steam launches and gayly decorated vessels with bands, and as she steamed to her moorings enthusiastic welcomes were shouted from all the quays, which were lined with thousands of people.

The streets and plazas were gay with bunting, rockets were discharged, and there was continuous cheering from all boats.

The mayor of Havana, Marquis De Esteban, as director of the festivities, was the first to board the vessel, going out in General Blanco's launch.

Senator Proctor, with his friend, Colonel Parker, and Consul General Lee, made a call of courtesy by appointment on Captain General Blanco. Secretary Jose Congosto accompanied the party and acted as interpreter.

General Blanco received his visitors with great cordiality and a pleasant talk on general matters ensued.

Senator Proctor said he was glad to visit the beautiful island and hoped to see some of the interior.

General Blanco referred to a visit he had paid to the United States when he was a young man and could speak more English than he can now.

To a suggestion by Senator Proctor that he ought to repeat his visit General Blanco smilingly replied that he feared he was too old now. The captain general thanked the Americans for calling and said he would return Senator Proctor's visit upon the return of the latter from the interior. This ended the interview.

The Spanish officers directing the divers of the government of Spain, called on Captain Sigsbee Tuesday and were given all the information desired.

LOUD BILL IS CONSIDERED.

A Measure of Great Interest to Newspaper Publishers.

A Washington special says: The house Tuesday entered upon the consideration of the Loud bill relative to second-class mail matter. The bill is identical with the bill passed at the last congress, but Mr. Loud, its author, gave notice of an amendment permitting the transmission at pound rates of sample copies up to 10 per cent of the bona fide circulation of the newspaper periodicals.

The amendment removes much opposition to the bill. Only two speeches were delivered during the day. Mr. Loud made an exhaustive speech in its favor, claiming the government practically paid a subsidy of $40,000,000 to the proprietors of publications which now get access to the mails at pound rates, as the cost of transporting mail and its handling averaged 8 cents per pound.

Mr. Moon, democrat, of Tennessee, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Second-class mail matter by the bill is restricted to newspapers and periodicals issued at least four times a year from a known office of publication and publications issued under the auspices of benevolent or fraternal organizations, trades unions or orders having a membership of not less than 1,000. All publishers whose publications are admitted as second-class mail matter are required by the bill before depositing such mail matter in the postoffice to separate it into United States mail sacks or bundles, states, cities, towns and counties as the postmaster general may direct.

COURTMARTIAL AT STANDSTILL.

Witnesses In Carter Case Refuse to Comply With Summons.

The courtmartial which is hearing charges of conspiracy, embezzlement and conduct unbecoming an officer, preferred against Captain O. M. Carter, met at New York Tuesday, but almost immediately adjourned until Wednesday owing to the non-appearance of witnesses summoned.

Acting Judge Advocate Colonel Barr said that he had endeavored to get the witnesses to attend, but had not succeeded in doing so. Their failure to appear, he explained, was on the advice of counsel.

The testimony which the court desires to obtain in New York is in regard to the payment of drafts amounting to over $2,000,000 to banking firms there in connection with the contracts indorsed by Captain Carter.

WORK OF FIREBUGS.

Warehouse With Over One Thousand Bales of Cotton Destroyed.

Fountain Inn, a progressive town in Greenville county, S. C., was the scene of a big cotton fire early Friday morning, when a large warehouse and 1,300 bales of cotton were totally destroyed. The fire was the work of incendiaries.

The fire is believed to be the work of a gang who have been burglarizing houses in Fountain Inn for some time, but there is at present no clew to the guilty parties.

The warehouse was a model of its kind, with stone foundation and iron roof. It was built about a year ago by Mr. Givins, the owner.

THE STRAIN STILL INTENSE.

EVIDENCE BEFORE COURT OF INQUIRY WILL SHOW TREACHERY.

SO DECLARE NAVAL OFFICERS.

Information From the "Inside"—It Is Thought Mine Was Fired Under Maine From Shore Battery.

A special of Wednesday from Havana says: Without adding unnecessarily to the flood of surmises, conjecture and prophecy concerning the court of enquiry, it is fair to say that, as a matter of fact, most of the naval officers at Havana and at Key West incline to the opinion that the court will find that the disaster to the Maine was caused by the explosion of a floating submarine mine under the forward port side of the ship. Opinions differ as to whether this mine was made of high explosives, such as wet and dry gun cotton, or ordinary gun powder.

Shore Battery Did the Firing.

Opinions agree, not only as to the existence of mines in the harbor, but also that this one was laid purposely near the buoy where foreign war vessels were directed to moor and was fired by a flash from an electric battery on shore.

It is believed barely possible that the explosion of the mine was the result of the carelessness or ignorance of Spanish officers in charge of the mine station keys when testing the circuit, but that latter supposition is not felt to be probable.

It is further regarded as settled by the evidence before the court that the port side of the hull forward was completely blown to pieces, and that the only explosion on the Maine, except of isolated cases of fixed ammunition, was that of 2,000 pounds of saluting powder, stored forward, and of which no trace can be found.

