THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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PREPARING FOR WAR

Spain Hurriedly Getting Its Navy Into Fighting Trim.

TORPEDO FLOTILLA SAILS THIS WEEK

Only One Cruiser Now on Way to Havana.

OTHERS ARE NOW UNDERGOING REPAIRS

Considerable More Time is Needed to Fit Them Out.

SPAIN WILL NOT SUBMIT TO ARBITRATION

Indignantly Repels the Suggestion Made on the Subject by Bismarck—Madrid Press Grows Bellicose.

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MADRID, Feb. 27.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The report that a Spanish squadron had sailed for the United States has only its foundation in these facts:

Spain is hurriedly getting its navy into fighting trim, and a torpedo flotilla will get sail for Havana this week. I learn officially from the Spanish navy department that no squadron has sailed from Spain within the last few days. The only cruiser now on the way to Havana is the Almirante Oquendo, a sister ship of the Vizcaya. A flotilla composed of three torpedo destroyers, three torpedo boats and the steamship City of Cadiz, under command of Captain Villamil, will leave Cadiz for Havana this week, as has been cabled already. The only Spanish vessels which could follow immediately are the cruisers Infanta Maria Theresa, Alfonso XIII, three more torpedo destroyers and three torpedo boats. All the other war ships, including the battleships Pelayo and Emperandor Carlos V, and the armored cruiser Cristobal Colon, are undergoing repairs. It will take some time yet to complete the repairs, fit them out and mount their guns, but they are being actively prepared for service.

Sagasta says with reference to the rumor that Prince Bismarck has suggested arbitration by the powers to settle the matters in dispute between Spain and the United States and Cuba: "Only those who did not know or esteem Spain could entertain the idea that any Spanish government would permit overtures implying an invasion of Spanish rights and foreign interference in purely Spanish affairs. We would not accept arbitration, nor would anybody dare make such a proposition."

General Weyler arrived at Barcelona today and left immediately for his country estate in the mountains. He expects to return to Barcelona on Tuesday and reach Madrid on Wednesday.

ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON.

BLAMES AMERICA.

MADRID, Feb. 27.—The Cardinal Archbishop of Vallidoloid has published a pastoral letter blaming America for the prolongation of the Cuban war. His eminence says: "The hypocritical friendship of the United States fosters the rebellion and wastes Spain's resources in order the better to attack it when weakened." He exhorts "all true Spaniards to unite in defending the rights and honor of the nation." The letter has caused widespread comment.

The Correspondencia Militar, organ of the army, says: "The prevailing impression is that war between Spain and the United States will break out in April."

A former captain general of Cuba, presumably Martinez Campos, interviewed by a representative of Correspondencia Militar, is reported to have said: "I never entertained a doubt that if the rebellion were not suppressed before 1898 war would be an accomplished fact. Presumably my prophecy will be fulfilled. I have the consolation of having done all in my power to avert it, and therefore I do not regret the blame which has been heaped upon me. All that is now possible is that we should all unite to meet the danger threatening the country."

Senor Polo y Bernabe, the new Spanish minister to the United States, has started for Gibraltar en route to New York. He is fully empowered to continue the reciprocity treaty negotiations. The government is anxious to secure a firm basis for commercial and political relations with the United States before May, in case the pacification of Cuba should not have made progress before the rainy season commences. It is an open secret that both the home and foreign departments consider the preservation of friendly relations with the United States as no less important in the pacification of Cuba than the military operations, and the unofficial efforts to induce the insurgents to agree to autonomy.

THERE IS IMPATIENCE AT HAVANA.

People Are Anxious to Learn Some Developments in Investigation.

HAVANA (via Key West, Fla.), Feb. 27.—Many Americans and some Spaniards here insist that the investigation into the Maine disaster has thus far been superficial and barren of vital results. They say that though nearly two weeks have passed no knowledge has been gained as to the condition of the forward part of the hull or as to whether the six or ten-inch ammunition magazines forward to the starboard exploded. They insist, moreover, that expert divers, with enough experience to make drawings of the condition of things submarine, might have been at work a week ago and might have settled the question as to the magazines at least ere this.

Those who hold these views demand that the hull forward should be raised without further loss of time and before it has sunk too deep in forty feet of soft mud. There are some who go so far as to charge the United States government with adopting the Spanish policy of delay until the disaster shall be partially forgotten or discounted. Many of the Spanish officials are said to entertain the opinion that this is the case and to be very well pleased with the notion.

On the other hand, however, good judges say that all criticism in this vein is made without a knowledge of the facts, and that no one save the members of the court of inquiry and their superiors is aware of all the testimony developed or of what submarine plans have been made. Those also urge that there is no use trying to raise the hull until the wreckage or armor, superstructure, engines, decks, guns and masts have been taken out. To do this will take time and the apparatus for the work can only be found in the north.

