

ROCK ISLAND ARGUS.

VOL. XLVI. NO. 137

ROCK ISLAND, ILL., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1898.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

NOT QUITE A PROTEST

But a Very Cute Scheme by Which Spain Would Put Uncle Sam in the Wrong.

WARLIKE PROCEEDINGS ARE NOTED

By the Madrid Cabinet, and the Washington Authorities Asked How a Fleet at Key West Will Help Autonomy in Cuba—United States Officials Explain the Purpose of the Representation, Which Will Not Interfere with the Grinding of Our Mills Right Along.

Washington, March 17.—The main development in the Spanish situation yesterday was in connection with the definite representations submitted by the Spanish government to the state department concerning the assembling



of a large fleet of American warships at Key West, the war preparations, and the influence which these might have on the approaching elections in Cuba. These representations were exactly in line with the semi-official utterances given in these dispatches yesterday and accredited to a high official conversant with the views of the Spanish cabinet. While these representations cannot properly be regarded as a protest against the attitude and acts of the United States government, they may unquestionably be set down as a remonstrance calculated to have an effect in European court circles. Not being a technical protest the statement has not called forth any official rejoinder on the part of the state department, for it is lacking in tangible accusations, being rather an argumentative presentation of alleged Spanish grievances.

What the Officials Generally Believe.

It has, however, created a profound impression. Officials decline to discuss it publicly, but there is a general belief among them that the publication marks the beginning of a new chapter in the troubled relations between the United States and Spain. The statement is believed to be a first step towards forming public opinion in Europe in anticipation of a failure on the part of the Spanish officials to make a success of the autonomous programme which it had outlined and that an attempt is to be made to place the responsibility upon the United States for any failure that may follow. This movement is regarded as adding much to the gravity of the present situation. That the administration will be influenced by the suggestion that the presence of the fleet of the North Atlantic squadron at Key West is a disturbing factor is not believed for a moment.

Fleet Being Constantly Increased.

Indeed, instead of the fleet at Key West being moved farther away from Cuba, it is being constantly reinforced. It will be augmented within the next day or two by the arrival of the gunboat Annapolis, the torpedo boat Foote and the naval tug Leyden and Samaset, while the gunboat Helena is now on her way from the European station under orders to report at Key West. The Helena yesterday reported her arrival at Funchal, on her way to join the fleet. These and the other vessels previously ordered to that point constitute the largest assemblage of war vessels made since the demonstration following the Virginia affair, and considering effectiveness and armament it is the strongest assemblage of ships for other than review purpose since the war. The fleet now at Key West and Tortugas is as follows: Cruiser New York, battleships Massachusetts, Indiana, Iowa, and Texas, cruiser Detroit, gunboat Nashville, cruiser Marblehead, dispatch boat Fern, torpedo boats Dupont, Cushing, Porter, Winslow and Ericsson. To these will soon be added the five vessels now en route there.

Another Draft on That \$50,000,000.

Secretary Alger has made requisitions on the president for two large allotments from the appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the national defense. One is for \$5,000,000 for the use of the engineer department of the army in the completion of certain fortification works along the Atlantic and gulf coasts now in progress and the other is for \$2,250,000 for the use of the ordnance department of the army in the acquirement of arms and ammunition.

IT MAY BE IN TOMORROW.

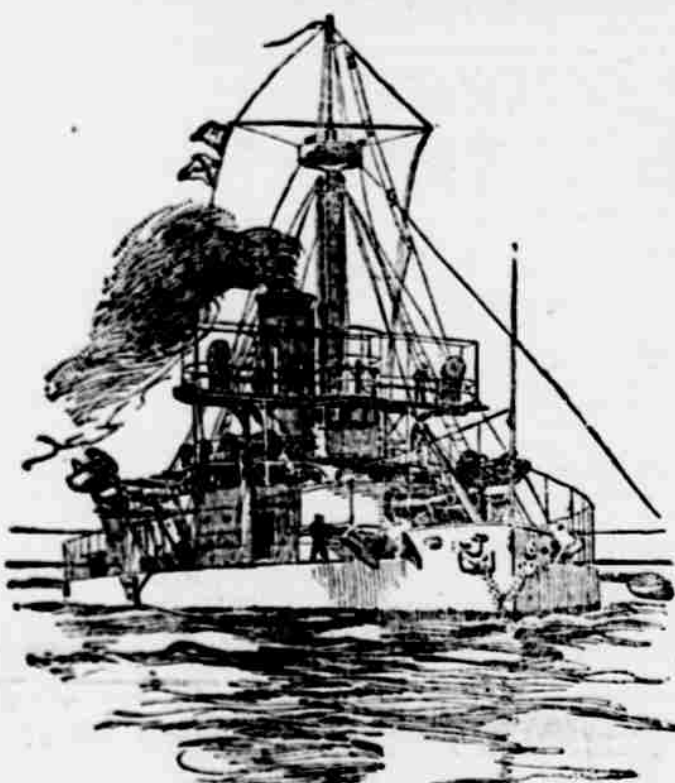
Report of Board of Naval Inquiry—Fighting for Ships.

