

NEBRASKA NEWS.

E. L. Burdington of Beatrice lost his barn by fire. Peter Soll of Scribner fell out of his wagon and broke his leg.

Rev. E. H. Baker of York, a well known divine, died last week, age 78. A new daily paper has been started at Plattsmouth by Fellows & Marshall.

Verdon will have telephone connection with the rest of the world in a short time. Ladies of Auburn have taken preliminary steps for the formation of a Woman's club.

One Cunningham, convicted of burglary at Fremont, was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. The little daughter of Hon. S. W. Christy of Edgar, while playing about a bonfire, was seriously burned.

The citizens of Atkinson contemplate voting \$20,000 as a bonus to the Nebraska & Northern railroad. Nebraska towns all along the line are coming to the rescue of the Cubans with provisions and money.

Jacob Dowhower of Ord is under a bond of \$200 to appear in district court and defend himself against the charge of stealing wheat. Seward county is sadly in need of a court house, and an effort will be made to submit the question of voting bonds to the people.

A full quarter section of land near Kearney will be devoted this year to raising celery. This is a third larger acreage than last year. Deputy Marshal Ted Ackerman arrived in Omaha with Thomas Lowell, Arthur Malloy and David Sherman of Niobrara, charged with selling liquor to Indians.

The Flato Commission company, with a capital stock of \$100,000 and headquarters at South Omaha, filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. W. L. Craxton and wife of Omaha have begun a suit in the district court of Lincoln county against Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Minor of North Platte in which the plaintiffs seek to recover \$5,000 damages for defamation of character.

The flywheel on the laundry engine at the Norfolk asylum cast the belt off the governor and gathered speed until it burst. A patient was cut and bruised by flying fragments and the damage to the engine and building was considerable.

A woman named Hugenie, employed as cook at the Ransom boarding house at Wymore, was fatally burned while starting a fire with kerosene. Her clothes took fire, and in her excitement she ran out of the house and around the house several times screaming in terror. Her clothes were literally burned off and her flesh was roasted from head to foot.

Manager Babcock of the Transportation department has written to the officials of the Union Pacific railway asking that the old car which served as a means of conveying the remains of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, on his last journey from Washington to Springfield, Ill., be returned from the scrap heap in the Union Pacific yards and put in condition for exhibition at the Exposition.

Governor Holcomb, in answer to a request from a New York paper for his opinion of the action of the cabinet in deciding in favor of intervention by the United States in Cuba, sent the following: "I heartily endorse any action by our government looking toward intervention in Cuban affairs. Believe it to be justified by present conditions on grounds of humanity and demanded by our Christian civilization."

The Ullyses Dispatch says: "Miss Edith Lord's birthday falls on the 17th of March, when she will be 17 years old; Miss Jennie Lord's birthday is the 22d of March, when she will be 22 years old, and Harry Lord's birthday is the 27th of March, when he will be 27 years old. In addition to this it will be seen that there are just five years and five days between the first two birthdays, and also between the second and third."

The Union Pacific Railway company, one of the few remaining railroad corporations centering at Omaha that defamed taking stock in the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, has announced a subscription of \$25,000. This brings the total amount subscribed by the railroads up to \$125,000. George Gould has promised a subscription by the Missouri Pacific "when the roads earnings will warrant it." The road is expected to subscribe at least \$10,000.

If the price of range sheep does not fall within the next six weeks, says a Fremont dispatch, Dodge county will not be much of a feeding center next winter. Long before this in previous years all of the falling feeders have been sent and bought their bands, but the price has been pretty stiff this spring for any money to be made. If there is a drop late in the summer there may be some buying, but that will necessitate shipping from the ranges, as for only one feeder has made a purchase. Cash Reynolds bought a 7,000 bunch at a reasonable figure.

Dora Robinson, an inmate of a hawdy house in Nebraska City attempted self destruction by shooting. The ball entered the left side of the breast and ranged downward. She will live. M. W. Kipler has filed a suit in the district court of Saline county against W. P. Hanley for \$10,000 damages for slander. W. P. Hanley is one of the leading merchants of Dorchester, and had M. W. Kipler in his employ as clerk until about two weeks ago, when he claims to have discovered that Kipler was embezzling the funds of the firm and he discharged him. Kipler claims the charge is false, and has commenced suit for damages.