It is said no company in the world ever took a contract for such a work where the blowing up of the wreck by dynamite was prohibited lest important evidence be destroyed.

But even the most moderate strongly deprecate any more delay than is absolutely necessary, while all agree that the American people are not likely to forget so readily. Rumors of this, that or the other discovery, getting on foot this, that or the other theory, are still rife. In most cases, when run down, they are easily proved false. It is useless to deny that the interest here is much less intense than it was a week ago, but it is ever ready to be kindled anew by any established facts.

The court of inquiry is as quiet as the state of Memnon, as dignified and as stern. Its members are courteous, but they feel the deep responsibility resting upon them. To talk indiscreetly might not only cost a commission, no matter how high the rank of the holder, but would surely precipitate trouble either here or in the United States. They were not exclusive when on shore, and they dined with General Lee now and again, but the wreck was always a prohibited topic.

If memory did not give a tinge of tragedy Havana's harbor would appear commonplace enough today. Sailboats, tugs and launches ply to and fro all day. Steamers large and small arrive and depart and the bustle of a busy and not specially picturesque harbor comes and goes in the usual fashion. In yonder mass of steel, which seems to have writhed in pain, lies all that is mortal of more than eighty brave men.

It is generally expected that the court of inquiry will return here after taking testimony at Key West, and it is likely that efforts will be made by agents during the court's absence to secure other testimony.

The arrival of a battalion of more than 2,000 regular troops from Barcelona, as already cabled, excited public interest only for the day. Guns were fired, "vives" shouted and decorations, which the rain spoiled, hung, but that was all there was of it. These men, so it is alleged, are the advance guard of a division of 11,000 Spanish regulars sent to take the place of the sick and wounded who have returned to Spain within the last few months.

The Spaniards know that Senator Proctor is a close friend of President McKinley, and despite his disclaimer of a political mission, they continue to attach considerable importance to his visit at this juncture. Some think that he has been sent here by the president to make a report on the situation, as Mr. Blount was sent to Hawaii by President Cleveland. The Spanish, who, in the main, are ignorant of American customs and political methods, cannot understand why a former secretary of war should come to Havana, and there are many expressions of surprise that Senator Proctor is not in uniform, instead of in civilian dress.

Great preparations are being made to welcome the cruiser Vizcaya.

Senor Rivera, editor of La Discussion, says: "The general impression here is that the United States court of inquiry has already decided that the disaster of the Maine was the result of an accident."

COURT OF INQUIRY IS AT KEY WEST.

It Expects to Return to Havana on Wednesday.

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 27.—The lighthouse tender Mangrove bearing the members of the court of inquiry arrived from Havana at 7 o'clock this morning. The court will resume its sessions in the United States court room in the federal building at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning and will probably return to Havana on Wednesday. The most important witness to be examined here is Lieutenant Blandin, the officer of the deck when the explosion occurred. The testimony of the other survivors will take only a short time.

Captain Sampson, Chaplain Chadwick and Lieutenant Commander Potter came ashore and arranged preliminary details for the sessions of the court.

Martin Redding, a diver, returned here today. He was taken to Havana to work on the wreck and his arrival today caused much comment, it being said that he had talked too much at Havana and had been removed in consequence. On his arrival here he held forth at considerable length before a street corner audience, and but little credence could be given to his numerous statements.

Rear Admiral Sicard has had frequent conferences with Captain Sampson and others at the hotel tonight. He said tonight: "I think they ought to get away Wednesday. As yet there is nothing that can be said about their work."

In reply to a question as to the rumored removal of the war ships to Cuba, Admiral Sicard said: "The fleet is not moving, and I know nothing about its going to Cuba. Still, you know, I have steam up and could go anywhere if ordered."

He was asked if anything had happened to justify the statement that the situation was more serious today than it had been, and he replied: "They know at Washington about that. Just about how strained our relations are with Spain I am unable to say."

The excitement yesterday, after the arrival of the Cuban filibusters headed by General Nunez and Captain John O'Brien, completely eclipsed all the doings and sayings of the court of inquiry officers. Their quick departure prevented very much being learned as to the expedition, but the Cubans here are elated. An expedition has been preparing to get away from Key West for some time, but it probably will suffer another delay, as the plot has leaked out through two Spanish spies.

JUST SIX BODIES RECOVERED.

Only Half a Dozen Corpses Have Been Taken Out.