Washington, March 17.—The president expects the report of the board of inquiry tomorrow or Saturday. Admiral Ricard is using extraordinary precautions to prevent the verdict leaking out before it reaches the president. It is presumed Judge Advocate Marix will bring the report from Key West. The war department has prepared a bill to be introduced in the house providing, among other measures, for the placing of the army on a war footing for the full strength of 104,000.

Parade of Warships.

London, March 17.—The warship Amazonas will be formally transferred to the United States tomorrow. Lieut. Commander Colwell, the United States naval attaché here, will receive the ship from her Brazilian commander, and the crew from the San Francisco will then be marched on board, the Brazilian flag hauled down, and the Brazilian sailors landed. The executive officer of the San Francisco will probably take command of the Amazonas, and he will sail for the United States as speedily as possible under sealed orders. Commander Willard P. Brown.

THE AMERICAN NAVY OF TODAY.



THE DOUBLE TURRET MONITOR TERROR.

The Terror is a modern coast defense vessel of 3,000 tons displacement. Her speed is 13 knots, and she cost Uncle Sam \$3,178,046. Her four big 10 inch guns are carried two in each turret. She also has eight smaller guns. In action she can sink so that her upper deck is flush with the water and her curved deck and revolving turrets are alone presented as a target. She carries a crew of 200 men.

son, agent of the United States navy, who arrived yesterday, has been besieged by the shipmen and reporters. He says reports as to the object of his mission are incorrect. The errand is one he cannot discuss.

A special from Rome says the Italian government has sold the armored cruiser Varese to Spain.

The first disbursement from the \$50,000,000 appropriation was made this morning when the treasury cable \$145,000 to the Armistice in part payment for 12 rapid-fire guns with mounts and ammunition. Tomorrow \$1,690,000 will be cabled in full payment for the Amazonas and part payment on the Abreul.

Spanish Commission's Report.

Madrid, March 17.—A semi-official note today intimates the Spanish commission's report will show that the Maine was destroyed by an internal explosion.

To Join New Naval Division.

Washington, March 17.—The Texas and Massachusetts have been ordered to the new naval division at Key West.

Searching the Ruins.

Chicago, March 17.—The work of searching the ruins of the Emerson building, burned yesterday, was begun this morning. The remains of an unknown woman were found, making four known victims of the missing 15.

One body taken from the ruins has been positively identified as Mrs. M. E. Harris, a daughter of former Mayor Suffer, of Cedar Rapids. She was bookkeeper for the Oimstead Scientific company. A. M. Peterson, Mrs. Watkins and George Swift are numbered among the missing.

Two Killed.

Chicago, March 17.—E. R. Baker and John Rice were killed and a number injured by the fall of a portion of the ruins of the Colliers building, destroyed by fire a short time ago.

Condition Terrible.

Washington, March 17.—Senator Proctor, just returned from Cuba, said in the senate today that the condition of the people in that country is terrible.

Subscribe for THE ARGUS.

TOM WATSON LEADS.

Nominated Against His Will to Run For Populist Governor of Georgia.

CONVENTION OPPOSES ANY FUSION.

Declares for a Straight Middle-of-the-Road Campaign as Do Other Gatherings of the Same Party—Republican Politicians Hold a Council at Washington to Map Out a Plan for the Congressional Elections—Political News Items.

Atlanta, Ga., March 17.—The Populists held their convention here yesterday. The platform adopted indorses the Nashville conference; favors the action of the organization committee at the St. Louis conference Jan. 12, and the holding of a national convention July 4, 1898. A vigorous protest against fusion is entered, and the St. Louis platform indorses. The resolutions favor the passage of an anti-bar-room bill, which will close all the bar-rooms at once and provide for the sale of liquor under public control; condemns the present convict law, the acceptance of free transportation from railroads and franks from telephone and express companies by all public officials; denounces lynching, and demands that the public servants enforce the law in such cases; demands that all public officers and judiciary be elected

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W. Babcock, of Wisconsin, chairman of the Republican congressional committee, and Representatives Overstreet, of Indiana, and Hull, of Iowa, members of the latter committee. The conference was for the purpose of outlining the coming congressional campaign and arranging for a division of the work between the national and congressional committees.

