

DEED OF DIABOLISM

Wrecking of the Maine Was Probably Intentional.

ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS THAT WAY

Naval Court of Inquiry Said to Be Convinced.

SHIP'S BOTTOM PLATES BLOWN UPWARD

Considered Certain that Forward Magazine in Intact.

TORPEDO MIGHT HAVE DONE THE WORK

This, with the Assistance of the Saluting Powder, is Believed by Many, Destroyed the Battleship.

Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company. HAVANA, Feb. 25.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The naval court of inquiry is completely satisfied now by the evidence of divers in regard to the origin of the explosion which destroyed the Maine. The divers went down into the wreck this morning again and got evidence to confirm the suspicions aroused by the findings of yesterday. The court may not leave for Key West for a day or two, as it has found many more witnesses to examine. Hitherto the navy divers have been at work for the purpose of the investigation. From now on the wrecking steamer Right Arm will proceed vigorously with its task. Its divers were busy today down forward. It is expected that all the remaining bodies will be recovered within three days. Lieutenant Commander Walworth has charge of the work. Gunner Charles Morgan, the warrant officer of the Cruiser Newark, probably will directly overlook the divers. Chief Gunner's Mate O'Brien of the battleship Iowa is doing splendid work. The officers say they never have seen a better diver than he. Poor Holzer was the man who, dying in horrible agony, said to Captain Sigbee: "Captain, I am sorry I can't shake hands with you." His hands were awashed in bandage. "I am sorry you've lost your ship and your comrades." He ought to have a monument.

DONE BY A TORPEDO.

Yesterday's disclosures of the divers prove finally a full international fact that the Maine was blown up February 15 by an outside explosion, probably, of a large torpedo. The board of investigation has ceased investigating the remains of the forward magazine. The members are satisfied that it did not explode. From the first glance everything has pointed that way. It is known now that the divers found on the floor of the big forward starboard magazine twenty-five tons of powder intact, while the sides were completely destroyed. It is an absolute impossibility that a part of its 180 powder-filled cylinders should not have exploded. And it is just as awfully true that no explosives aboard the ship could, unaided, have so mangled and blown away and broken in two the battleship Maine. Something else must have done it. Naval experts say a big torpedo placed under the port side of the bottom just next to the reserve magazine would easily have caused the observed damage if it were assisted by the saluting powder. The quick burning saluting powder known to have been in the reserve magazine. It is not likely that mines exist inside the closed Havana harbor, nor likely that, if known to the government, a mine would be placed in the position most seldom occupied by a ship anchored to the buoy as is the Maine's position. It is most likely that if such a mine had been built it would have been badly out of order, like most Spanish naval affairs, if, indeed, it had ever contained explosives for which the Spanish government paid.

BOTTOM BLOWN UPWARDS.

As was cable, one of the Maine's bottom plates has been blown from left to right and upwards. Originally it was under water on the port side opposite the forward turret. It now protrudes four feet out of water, fifteen feet inside the proper line of contour of the vessel, as is shown by the undamaged rear two-thirds. The Maine's bottom plates were painted, I am informed, with McGinnis' green anti-fouling paint. This plate is thus painted on its rear side. On its other side it is plastered with the cement only used in the Maine on the inside of the bottom plates. The cement is gathered thick in the corners of the angle irons on the starboard side of the plate. This would be sufficient proof even without the divers' magazine discovery, or the ten-inch shells thrown toward the starboard side; or the main deck being doubled back to starboard and port; or the living men who slept near the big magazine; or the dead bodies near it mangled; or the forward funnel that was blown up and hurled about the Washington; or any other of the many proofs already railed. Anyone was indicative; all together are stunningly convincing. The forward magazine did not explode, which alone of all the explosives placed aboard could do the damage. And a torpedo or a mine under the port side of the Maine's bottom did explode, as is shown by half a dozen witnesses who testify to hearing a double report. And that, with the assistance of the saluting powder, blew up the Maine and killed its crew. Who did it? SYLVESTER SCORVIL.

WORK OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY.