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HAVANA, Feb. 27.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—It seems incredible that thirteen days have gone and that the American government, with millions in money and men to draw upon has taken from an iron tomb in the filthy Havana bay the bodies of just six heroic sailors. During the eight days' work of the navy and during the three days' work of the navy and professional northern men combined not more than half a dozen bodies have they recovered. There was no investigation today. The navy divers stopped work forward for Sunday. The steamer Right Arm went to work, but some of its men could not stand the overpowering odors and all quit at 10 o'clock for the day. Some horribly decomposed bodies were raised yesterday and lay on the small platform where the wrecking crew was working until today noon. If the bodies are not removed promptly the men cannot work. The chief of the divers has complained to Captain Sigsbee, who is now on the Fern, and he has promised to give the matter attention. There was yesterday in the interior of the wreck such a maze of beams, braces and machinery that the divers fell frequently. There is great danger of their becoming turned about in the inky waters and actually getting lost not ten feet from the diving platform, so a systematic plan of ladders is to be used tomorrow. A diver can explore by sight of a torch a space nine feet wide, then move the ladder, explore another strip, and so on. The strong, nervy men of the wrecking crew say: "It is the worst job we ever had."

American newspaper correspondents and enterprising artists are sketching everything in sight and busy snap-shoters abound. The alert censor stops all information that is technical or tell-tale.

SYLVESTER SCOVEL.

ANOTHER STORY OF THE WRECK.

Said to Have Been Accomplished by Dynamite.

KEY WEST, Feb. 27.—The latest story as to the way the Maine was blown up is contained in a letter forwarded by a secret Cuban club in Havana to J. M. Govin, a Cuban insurance agent here.

After a long preamble saying that the writer knew the Maine's fate was due to a Spanish plot the letter goes on to say that in an old warehouse in Santa Catalina, 200 yards from where the Maine was moored, some diving apparatus had been hidden and that from this base two divers had worked by night and filled the torpedo holes of the Maine with dynamite cartridges, connecting them by wire with the battery on land, from which the cartridges were exploded. According to the letter the divers were to have been paid a large sum, which has not been forthcoming.

The Cubans in Key West say investigation in Havana has tended to confirm the statements of the letter, which will go before the court of inquiry. An officer of the Maine, whose attention was called to the story today, asserted positively that the torpedo holes of the Maine had not been open during its stay in the harbor.

Spain Shows Activity.

FERROL, Spain, Feb. 27.—The work of naval construction and armament is being pushed by the government with the greatest activity at the arsenal and dock yard.

BLOODY SHIRT LAID ASIDE

Senators Do Not Wave the Ensanguined Garment.

COUNSEL MODERATION IN THE CRISIS

Willing to Keep Cool and Support the Administration in Its Efforts to Preserve Peace.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(Special Correspondence.)—The dawn of another Lenten season has brought in its train doubt and uncertainty as to the conditions which confront us regarding Spain and its island off the Florida coast. Conditions are much strained. There has been a tense feeling observable in all branches of industry, less, possibly, in Washington than in the nearby greatly populated centers of trade and commerce. But Washington has its mercurial people quite as much as the cosmopolitan cities of New York, Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans and San Francisco, and it has been to treat with this admixture of classes and conditions that the most temperate course was decided upon by the chief executive of the nation as well as congress in handling the Maine disaster. The flamboyant utterances of the last few months in the senate and house of representatives have been succeeded by dispassionate appeals to the conservative judgment of the nation to suspend sentence until all the facts are known. To see statesmen rise in their places and counsel coolness and deliberation, where but a short time ago they had stood and in impassioned words invoked the strong arm of the government in behalf of the hapless Cubans, was a sight fit for the gods. Senator Allen sought to attach a rider to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill recognizing the Cubans as belligerents and upon this amendment he desired a direct expression of the senate. He got it, but so forcibly was the blow delivered that on the following day he meekly rose in his seat and withdrew a resolution which he had prepared calling for the sending of a commission to Havana to inquire as to the cause of the Maine's destruction.

Old senators who have seen a quarter of a century of service in the upper branch of congress unhesitatingly say that they never witnessed such a change come over that body as has taken place in the last fortnight. When nothing was to be accomplished many of the senators were anxious to swing the firebrand and the sword, but when brought face to face with stern facts and the realization that what they might do in the upper branch of congress would be looked upon as a quasi declaration of war they became coldly deliberative. And it is not too much to say that the man who sounded the keynote for conservatism, for a rational discussion of the whole phase of international comity as at present existing between Spain and the United States, was Senator John M. Thurston of Nebraska in a speech which the Post says was one of the most impressive efforts of the present session of congress, "delivered in no pyrotechnical manner, but with an earnestness and solemnity which bespoke his appreciation of their meaning."

THURSTON'S REMARKS.

Senator Thurston said in part: "We are standing in the shadow of a terrible complication in the harbor of Havana. The minds of the American people are inflamed enough. There is enough being said outside the senate, all over the country, tending to incite our people to some declaration or some act that will precipitate a war. The people of this country today ought to be at their altars considering this question silently, prayerfully, solemnly, with their consciences before God. I do not know what will be discovered in the harbor of Havana. I hope and pray that the result of the investigation will be such as to acquit the people of Spain officially or individually before all the world of any terrible crime against this government."