THE INQUIRY REPORT

IT IS NOW IN THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS;

The Voluminous Document Delivered at an Early Hour Yesterday—It Passed Through the Hands of Secretary Long Without Opening—Two Sessions of the Cabinet Held.

The Report is Opened.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The report of the Maine court of inquiry is now in the hands of President McKinley. The formal transmission of this momentous document was accomplished at 9:40 o'clock yesterday. It was delivered by Lieutenant Commander Marix, judge advocate of the court of inquiry, to Secretary Long, and by the latter taken to the White House and handed to the president.

At 9:35 o'clock Secretary Long came from his office and with Mr. Marix proceeded to the White House. The report was still carried by the lieutenant commander, while Mr. Long had in his hand a long sheet of transparent paper such as maps are made of, wound round a wooden roller. The secretary also carried a large black bag. Mr. Long cordially greeted the group of newspaper correspondents, and then remarked that he had not opened the report and knew no more than they did of its contents. They then stepped into the navy department brougham and were driven around to the main entrance of the White House. It was 9:38 as the secretary and Mr. Marix entered the White House doors. They did not go direct to the president's office, but passed through the private corridor to the first floor, and thence to the blue room to wait the president. He had not been in his office before their arrival, but at the moment was in the residence portion of the house. A few minutes later the secretary and Lieutenant Commander Marix joined the president in his library and the report of the Maine court of inquiry was formally delivered to the chief executive.

The arrival of the report hadly created a ripple of excitement at the White House, except among the group of newspaper correspondents gathered there. Assistant Secretary Day had called also at 9 o'clock, but as the president was at breakfast, he retired, but returned about 10 o'clock. Secretary Alger came about half an hour later, and was followed by the postmaster general and Secretary Bliss. The other members of the cabinet did not arrive until about the usual hour for meeting, 11 o'clock.

Secretary Long did not return to the navy department after delivering the report, but was with the president continuously up to the assembling of the cabinet. Neither did Commander Marix return to the navy department and it was understood that he also remained with the president and the secretary of the navy, with a view to answering any verbal inquiries which might arise during the cabinet conference. Secretary Long and Commander Marix, it was learned, did not exchange a word concerning the contents of the report up to the time they met the president. The meeting in the secretary's office was purely formal and was devoted exclusively to the submission by Commander Marix to Mr. Long of the report and the voluminous evidence accompanying it. Without commenting on the purposes of the visit, the secretary invited Commander Marix to wait until he had gone through the important dispatches and reports arriving during the night and early morning. Some of these required speedy attention and Mr. Long called in his private secretary and dictated several letters and dispatches before turning to the report.

Secretary Gage and Attorney General Clegg were the last to arrive at the White House. They went into the cabinet room and were joined at once by the president, Secretary Long and the other members who had preceded them. Lieutenant Marix remained in the library so as to be near at hand to make any explanations, Assistant Secretary Day retired when the session began.

About 1:15 o'clock the session was concluded and the members drove away. In answer to inquiries it was stated that after the report had been carefully read over in the presence of all the members of the cabinet, a general discussion followed of its principal features. Lieutenant Commander Marix was called in and in answer to queries explained some matters not fully covered by the report. Further than this no statement would be made or intimation given by any cabinet officers as to the contents of the report until it was transmitted to congress next Monday.

Another session of the cabinet was held in the afternoon, assembling at 5 o'clock.

The Indian Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Senator Allison is authority for the statement that it may be ten days before the conferees on the Indian appropriation bill meet to take up that measure. This statement, it is thought, may be anticipating important matters next week that would even take the priority over appropriation bills and it is looked upon as significant of the tense situation. Senator Allison refused to ascribe any reason for putting off the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill, contenting himself by saying that other matters of much more importance were pressing for consideration.

Fighting Bob in Command.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Captain Robley D. Evans, better known as "Fighting Bob Evans," reached here yesterday and was immediately ordered to take command of the Iowa, Captain Samson of the Iowa, and also of the inquiry board, has been ordered to command the North Atlantic fleet, relieving Admiral Seward, who is ill. Commodore W. S. Schley in all probability will be placed in command of the squadron at Hampton Roads.

China has agreed to all the Russian demands.