These views are gathered from officers who talk with great reserve and only upon the assurance that their identity will never be revealed. The fact remains that only the members of the court of inquiry know all the testimony elicited and no one is authorized to make public matter in advance of the final judgment.

Spaniards Are Investigating.

A good deal of surprise was expressed by Americans in Havana at learning that Spanish divers were to be permitted to make an examination of the wreck of the Maine, especially as it was also said that American naval officers would give such divers all consistent facilities and would throw no obstacles in the way of thorough submarine inspection.

It was not at first understood as it came to be later, that the Spanish search was to be entirely independent, and that while it was being made the American investigation would proceed under Captain Sigsbee's supervision. As understood, the Spanish request made immediately after the disaster for a joint investigation was promptly refused at Washington, but after a cabinet consultatation it was agreed that the Spaniards had a moral and international right to discover the cause of the wreck for themselves, if possible.

Therefore, permission for an independent examination was granted on the ground that it could not be refused to a friendly power in her own harbor. That the permission was not accorded until after the court of inquiry had finished its work at Havana and gone to Key West, is regarded as significant. It opens a wide field for speculation.

Some assert that the court now has no objection to Spanish inquiry, for one of two reasons: Either the court has sufficient evidence that cannot be controverted by the Spaniards—or after a dilligent search the mystery remains as deep as ever, and the court does not think the Spanish will reach a conclusion where the Americans have failed.

Dynamite for Pensacola.

Two tons of dynamite were shipped from Cincinnati Wednesday to Pensacola, Fla. The shipping firm declined to say whether it was shipped on government account or to private dealers.

COMPLICATIONS IN KLONDIKE.

British Flag On American Soil Creating Disturbances.

Five steamers arrived at Seattle from Alaska Thursday. The most important news brought down was a confirmation of previous reports that a Canadian official has raised the British flag on what is regarded as American soil, and trouble at Skagnay with longshoremen who objected to Indians unloading freight from steamers. The presence of United States troops alone prevented serious trouble.

It is feared serious trouble will grow out of the Canadian attempt to collect duty on the summits of White and Chilkoot passes.

NO TIME DESIGNATED

As To When the Verdict of Board Will Be Made.

A Washington special says: It was developed Friday afternoon through telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Long and Admiral Sicard that the court of inquiry is unable to fix even an approximate date for the conclusion of its investigation into the disaster of the Maine.

Sharing the general anxiety for some information on this point, Secretary Long, Friday, at the instance of the cabinet, sent a telegram to Admiral Sicard asking him when it was expected that the report of the court would be made, and late Friday night the following reply was received:

KEY WEST, Fla., March 4.—Secretary of the Navy: Have talked with the president of the court of inquiry and agree with him that it is not yet possible to fix a date for the finding, as so much depends upon the progress of the divers and wreckers and the results they obtain. Every effort is being made to advance the inquiry. The court returns to Havana by the Mangrove this evening, having about finished the examination at Key West. SICARD.

Admiral Sicard's message is regarded officially as disposing of the reports that the court has yet obtained positive or conclusive information bearing upon the object of the invetigation.

It is taken to mean that upon the testimony or discoveries of the divers will depend the finding, the examination of the officers and crew of the ship having been insufficient to enable the court to even form an idea as to what lines may be opened up from the investigation of the wreck itself.

While the telegram was naturally somewhat of a disappointment in leaving the termination of the inquiry as much in doubt as ever, it was welcomed as practically setting at rest the reports as to the results of the investigation up to date.

GOV. TAYLOR WILL RETIRE.

Says He Is Tired of the Harrowing Antagonism of Politics.

Governor Taylor, of Tennessee, issued a lengthy card Friday night addressed to the people, in which he announces that he will retire from politics at the close of his term as governor. This will leave Senator Bate a clear field in his candidacy for re-election to the United States senate. Governor Taylor, in part, says:

"It was my wish to retire last October from politics. I do so because I am tired of political life; I am tired of its harrowing antagonism; I am tired of its unjust accusations and its violent contention; I am tired of it because as I grow older I find myself less and less able to bear the stings of criticism and the stabs of slander; I am tired of it because there is no peace in it for me, and because I believe that I can do more good and have more friends, and more happiness in the private walks of life.

"To those who have so generously and vigorously sustained me, and who are even now working and planning to crown me with the highest honor in the gift of our people, I wish to express my deep and undying gratitude and love. For those who have opposed me in political life I have nothing but good will and the olive branch."

ACCIDENT THEORY ABANDONED.

Consul Lee Gives an Unofficial Opinion Regarding Explosion.

The feeling is growing in Washington daily that the administration has abandoned the theory that the Maine was blown up by accident. Consul General Lee has given his opinion that the explosion was caused by outside agencies and since then there has been indications that the administration was preparing for a verdict to this effect from the court of inquiry.