This seemed to be the cue for other senators, and even though they had voted for joint and concurrent resolutions, in one form and another, recognizing Cuba as an independent power, they all voiced the sentiment that now was the time for deliberate thought and judgment. Even though Senator Allen charged senators with dodging the issue fifty-one of them registered their willingness to go to the country on their records made when the Cuban question was before the senate in another form. Five senators wanted to recognize the belligerency of Cuba through an amendment to an appropriation bill, and these were Senators Allen of Nebraska, Cannon of Utah, Heitfeld of Idaho, Mason of Illinois and Teller of Colorado.

War preparations are going on, the government realizing that nothing makes so powerfully for peace as preparations for conflict, but no word is to be spoken until the executive speaks. Whether war will grow out of the Maine disaster or whether it shall be postponed until a later day no one can know at present. The result of the court of inquiry will not be known for a month at least, according to navy people.

The consular reports, however, relating to the death rate of Cuba since the first day of December, and the progress of the war in the island, which have been under lock and key in the State department since their reception, must be forthcoming, under a resolution of the house of representatives. With these published the agitation will again break out, the feeling that intervention should come having grown in the meantime to vast proportions, so that no man can know the end. Reason as one will, the fact remains that the chasm between the two countries is growing wider, and it will require a cool head and a well-balanced mind in the executive chair to shape issues so that peace with honor may be preserved to both nations. That is the judgment of statesmen who have followed the trend of events with surpassing interest.

ALL QUIET IN WASHINGTON.

Receive No Information on the Havana Situation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The usual Sunday quiet was not broken today by any new developments in connection with the Maine disaster. Captain Crowinshield of the naval bureau came to his office in the Navy department to open the department mail and a few unimportant telegrams. A dispatch from Havana confirmed the press reports that the court of inquiry left there on the Mangrove for Key West. The State department received nothing from Consul General Lee during the day and the only dispatch of consequence reaching that department was from Minister Rockhill at Athens, briefly stating that an attempt had been made on the life of King George, but without serious results. Five shots were fired by the would-be assassin, none of them taking effect.

Up to 6 o'clock the dispatches of the Navy department were taken to the officials of the department and were not regarded as of sufficient consequence to send to the secretary. Mr. Long said the court of inquiry would now proceed with its work at Key West, examining the witnesses there, in accordance with its original plans. No definite information had been received as to how much time would be taken with the inquiry there or what the next step would be. Mr. Long said the department was today in possession of no more information on the cause of the disaster than it was immediately after the occurrence and no information had been received up to the present time showing that the disaster was caused by design.

During the afternoon the secretary received a call from Assistant Secretary Roosevelt and an examination of the map said to show mines in Havana harbor disclosed that no such mines were indicated.

At the suggestion of Secretary Long, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt of the Navy department gave out the following statement in regard to the published story of a map with the mines in Havana harbor purporting to be marked on it:

As soon as the map was brought to my attention I sent to Mr. John Russell Young of the congressional library and got the original. It is simply one of the innumerable maps of Havana harbor. There is not the slightest sign of a mine marked anywhere on it. As a matter of fact, I am informed that this map is one which has been used in giving lectures at the Columbian university.

In answer to the question as to what was the meaning of the movement of guns and munitions, Mr. Roosevelt said: "It merely served to show that the department does not believe there will be any trouble, but neither does it intend to be caught unprepared if there should be trouble."

Senor du Bosc, the Spanish charge d'affaires, today received a cablegram from the minister of state at Madrid saying that the new minister to the United States, Senor Polo y Bernabe, will sail tomorrow from Gibraltar. This will bring him to Washington in about ten days. At Gibraltar he will take one of the German line of transatlantic steamers touching at that point. The credentials of the new minister will be presented soon after his arrival, and it is expected that his first attention will be given to the new commercial treaty between the United States and Spain, with particular reference to Cuba. His service as chief of the commercial bureau of the foreign office has given him charge of the matter leading up to the negotiation of this treaty, and he will come sharing the earnest desire of the Sagasta administration to put through this matter with the least delay possible. Minister Woodford has been carrying on the negotiations with the authorities at Madrid and they are well along toward completion.

Beyond the foregoing dispatch Senor du Bosc received no news today from Havana or Madrid. He expressed satisfaction at the more conservative sentiment within the last few days.