EXPLOSION EXTERNAL.

Such is the Judgment of the Court of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The court of inquiry appointed to investigate the cause of the Maine disaster has reported that the loss of the battleship was due to an outside explosion.

The state department, by direction of the president, has cabled United States Consul Woodford at Madrid to notify the Spanish government of this conclusion. The president and his cabinet advisers held two extended sessions yesterday, one at 10:30 a. m. and another at 3:30 p. m., at which the report was considered in detail.

Members of the cabinet stated after the meeting that the discussion was of a grave character and that never since the wreck of the Maine has the situation seemed so critical. The Spanish government has cabled officially to Washington that the Spanish naval commission holds the disaster to the Maine to be of internal origin.

The government of Spain, it can be stated positively, is not disposed to turn back the torpedo float now proceeding from the Canaries and would be disinclined to consider a suggestion from this government tending to interfere with the disposition of its own naval forces. War preparations on an unprecedented scale are being hurried to completion by the war and navy departments, and the country is practically on a war footing.

The foregoing gives the record of one of the most eventful days of the national capital has seen since the close of the civil war. It was a day of profoundly important action of the deepest anxiety, coupled with naval and military activity, one step following another in rapid succession.

Representative men of the administration, public men in all branches of official and congressional life, no less than the public in general, shared in the tension to which the situation has been wrought. There was no effort among the highest officials, nor indeed was it possible from what was clearly apparent in the developments of the day to minimize the situation.

Viewed in detail, the finding of the court of inquiry was the most vital feature. Commander Marix, judge advocate of the court of inquiry, delivered the report to Secretary Long early this morning, and shortly after it was carried to the White House and placed in the hands of the president.

At 10:30 the cabinet assembled, half an hour earlier than usual, and began the consideration of the momentous document. Even the rigid rules of secrecy which prevail at cabinet meetings were made doubly strict in this case, and no intimation in the results reached by the court of inquiry was permitted to invest when an Associated Press bulletin gave the information to the country, as well as the eagerly waiting officials throughout Washington.

These results, briefly stated, are that the loss of the Maine was due to an explosion from the outside, the court being unable to fix the responsibility for the explosion. The court does not express the opinion as to the character of the explosion, but the testimony goes to show that it was a powerful submarine mine, the exact character of which is not determined by the testimony, though the belief was expressed that it was a floating submarine mine.

There were two explosions. The court finds that the first was from the outside, and that set off the smaller magazines. It was these results, expressed in detail, and with the precision of a court, deeply conscious of its responsibility, together with the evidence on which it was based, that occupied the attention of the cabinet throughout its extended sessions of the morning and afternoon. All other and lesser subjects gave way to this foremost question.

There was no change in the plan of making the report public and transmitting it to congress early next week, accompanied by a brief message from the president. While interest was thus centered at the White House, the Navy and War departments were hurrying forward their work of preparation.

No Debate Monday.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Senator Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, had a brief interview with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, but had no information to impart at its conclusion. Senator Davis said it was his understanding that the Maine report would be sent to congress next Monday, but its transmission might be delayed until Tuesday. As to the disposition to be made of it by the senate, he said that in all probability, after the reading of the letter or message of transmittal, it will be referred to the committee on foreign relations, and ordered to be printed. Any senator, however, might demand the reading of the report in the senate and if it should prove to be too long that course might be pursued on account of the intense interest in its contents. He was decidedly of the opinion that there would be no debate upon it until it had been considered by the foreign relations committee. The expression of an opinion as to the action of either the committee or of congress with regard to the report would be premature at this time, in Senator Davis' judgment, as only those who had read the report had any definite idea of the findings of the court of inquiry, and even they might not be prepared to say what course it would be most desirable to pursue.

Utilizing the Revenue Cutters.

CLEVELAND, O., March 26.—The Globe Shipbuilding company has received an inquiry from navy officials asking when the two revenue cutters being built for the government at the Globe yard would be completed, and urging as much haste as possible. A reply was made that the vessels would be ready for service in four weeks. The vessels in question are the Algonquin and the Onondaga.

Robert Schoef of LaPorte, Ind., has been acquitted of the charge of murdering James McClellan.

BLOWN UP BY A MINE.

WAS OUTSIDE FORCE THAT DESTROYED THE MAINE.