Since the receipt of General Lee's letter other information confirmatory to his views came to Washington, but this has also been unofficial, for not a line or hint has been received from the court of inquiry, and therefore the administration is perfectly correct in stating that it has received no official news.

RAISED QUARANTINES.

Tennessee Towns Let Down Restrictions Against City of Knoxville.

The quarantine instituted by small towns in Tennessee against Knoxville on account of the prevalence of a few cases of smallpox has been raised except in the case of Jonesboro, and it is thought that place will also raise its quarantine in a few days.

POWDER MILLS BUSY.

Government's Demands Keep Them Busy Night and Day.

At the powder works near Santa Cruz, Cal., men are busy night and day. Four new presses have just been received for the manufacture of smokeless powder. These are being put into shape for immediate operation.

These new presses mean an additional output of 4,000 pounds of smokeless powder daily. The capacity of the works is now two and a half tons of government powder daily and nine tons of black powder. It is said that they will soon be in condition to double their present capacity.

SONG.

If I were king my wars should be
  But wars of roses;
The only shield that men should bear
  But one of posies;
The only weapons ladies' eyes
  And laughter merry;
The only provinces to win,
  Lips like the cherry—
    If I were king.

If I were king no eye should weep,
  No heart should break;
Each warrior should a lady wed
  For her sweet sake.
And when my last campaign was done
  I'd cease to reign,
And hand my sceptre o'er to Love
  And join this train—
    If I were king.

—Chicago Record.

PITH AND POINT.

A woman may pretend to be convinced against her will, but she never is.

No man has the courage to tell a woman the things that her mirror does.

The rooms in the house do not interest the burglar as much as the haul.

Occasionally when fortune knocks at a man's door he is in a neighboring saloon.

The more reason a man has for indignation the less comfort he gets out of it.

"Johnny, what are 'figures of speech?'" "Please, ma'am, words like too, for and ate."—Puck.

Miss Demure—"Why should I let you kiss me?" Jack Dashing—"Because I won't kiss you if you don't."—Puck.

It is said that woman, owing to the peculiar construction of her form, is unable to jump—except at an offer of marriage.

Dorothy—"Have you read that article on 'How to be beautiful?'" Anna—"Yes; but I think the best way is to be born so."—Puck.

Cynicus—"Why was woman ever created?" Miss Caustic—"So that man could have some one to blame for his misfortunes."—Standard.

Sabbath School Teacher—"How do you know that our days are numbered?" Johnny Squanch—"By looking at the calendar, ma'am."—Puck.

The Two-headed Girl (angrily)—"I understand you've been making remarks about me." The Circassian Princess (sweetly)—"I said you were two-faced."—Puck.

Dadlow—"Is that song Jaggins is singing one of the popular songs of the day." Daffney—"Yep" Dadlow—"Then tell him to sing one of the unpopular ones, will you?" Roxbury Gazette.

Brown—"Come, now, do you believe that it is possible for a lawyer to tell the truth?" Lawyer Pleese—"Oh, yes; I suppose so. But why should there be any necessity for it?"—Boston Transcript.

Mr. Saphead—"They say that all beautiful people are weak-minded, don't you know." Miss Pretty—"That may all be, Mr. Saphead; but you must not forget that all weak-minded people are not beauties."—Puck.

"How barbarous!" she exclaimed, as she looked at a picture of a tattooed woman. "Well," remarked her father, "the idea has its advantage as a mode of feminine decoration. It doesn't obstruct the view of those who happen to sit behind her at the theater."—Washington Star.

"All that ails you," said the plain-spoken man, "is laziness.' 'Go to the ant, thou sluggard. Consider her ways and be wise." "I guess I'll have to," sighed young Ardup. "I've gone to my uncle so often there's nothing left that I can get a farthing on."—Odds and Ends.

"Oh, yes; Miss Birdling is a cultivated singer, but she will never pass for a great artist, you know." "And why not, pray?" "Because she can sing in nothing but English." "Oh, dear! is that so?" "Yes; and it's such abominably good English, too. Why, you can understand every word she says."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Micro-Organisms.

The investigations of Nenki have led him to conclude that the time will come when it will be possible to remove all micro-organisms from food. As regards the question whether their action is necessary for the normal process of digestion, he presents reasons for believing that it is not, this conclusion being based on the following grounds: The acid of the stomach destroys the majority of the micro-organisms, only a small number escaping this fate and getting with the food into the intestinal tract. In the small intestines their action is confined to the decomposition of the carbohydrates and the formation of lactic and succinic acids, alcohol, etc. It is only in the large intestine that the decomposition of albumens and the formation of aromatic bodies, and of the different acids under their influence, take place.—New York Tribune.

Oklahoma's Riders.

There was a general hiding out Tuesday evening when the thunder storm began to threaten. Most of the cyclone caves were occupied. Warren's cave had forty-five refugees at one time.—Chandler (Oklahoma) News.