Press reports from Madrid state that the authorities were jubilant over the receipt of favorable important information from Havana. Senor du Bosc could shed no light on the nature of this information. In other quarters, however, the impression prevailed that this information did not refer to the Maine inquiry, but concerned the general conduct of the insurrection in Cuba. There have been strong indications of late that the autonomist cabinet, under the leadership of Govin, who is the recognized force of that body, would endeavor to make terms with the separatist wing, and in turn secure the cooperation of the insurgents in a movement to conclude the war. How far this is possible is not known here, although it has been expected that Govin would succeed in effecting a reconciliation. There has been added reason for this belief within the last few days, owing to the fierce attacks made on Govin by some of the irreconcilable elements. He repelled these and repudiated an alleged letter in which he was reported to have attacked Premier Sagasta.

ISSUES AN ORDER ON PENSIONS.

Secretary Davis Passes on a Decision by Commissioner Lochren.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Under a decision rendered by Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith, under the Cleveland administration, May 27, 1893, in the case of Charles T. Bennett, Mr. Lochren, the commissioner of pensions, organized a board of revision in the bureau of pensions for the purpose of taking from the files claims which had been allowed under the act of June 27, 1890, for a re-examination. As a result of that re-examination, says Assistant Secretary Webster Davis, pensions were reduced or dropped in at least 25,000 cases. Upon a careful examination of the action then taken Mr. Davis has issued the following order relating to appeals pending before the department in such cases:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Order. It is directed that the pending appeals from the action of reduction or repealing pensions under the pension act of June 17, 1890, in accordance with the decisions rendered May 27, 1893, in the case of Charles T. Bennett, shall be examined with great care.

In cases where the evidence filed or the certificate of examination indicates that the pension originally allowed was warranted under a just and impartial construction of the law, they shall be returned to the Bureau of Pensions for a special examination or another medical examination, or both, as may be deemed necessary.

It is held to be proper and just that such pensioners shall be granted a fair hearing and be allowed an opportunity to show by competent proof that they were disabled in the degree and on account of the causes alleged at the date when the pension was reduced or terminated.

It will be understood that this action disposes of the pending appeal in such cases by reversing the action taken by the Bureau of Pensions and remanding the case for further investigation, the reasons therefor being fully set forth.

WEBSTER DAVIS, Assistant Secretary.

This order, the department says, will result in giving all soldiers affected by the Bennett decision a chance to be heard.

Mr. Davis also has rendered an important decision on the question of "line of duty." It was in the case of the widow of Oscar Hoffman, Twenty-third United States Infantry band, who applied for a pension. The war department reported that the soldier was accidentally killed in the line of duty while on a pass to hunt, that such practice was encouraged in the regular army, because it improved the soldier's marksmanship, and that a soldier killed or wounded while so engaged, not in consequence of any willful neglect or improper conduct, was considered in line of duty.

The assistant secretary holds that as the records of the War department are usually accepted as conclusive upon all other questions relating to a soldier's service, the contemporaneous order by the proper medical officer that the soldier was in the line of duty when killed should be regarded, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, as controlling upon that question. Where such record does not appear the question of line of duty must be determined by the best obtainable parole evidence in each case.

OVER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Benefit for Widows and Orphans of the Maine's Dead.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—The benefit given at the Metropolitan opera house tonight for the widows and orphans of the sailors and men on the battleship Maine who went down with the vessel was a thorough success financially and professionally. Every available spot in the big house was occupied.

Thomas F. Grady opened the program with a short speech, recounting the heroism of the men on the Maine and eulogizing the dead heroes. Following him came De Wolf Hopper with his "El Capitan" company, accompanied by the Seventy-first regiment band, now led by Prof. Fanciulli, formerly of the Marine band, and sang the flag music from the opera. The Broadway Theater company sang airs from "The Highwayman" and the Castle Square Opera company sang the eastern chorus from "Cavaleria Rusticana."

Others who took part in the performance were: Robert Hillyard, Imogene Comer, Walter Jones, Lew Dockstader, Wilton Lackaye, May Irwin, Camille d'Arville, Nellie Braggins, Jerome Sykes, Dorothy Morton, Merrie Osborne and Grace Golden. At the close "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung by the choruses from the Castle Square company, the "Telephone Girl" company, "El Capitan" company, "Normandy Wedding" company, "Highwayman" company, with the Seventy-first regiment band and the audience. The receipts were more than $10,000.

Senator Proctor's Movements.

HAVANA, Feb. 27.—Senator Proctor has been exploring the city today. He took breakfast with Miss Clara Barton and with other Americans witnessed the usual poor distribution of relief to the reconcentrados. No arrangements have been made for calls by Senator Proctor upon General Blanco and the other Spanish officials, but it is expected he will call informally upon several during the week. Consul General Lee will accompany him. The report that Captain Sigsbee and the officers of the Maine will be examined in the admiralty court is untrue, as they have not been notified, but the United States officers believe Spain has a moral right to ma

HOLD UP A NEBRASKA BANK

Two Masked Men Do the Strong Arm Act at Bayard.