A Summary of the Findings of the United States Board of Inquiry—The Second Explosion Was that of Two Magazines, Thus Completing the Work of Destruction.

Summary of the Report.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Associated Press presents herewith a complete abstract of the court of inquiry which investigated the wrecking of the battleship Maine. This abstract is made from the report itself, access to which was obtained despite official secrecy unparalleled in the handling of official papers. The report is made up of eight parts, as follows: First: The court finds that at the time of the explosion the battleship Maine was lying in five and one-half to six fathoms of water.

Second: The discipline aboard the ship was excellent, everything stowed according to orders—ammunition, guns, stores, etc. The temperature of the magazine at 8 p. m. was normal, except in the after ten-inch magazine, and that did not explode. The explosion occurred at 9:40 o'clock on the evening of February 15. There were two explosions, with a very short interval between them. The ship lifted on the first explosion.

Fourth: The court can find no definite opinion of the condition of the wreck from the divers' evidence. Fifth: The technical details of wreckage from which the court deduces that a mine was exploded under the ship on the port side. Sixth: The explosion was due to no fault of those on board.

Seventh: Opinion of the court stating that the mine caused the explosion of two magazines.

Eighth: The court declares that it cannot find evidence to fix responsibility. The report is unanimous and is signed by all members of the court. It does not refer to the existence or non-existence of the mine in the harbor, except in the specific finding that a mine was exploded under the ship, and the opinion that the explosion of the two magazines was caused by the explosion of a mine.

The report as a whole is a formal, dispassionate recital of facts, and bears the stamp of that strict officialism which marks naval procedure. It is brief, not exceeding 1,800 words, and among the eight parts, goes to the greatest length under the second heading, which deals with the discipline and order of the ship. This court specifies with extreme minuteness, the least detail of the satisfactory condition of everything on board being given.

The normal temperature of the large forward magazines at 8 o'clock—only an hour and forty minutes before the explosion—disposes of the question of accidental combustion within these magazines. While the court holds that these magazines did not explode from internal causes, they nevertheless are of the opinion that the explosion of a mine under the port side of the ship caused the explosion of the two magazines. This will explain the remarkable destruction wrought, the explosion thus being shown to have combined the force of a mine without and two magazines within.

The two explosions, which the court finds to have occurred, with a very short interval between them, are an additional detail showing that two forces operated in causing the destruction. The finding that the ship lifted on the first explosion indicates an external source and one of tremendous power to be able to lift a battleship of thousands of tons.

The character of the wreckage, technically described in the fifth part, from which the court deduces that a mine was exploded under the ship on the port side, sustains the view taken by some experts shortly after that the force of the explosion was exerted from port to starboard.

The feature of the report of deepest interest to the navy is the complete exoneration of Captain Sigsbee and all on board, contained in the second finding, setting forth the perfect order and discipline prevailing on the ship, and more directly stated in the sixth finding, which declares the disaster to be due to no fault of those on board.

The inability of the court to find evidence to fix responsibility, as stated in the eighth part, makes the report so guarded in the expression of blame that neither Spain nor the Spanish are mentioned throughout.

THE WAR MUST END.

Administration Takes a Firm Stand in Regard to Condition of Affairs.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—It can be stated on positive information that this government will, if indeed it has not already done so, inform Spain that the conditions now existing in Cuba have become intolerable to the people of this country and that hostilities on the island must close. This policy is in direct line with the views of the president as expressed in his last message to congress on October 6. In that message he said: "The instructions given to our new minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon the government the sincere wish of the United States to lead its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result. Just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cubans."

These instructions recited the character and duration of the conflict, the widespread losses it entails, the burdens and restraints it imposes upon us, with constant disturbance of national interests and the injury resulting from an indefinite continuance of this state of things. No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach, and indeed, precise proposals were withheld to avoid embarrassment to that government.

After reading the substance of Spain's reply received on October 23 last the president says: "The immediate amelioration of ex-

WORKING FOR PEACE.

STILL HOPE THAT WAR MAY BE AVERTED.

It Quiet in Washington on Sunday—The Cabinet Holds a Short and Informal Session—It is Believed that Spain is Ready to Make Concessions—The War in Cuba Must Stop.