Heretofore the national committee has not taken a conspicuous part in congressional campaigns, but it is said the closest relations will exist between the two committees this year and that their respective headquarters in this city will actively co-operate at every point. Last night's meeting, held in Senator Hanna's room, lasted several hours and may be said to signalize the inauguration of political work for the current year.

South Dakota Populist Committee.

St. Paul, March 17.—A. Huron, S. D., special to The Pioneer Press says: The Populist state central committee last night named Aberdeen as the place and June 22 the date for their convention to nominate candidates for state officers. A resolution asking the Democrats and free silver Republicans to hold their state conventions at the same time and place as the Populists pre-empted an animated discussion. H. L. Loucks made an earnest speech in behalf of the "middle-of-the-road" advocates and opposed fusion. The discussion waxed hot for two hours when the proposition was modified by inviting all reform forces to unite with the Populist party in the coming campaign.

Wanamaker Opens His Campaign.

Lancaster, Pa., March 17.—Ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker opened his gubernatorial campaign in the court house here last night with a speech in denunciation of "boss rule," which he declared exists in this state under the domination of United States Senator Quay and his partisans.

Kentucky Populists in Session.

Louisville, March 17.—At Music hall yesterday afternoon 100 Populists assembled for the mass convention called to reorganize the party in Kentucky. In opening the convention Chairman Bate, of the state central committee, made an extended speech, in the course of which he attributed the past defeats of his party to bad fusion arrangements. He declared that the only salvation of his party lay in the middle-of-the-road Populism. On assuming the office of temporary chairman J. A. Parker, of Louisville, made a plea for a middle-of-the-road fight in the state. The usual committees were then appointed and the body adjourned to 7 p. m., but at the night session nothing important was done.

Saginaw River on the Mainpage.

Saginaw, Mich., March 17.—The Saginaw river is flooded to a height not hitherto reached since 1854, but it appears stationary. The Tittabawassee, the Shiawassee, the Cass and lesser tributary rivers are flooded to their utmost capacity. Yesterday travel was suspended over the Mackinaw street bridge. The water has not reached the floor of that bridge yet, but the protecting piles are submerged. In some of the streets in the south side of the city the sidewalks and pavements are weighted by iron and the police have closed the streets to traffic. Between Saginaw and Bay City is an immense lake and several smaller villages are almost entirely evacuated.

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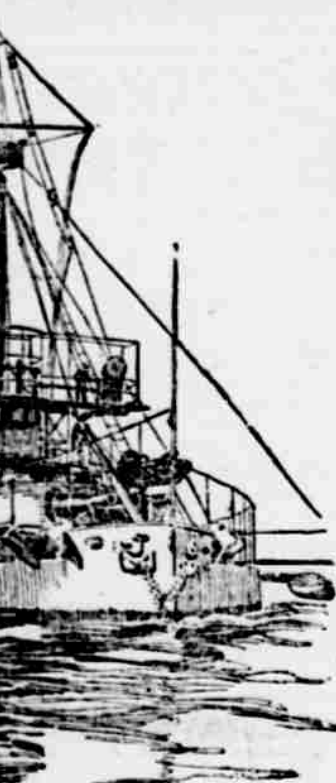
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by the vote of the people; that all public officials, where practicable, be paid salaries proportionate to the depressed financial conditions now existing; favors pensions to Confederate veterans and their widows; favors the initiative and referendum and calls upon the national executive committee to name a national chairman at once.

Watson Nominated for Governor. The convention adjourned shortly before 1 o'clock this morning after a long

and stormy session. Hon. Thomas E. Watson was nominated for governor, and although he has repeatedly declined to accept, it is believed by some that he will yet consent to make the race. The ticket was completed as follows: Comptroller general, Benjamin Millikin; commissioner of agriculture, W. L. Polk; secretary of state, Z. O. Jackson; treasurer, J. H. Traylor; prison commissioner, J. S. Davitt; school commissioner, B. M. Zettler, of Macon; chief justice—Walter B. Hill, of Macon; long term; W. B. Leakin, of Savannah, short term.

The following were elected members of the national executive committee: General Phillips, W. D. Hawkins and Charles E. McGregor. Delegates to the national convention were also named.

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