GET AWAY WITH ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Cover the Cashier and Another Man with Pistols and Compel the Former to Open the Safe.

GERING, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—The Bank of Bayard, a small town twenty miles east of Gering, was held up last evening about 7:30. The cashier, A. O. Taylor, and a traveling man named Hall were in the bank, when two masked men entered and, covering them with pistols, made Taylor open the safe. They took about $100 but overlooked the sack of coin and some other money. The cashier came to Gering today and swore out a warrant for a man named Johnson, whom he believes he recognized with certainty, and the sheriff has set out in search of him.

BAYARD, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Two masked men held up A. O. Taylor, president of the Bank of Bayard, at 8 o'clock last evening, and at the point of a gun compelled him to open the safe. Mr. Taylor was hit on the head and seriously injured. About $100 was taken. A dozen men are in pursuit of the robbers and it is believed they will be captured.

BEET SUGAR FACTORY AT AUBURN.

One of the Possibilities of the Near Future.

AUBURN, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Last season the Nemaha County Abstract company, through the enterprise of its president, Colonel J. M. Burress, made a practical test of the soil of Nemaha county for its adaptability to the raising of sugar beets by planting sixty-four small patches of one-eighth of an acre each in different parts of the county to the sugar beet. These beets were analyzed by chemists and found to have a large per cent of saccharine. A meeting was called yesterday afternoon to consider what kind of a proposition could be made to capitalists to build a sugar beet factory. Ex-Governor Furnas was present and spoke in favor of the industry and giving his experience in raising beets and the test.

Colonel J. M. Burress then addressed the meeting and read the results of their experiments last year. Beets from all kinds of soil had been sent to the Oxnards, the State university and to the secretary of agriculture, and these tests showed conclusively that sugar beets can be raised in this county at a profit, both as to quality and quantity. Colonel Burress further stated that four of the five essentials for a factory were here at home, viz: The soil, the water, the limestone and the transportation facilities. The contract to raise the beets was then read and explained and a lively interest manifested by the farmers present by the questions that they asked regarding the raising of beets. The question was asked: "How many want a sugar beet factory?" and everyone present stood up. Some ten or a dozen farmers signed the contract at once for the raising of at least five acres of beets for the next five years and many more of the farmers took home a contract to give the matter further thought and consideration. The meeting adjourned for one week.

A factory for Auburn of a daily capacity of 600 tons is one of the probabilities of the near future.

WILL STAND BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Lincoln Citizens Take Action on the Maine Disaster.

LINCOLN, Feb. 27.—(Special.)—A mass meeting, attended by several hundred citizens, was held at Ancient Order of United Workmen hall last night to talk over matters relating to the recent destruction of the Maine. A number of those present made patriotic speeches, and expressed the belief that Spanish officers had been guilty of treachery to the United States. A pledge to stand by the government in whatever action is deemed necessary was circulated and numerously signed.

The Red Ribbon club carried out a very interesting program at the Funke opera house this afternoon. The speeches were all short and crisp, but right to the point. Vocal selections were rendered by W. F. Lintt and Arthur Bivens.

Dr. Ruth Wood has gone east and will make an extended tour through Europe before coming back to Lincoln.

Mrs. May Wallett died at her home in this city last night, failing to rally after an operation which was performed in the hope of saving her life. Mrs. Wallett was a young woman who had spent most of her life in Lincoln, and many friends sympathize with the bereaved husband and two little children.

At the regular meeting of the ministerial association Monday morning Rev. F. S. Stein will read a paper on "A Working Man's Indictment of the Church."

Learned at Wakefield.

WAKEFIELD, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—A preliminary meeting, called for the purpose of forming a Northeast Nebraska Bankers' association, was held here yesterday. A committee on permanent organization consisting of W. L. Mote of Emerson, A. L. Tucker of Wayne and E. R. Gurney of Laurel was appointed. The first meeting will be held at this place Arbor day, April 22.

A petition was circulated here this week and quite generously signed asking for the appointment of an agent to take the place of Captain Mercer, who has charge of the Indian exhibit at the Transmississippi Exposition at the Winnebago agency, who has had no political or business connection with the Indians.

Revival services will begin in the Methodist Episcopal church next week. Rev. Shafer will be assisted by Evangelist Gray of Dakota City.

Poultry Association Officers.

WAHOO, Feb. 27.—(Special.)—The Saunders County Poultry and Pet Stock association held its annual election in this city last evening and chose the following officers: President, Joseph Manners; vice president, U. D. Thorp; secretary, David Larson; treasurer, J. M. Loudon, jr. The association will hold its annual show in this city some time in December. The books of the association show all debts paid and some money in the treasury. The association passed a resolution making an appropriation to pay a cash premium to sweepstake exhibitors of poultry at the Saunders county fair for 1898.

Hartington Items.