Members Put in Another Day Taking Testimony. HAVANA, Feb. 25.—The wreck of the Maine is slowly but surely sinking into the mud. Before the wreck could be raised it would be necessary to move the guns and deck debris. For lack of practical appliances nothing in this line has been accomplished. Aside from the officers' cabin the salvage thus far has been pitifully small. The cloudy weather rendered the work of the divers today difficult. Little was done. It is hoped that a number of bodies will be recovered in the forward hatches. The court of inquiry sat longer than usual today, the six divers being examined more in detail than heretofore. The time of departure of the Mangrove with the court for Key West has not been determined. Captain Sampson said it was doubtful whether his vessel would sail tomorrow, that all depended on the developments of the testimony. The Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII has been towed to a buoy further within the harbor to make room for the Vizcaya, which is expected here tomorrow or next day from the north.

ADMINISTRATION IS FIRM

Gives No Heed to the Many Sensational Rumors from Havana.

ADHERES TO ITS POLICY OF WAITING

Cabinet Meeting is Devoted to the Maine Disaster, but No Conclusion is Reached Other Than that Already Announced.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—In spite of the stress that came from unofficial sources in Havana as to sensational developments in connection with the work of the divers in the Maine's hull, the administration remains firm in its statement that there is no credible evidence one way or the other as to the cause of the disaster, and holds to its purpose to await the conclusion of the investigation now making by the court of inquiry. This position was emphasized at today's cabinet meeting. People who looked for some startling announcement were disappointed, as the members, without reservation, frankly admitted that the subject of the loss of the Maine had been discussed, but that the government had received no information from Havana since yesterday, and had no intention of changing its policy until there was something of substance to warrant it.

BOOM THE NAVAL MILITIA.

A delegation from the Naval Militia association of the United States was at the Navy department today. The visit from the members, however, was not in response to any request received by the department, but was presented, but was preliminary to a visit to the capitol, where they are to be given a hearing by the Barber bill committee to increase the appropriation for boats designed for the militia. The delegation consisted of Lieutenant Blount of Baltimore, Commander E. G. Buckland of the Connecticut militia, Commander Isaac E. Emerson of the Maryland militia, Captain J. W. Miller, commanding the New York militia and president of the association; Lieutenant Ralph Fuller of Cleveland, O., and Captain H. L. Saterlee, on the staff of the governor of New York.

ROOSEVELT IN CHARGE.

The latter has been thoroughly advised at every step of the secretary's policy of treatment of the Maine affair, so that there is not likely to be any change in that respect caused by the temporary assumption of the duties of the secretary by Mr. Roosevelt. Just before the department closed he had word of the calling of the cruiser Montgomery from Tampa for Key West. Up to that time the vessel had been given no orders, so that the date of its departure for Havana, if it is to go at all, is conjectured. The ship went to Tampa instead of Key West on its return from San Domingo in order to facilitate the speedy return to his duties in Washington of Captain Crowsfield, the chief of the investigation bureau, who saved a full day by the movement.

SENATOR PROCTOR'S OPINION.

Senator Proctor is among the Massachusetts passengers. Before sailing he was shown a dispatch published here saying that there is considerable excitement at Havana over his expected visit. He read it, laughed, and said: "Absurd." In reply to a request for a detailed statement regarding his visit Senator Proctor said: "It's all simple and straight as day. I've been to Havana several times before, and have many friends there. I've been fishing several days in Florida with Colonel Parker, a business man of Washington and a friend of mine, and we have decided to go over to Havana. To tell the truth, we are just going over there to see what's going on, to be where the excitement is. Doesn't everybody want to go there? Don't you? There is not a bit of political significance about it. I may stay in Havana a day or a week. I haven't the remotest idea how long."

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GETTING SEA BATTERY IN ORDER.

This is said to be customary at this time of the year. TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 25.—Men have been put to work replacing the sea batteries at Sea Girt in order for service. At the quartermaster's office it was stated, however, that this has no significance, as this work is usual at this time of year. Captain Armstrong, chief clerk of this department, says that no orders have been received asking the National Guard be put in readiness for military service. The circular of the Navy department in asking for an inspection of vessels which might be of use in case of war, has been received by the adjutant general's office. Adjutant General Stryker's in Washington. In his office it is said his Washington trip is purely a personal one, and is in no way connected with military affairs.