A More Peaceful Look.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The president saw a number of the members of the cabinet at the White House yesterday. They dropped in one by one until those present included Secretaries Bliss, Alger, Gage and Attorney General Griggs. With them also was Assistant Secretary Day of the State department, who presumably had some dispatches to show the president.

The gathering was not a special cabinet meeting in the sense in which that term is generally used, but was simply a talk between the president and his advisers, such as occurred last Sunday, concerning matters on which he desired to consult them. The Cuban question and the report of the Maine court of inquiry were the topics discussed, but so far as could be ascertained nothing conclusive was determined, one of the members of the cabinet saying subsequently that there was nothing new or startling in the situation. The presence of Judge Day would infer that there were advices from Minister Woodford, but further that an acknowledgment that communication is in progress between the state department and the minister nothing could be ascertained.

At the State, War and Navy departments there was during the earlier portions of the day little business of the Sabbath. Chiefs of bureaus, clerks, messengers and telegraph operators were at work. Probably never since the days of the late war have so many officials gathered at the war and navy departments over a Sunday. Dispatches that came over night regarding the movements of ships and other matters were received, and as many of them required prompt answers in the present emergency replies were forwarded.

Secretary Long, however, did not appear at the navy department during the day, as most of the matters requiring attention were those that could as well be attended to by bureau officers and their assistants. Mrs. Long has been in for some time and the secretary in part shook off official cares and spent the major portion of the day with her.

In the afternoon, in company with Miss Long, the secretary drove to the Washington navy yard and inspected the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius, which is having its guns adjusted and repaired. The vessel has been at the yard about a week, and great crowds have been there to see it.

Assistant Secretary Day spent a portion of the Sabbath at the state department, and there received a call from the Spanish minister, a rather unusual thing, indicating important things for consideration. Its nature could not be learned.

Tonight Commodore Winfield S. Schley, just appointed the commander of the "Flying Squadron," left here for Norfolk. It is expected that tomorrow he will hoist his flag on the Brooklyn, which is to be the flagship of the fleet. The only other vessel of the squadron now at Hampton Roads is the Massachusetts. Of the remaining three, the Texas is in New York receiving its ammunition hoists, and the Columbia and Minneapolis are at League Island, where the final work preparatory to their sea service is being hurriedly done. The two latter will be at Norfolk about the middle of the week.

The developments of the day in the Cuban situation indicate steady progress in the negotiations between the government of this country and that of Spain looking to the maintenance of peace, for the present at least. There is good authority for saying that Spain's present wish is to secure a cessation of hostilities in Cuba rather than to engage in a war with the United States, and that it is more than probable that the negotiations between the government of the United States and the Sagasta ministry will take that turn in the immediate future.

The present Spanish ministry has proposed a peaceful disposition from the beginning, and the indications are strong that it will avail itself of the good offices of the United States to the fullest extent that public opinion in Spain will allow in bringing to an end the hostilities in Cuba.

To what extent the United States may go in assisting Spain in its present desire of securing an armistice is not yet determined, but the conservative element in the administration considers the manifestation of this desire on the part of Spain, for even a temporary peace, a direct result of President McKinley's diplomacy, and they are naturally disposed to content that the president should be left free, for the present at least, to pursue a policy which promises much in the way of preventing war between this country and Spain, and also of bringing to a close the hostilities in Cuba. Hence there will be an effort on the part of peace, fully inclining to hold the peace in check and preventing inflammatory utterances there for the present.

Spanish Torpedo Fleet Off.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—News reached the navy department yesterday that the Spanish torpedo boat flotilla has left the Canary Islands for Porto Rico. This fact has been communicated to the president. No question has been asked of Spain as yet concerning this movement, nor has it been decided what action the navy or state departments will take, if any, under the circumstances.

The largest order ever placed by the government for cables was given to a New York company for submarine and underground cables connecting all the forts on the islands in the New York harbor.

The total fund received in the state department to date in response to the president's appeal for aid for the starving Cubans amounts to \$39,048.

Cleveland Endorses the President.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 28.—After the Yale-Princeton debate yesterday President Cleveland was asked his opinion of the present Cuban situation. In reply he said: "I think the government at Washington is pursuing exactly the right course. It could do nothing else and maintain the national honor."

Further than this he would not commit himself.

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