HARTINGTON, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special Telegram.)—The Board of County Commissioners has awarded the county printing for this year to the News of Hartington and the Blade of Coleridge.

The city has let the contract for an electric light plant to Fred C. Largen. The plant is to be put in with the waterworks plant and the city has issued warrants to pay for the work as soon as completed. All of the money has been subscribed by local parties.

Irrigation Fair at North Platte.

NORTH PLATTE, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—There is every prospect that North Platte will this year repeat the irrigation fair held in 1896, except that it will be on an even larger scale. It is proposed to secure the co-operation of every county in the state where irrigation is practiced.

Yancey Convicted.

FREMONT, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Charles Yancey, alias Cunningham, was convicted in the district court yesterday of breaking into the residence of E. D. Percy in this city and stealing some jewelry and other property. Yancey's defense was an alibi.

Fremont has three citizens expect to start soon for the Klondike. T. A. Frasure intends to start about March 15 and will go by way of the Chilkoot pass. He has had considerable mining experience, and though about sixty years thinks he can stand the trip. Dell Swan and P. Peterson are also making arrangements to go soon.

Gives Birth to Triplets.

TRENTON, Neb., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Mrs. Leonard Harrison, living five miles south of this city, has given birth to triplets, two girls and one boy, weighing five pounds each.

CROWDS VISIT LEAGUE ISLAND.

Force There Works Sunday Repairing War Vessels.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—League Island navy yard literally swarmed with visitors today in consequence of the report from Washington that the cruisers Columbia and Minneapolis, the double turreted monitor Miantonomah and the ram Katahdin had been ordered to go into commission with dispatch. Both cruisers have skeleton crews abroad, while the monitor has been lying at its dock for several years and the Katahdin since last winter.

None of the naval officers would say anything relative to the future movements of the vessels, but from workmen it is learned that the commission orders had been received. This was borne out by the fact that all day a force of men in the construction and repair departments was actively at work on the Miantonomah and the Katahdin. Visitors were kept off these boats and only those having friends among the officers and crews of the cruisers were allowed on board.

The repairs to the monitor are all of a minor nature and will be completed by Tuesday. Over twenty men have already been detailed for it, and it is said its full complement of 150 will be made up as rapidly as possible.

A large force of men was busy on the Katahdin, improving its ventilating apparatus and fitting it with steam pipes. This work will only take a few days.

Sunday work at League Island is very unusual and today's activity is taken to indicate that the Navy department intends to get the vessels there ready for sailing at a moment's notice.

Late this afternoon steam was gotten up on board the monitor for the purpose of testing its boilers and machinery.

In one of the lifts nearly 100 men were at work on small spars and boat fittings.

Everything is in shipshape on the Minneapolis and Columbia, and beyond filling up their complement of officers and men and taking on coal and provisions nothing remains to be done. This will consume about five days at the most, and then both vessels will be ready for active service.

The active work of drilling men will continue until orders are received from Washington. Captain Casey, the commandant, said he did not know for what vessel the men now being enlisted are wanted. The roster is simply being filled up and he did not know how many were wanted or where the recruits would be assigned.

STEAMER IS BURNED AT SEA.

Spontaneous Combustion of Phosphate Causes the Fire.

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—The British steamer Legislator, Captain Tennant, bound from Liverpool for Colon, was burned at sea on February 16, in latitude 31.23 north, and longitude 44.10 west.

The fire broke out so suddenly that eleven men forward were cut off from the rest of the ship, and in saving them a boat was capsized and five men, including the second and third officers, the chief steward, and the cook, were drowned. A fireman received such severe burns that he died in a few minutes.

The remainder of the crew, twenty-eight in all, with two passengers, Dr. W. Mortemer and wife of London, were rescued within four hours after the fire broke out by the fruit steamer Floer Gate and brought to this port.

The Legislator was burned to the water's edge. The dead are:

JOHN GAFFNEY, chief steward.
JAMES BATEMAN, second officer.
WILLIAM MARTIN, third officer.
ALEXANDER JENKINS, chief cook.
WILLIAM ANGILL, seaman.
THOMAS ROBERTS, fireman.

Severely burned:

John Trauer, chief engineer.
John Holden, second engineer.
Robert Miln, fourth engineer.
Charles Ibbston, seaman.

The injured were taken to the Marine hospital on arrival at this port.

The fire is supposed to have been the result of spontaneous combustion in the cargo of phosphate.

LIST OF THE DEAD REACHES TEN.

Serious Result of the Kalamazoo Chemical Laboratory Fire.