PERFECT DISCIPLINE ON THE MAINE

No Carelessness Could Have Caused the Explosion. NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says: Captain Sampson's naval board has been able to gain the fullest information showing that an accident through lack of discipline was impossible. This branch of the inquiry brings out that the officers and crew of the Maine were under the strictest discipline, because, although on the surface the visit of the Maine was friendly, Captain Sigbee had taken proper precaution against hostile action. While the divers' examinations show that some of the smaller magazines may have exploded, the fact that the main ten-inch magazine was not exploded seems to have been conclusively established.

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OPEN THE SUPPLY DEPOT

May 1 is the Date Unless Existing Conditions Change.

MERCER BRACES COMMISSIONER JONES

Omaha's Hustling Congressman Does Some Good Hustling in Behalf of the Interests of the Gate City.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—Omaha's new Indian supply depot will be opened by May 1 if conditions as at present existing do not materially change. Secretary Bliss has sent with his favorable endorsement to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Jones, resolutions and the tender of building rent free by the city council of Omaha, as provided in the act creating a supply depot at that city. As a result of this tender, Congressman Mercer today had a long interview with Commissioner Jones relative to the manner in which the depot was to be opened and what was required on the part of the government to install the same. The whole subject of the supply depot was gone over, but the rather startling information was conveyed to Mercer that the department was out of money even to keep up supply depots at New York and Chicago, and that a deficiency was about to be created on account of the rather parsimonious manner in which congress had treated this branch of the government. In the event that a deficiency exists it will be necessary to ask for an additional appropriation in the general deficiency bill, which the commissioner has now under consideration.

SEVEN PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH.

Fatal Results of an Early Fire at Charleston. CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 25.—Nine lives were lost in a fearful fire which raged for a short while in Church street this morning. At 2:30 a policeman on duty noticed big sparks flying from the tenement house at No. 160 Church street. The officer found that a blaze was issuing from one of the windows on the first floor. The doors were broken open and the family on that floor were rushed out without any damage. Some- body yelled that a family of women were sleeping on the third floor. The police rushed upstairs and when they reached the top story the life saving work was stopped by the flames, which seemed to be playing over the entire building. Screams from the dying women were heard and Officer Barry rushed in and pulled out three charred bodies. The quick work of the fire department checked the fire and it was soon under control, but not until nine lives on the third floor had been lost. The dead are: MRS. REBECCA KNICKMEYER, ALBERT O'NEAL, CASWELL W. O'NEAL, JOSEPHINE KNICKMEYER, 7 years old, KATHIE KNICKMEYER, 16 years old, LEONORA KNICKMEYER, 9 years old, FRANCIS KNICKMEYER, 3 years old, LILLIE KNICKMEYER, 3 years old, A BABY of Mrs. Knickmeyer, 1 month old. SOUTH DAKOTA GETTING INTO LINE.

TAKES MEASURES TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE EXPOSITION.

MITCHELL, S. D., Feb. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—The entire committee appointed by Governor Lee for the centennial of South Dakota, which will assume charge of South Dakota's productions at the Omaha exposition, was unable to be present at the meeting held here last night and today Messrs. S. W. Narregang, Aberdeen; Hans Murphy, Elk Point, and Hugh Smith, Howard, were the only ones here. The committee passed a resolution that South Dakota should have an exhibit at the Omaha exposition and from that standpoint several ideas were evolved as to the best plan for raising the money to defray the expenses. The following plan was adopted as one likely to become the most popular in all parts this side of the river: The commissioners of each county are to be requested to appropriate a sum of money equal to 20 cents for each voter in the county according to the election of 1896, which would mean an appropriation of about \$300 for Davison county.

INDIAN CONGRESS.

Chairman Sherman of the Indian affairs committee, who is now in the south, expects to join the committee at Baltimore next Tuesday and accompany the delegation to Carlisle, Pa., on an investigation of that school. This will probably interfere with the reporting of the Indian bill to the house before Friday or Saturday of next week, and postpones that much longer action on the Indian congress amendment. The senate committee on Indian affairs will take up for consideration at its next meeting the bill introduced by Senator Allen providing for the establishment of wagon and cattle trails over Indian reservations. It is expected that an adverse report will be made by the committee.

BOOMERS ARE HOMEWARD BOUND.