KALAMAZOO, Mich., Feb. 27.—The total number of known dead as the result of last night's explosion in the Hall chemical laboratory is ten. The list is as follows:

GEORGE HOLLIDAY, engine driver.
PAT M'HUGH, pipeman.
JOHN HASTINGS, JR., hoseman.
CHARLES WHITING, spectator.
JAMES QUIGLEY, spectator.
WILLIAM WAGER, fireman.
L. L. HOLLOWAY, druggist.
FRANK AUWERS, fireman.
EUGENE DOLE, fireman.
JOSEPH CLIFFORD, telephone lineman.

The following are the most seriously injured:

Will Hastings, scalp badly cut and right foot blown off, necessitating amputation; James Utter, driver, both legs broken; John McDermott, a fireman, leg broken, face badly burned; Ordway Knight, fireman, head badly cut; George Chatterton, back broken, leg injured; Victor Vocelo, scalp badly cut, skull injured; Fred Stohrer, hip injured; John McAllister, fireman, leg broken. Six others received lesser injuries.

The bodies of Eugene Dole and William Wager, both firemen, were taken from the ruins today. Early this morning a force of men was set at work and at noon the mangled body of Joseph Clifford, a laundry employe, was found. Other bodies are supposed to be still in the building as two boys, Phillips and West, and a Michigan Central brakeman, are missing.

POLICEMAN KILLED BY A MANIAC.

Madman Slays One Officer and Fatally Wounds Another.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Officer Patrick Fenton was killed and Officer Daniel Carey was fatally shot by Michael Clark when they attempted to arrest him tonight. Clark, who was a butcher employed at the stock yards, boarded at 413 Forty-second street. His landlady noticed that he was acting strangely and asked him to vacate, but he refused and barricaded the doors of his room. Police were called and forced an entrance. As Fenton stepped into the room he received a bullet through the heart. Carey leaped upon the maniac and in the struggle received a shot through the body. Clark saw his victim fall and jumped through the second-story window. He ran to the parish church and gave himself up to the priest, who turned him over to the police.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Feb. 27.

At New York—Arrived—La Bretagne, from Havre; Thingvalla, from Copenhagen.
At Queenstown—Sailed—Lucania.

TEMPERATURE AT OMAHA.

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	29	1 p. m.	47
6 a. m.	29	2 p. m.	48
7 a. m.	28	3 p. m.	48
8 a. m.	28	4 p. m.	49
9 a. m.	33	5 p. m.	47
10 a. m.	37	6 p. m.	46
11 a. m.	40	7 p. m.	41
12 m.	43	8 p. m.	38
		9 p. m.	34

DEFEATS THE STATE

Jury Decides the Suit in Favor of the Bartley Bondsmen.

SURPRISING VERDICT HANDED IN

Result Takes Away the Breath of the Attorney General.

COURT ADMITS HIS ASTONISHMENT

Judge Powell Confesses that He Has Cause to Wonder.

DEFENSE SEEMS SERENELY SATISFIED

Chief Counsel for the Bondsmen Says He Looked for No Other Result from the Beginning.

The jury in the case against the bondsmen of ex-State Treasurer Bartley to recover the half-million dollar shortage that existed in the treasury when he left it a year ago returned a verdict in favor of the defending bondsmen at 8:20 o'clock last night.

When the verdict was read there were no persons in the court room besides the court and the jury except the counsel in the case and a few reporters, and to say that they were all astonished is putting it lightly. The attorneys for the state and the others who have followed the case were simply astounded as the words of the verdict fell from the lips of Assistant Clerk of the District Court Green. Even the attorneys for the defense sat in their seats as if they hardly believed their ears.

There was no question of the words of the verdict, however. Judge Powell immediately discharged the twelve men from further duty in the case and took occasion to thank them on behalf of the county and state for their services.

Before the jurymen left their seats John Pondegsen, the foreman, arose and addressed the court. He said that in behalf of his companions he wished to thank the court and the officers for the considerate treatment they had received. He said that the confinement had been irksome, but that it had been made as light as possible by the bailiffs and the court. Judge Powell responded that he had done all in his power to make their duty as agreeable as possible.

After this interchange of compliments the jury lost no time in leaving the room in which they had spent two nights and two days. They vanished from the court house speedily, anxious to get back to their homes. In five minutes after the verdict was rendered not one of them was anywhere about the court house.

SURPRISES THE ATTORNEYS.

The jurors, in all probability, arrived at their verdict before they went to supper last night. The bailiffs noticed that when they left the hotel after the meal they carried bundles with them in which they had wrapped the articles which they had sent for to their homes after being locked up. They said not a word, however, on their way back to the court room, but in a few moments after the key had been turned upon them they gave notice that they had agreed upon a verdict. This was at 7:20 o'clock. Judge Powell was summoned, the attorneys in the case were called and the newspaper offices were notified. An hour later all the interested parties were assembled and the sealed verdict was handed to the clerk by the foreman.

As has been intimated, the verdict was a decided surprise to every one who has followed the case, including the attorneys. Attorney General Smyth and