Trip for Exploiting the Omaha Exposition Ended. MEMPHIS, Feb. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—The pilgrimage of the delegation of western business men practically terminated today. Its conclusion was marked by several features of unusual interest. The tourists were ordered to depart at the Merchants Exchange. President W. E. Boyd welcomed them in a most cordial manner. The Hon. W. O. Graves, ex-president of the exchange, made a few felicitous remarks, eliciting fitting replies. Taking the Wright cars in front of the custom house the party were piloted out to the beautiful club house of the Montgomery Park Jockey club. Here an elegant lunch was served followed by the presentation on behalf of the delegation through the Hon. H. R. Corbett of valuable and appropriate presents to Chairman Green, Mr. Corbush, Rev. Butler and Mr. Hardy, the press representative of the exposition. The people of Memphis are in hearty sympathy with the idea of a grand exposition of western and southern industries and interests.

AT BOSTON ROUGE THE DELEGATION

At Boston Rouge the delegation were met at the depot by a committee of citizens, headed by Mayor W. E. Boyd, and forming a line marched through the principal streets to the music of an excellent band, dining at the Marer House, whence they marched to the pavilion of the State university where President Boyd expressed the pleasure of the people of the capital city in receiving the guests who had come to exploit the great northwest and its magnificent exposition. Throughout the journey the delegation has received just such kindly treatment as the great object for which it was organized has been universally endorsed. The party leaves here tonight for Kansas City, arriving at Omaha Sunday morning.

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THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Thundering; Warmer, Southerly Winds.

- 1. Theories About the Maine Wreck. Administration Not Scared by Alarmists. Supply Depot to Open May 1. Spanish Securities Take a Tumble. 2. Politicians on the Intensity Question. Attack on Sundry Civil Bill. Money for Missions. 3. Nebraska News. Tommy Ryan vs. Other Fight. 4. Editorial and Correspondence. 5. Extra Fares for the St. Pauls. 6. Council Bluffs. Iowa Legislative Proceedings. 7. General News. Farther West. Business News. Case with the Jury. 8. Bartley Boy. His Death. 9. Evidence. Hutch-Moore Case. 10. Hits of the Week. 11. Commercial and Financial News. 12. "The Eye of God."

TEMPERATURE AT OMAHA.

Table with 4 columns: Hour, Deg., Hour, Deg. Rows for 5 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 m.

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PESSIMISTIC PRESS

Madrid Newspapers Take Dark View of Situation.

CAUSE STOCKS TO TAKE A TUMBLE

Securities Decline and Rates of Exchange Co Skyward.

CUBAN BONDS ARE CHIEFLY DEPRESSED

Produced by Alarmist Rumors Concerning Maine Investigation.

BERNABE AND WOODFORD ARE CHUMMY

American Minister Talks of Peace and Predicts a Hearty Welcome for Polo at the American Capital.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) MADRID, Feb. 25.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The pessimistic campaign of the leading Madrid papers has produced considerable alarm in the stock markets, causing the cash sales to overpower the efforts of the syndicates to keep up quotations for account. All securities declined today and the rates of exchange were the highest on record. Cuban bonds are chiefly depressed, the scare being attributed to the alarmist rumors concerning the results of the Maine disaster investigation. Other financial causes which had their effect were the displeasure of the French bankers and capitalists because Premier Sagasta's cabinet has refused to give assistance to the railroad companies in which French capital is largely invested and because the Spanish cabinet prefers to raise money in Spain for its Cuban war expenditure rather than accept the hard terms of the foreign money lenders.

ALL THE MADRID PAPERS COMMENT UPON

the results of the Maine disaster investigation. Other financial causes which had their effect were the displeasure of the French bankers and capitalists because Premier Sagasta's cabinet has refused to give assistance to the railroad companies in which French capital is largely invested and because the Spanish cabinet prefers to raise money in Spain for its Cuban war expenditure rather than accept the hard terms of the foreign money lenders. All the Madrid papers comment upon the banquet at the American legation in honor of Senator Bernabe, the new minister to the United States, and the significant words of Minister Woodford when he proposed the health of the king and queen regent of Spain. He alluded appropriately to Senator Bernabe, predicting an excellent official and social welcome in Washington on account of his personal merits and of the recollections of his father, Admiral Polo, who was minister in 1873. Woodford concluded by heartily wishing for peace, "always peace," between the two countries.

THE LATEST TELEGRAMS FROM HAVANA REPORT

that the American investigators have found the wreck of the Maine in such a state as to make it almost impossible to advance a decisive opinion as to the cause of the disaster. ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON. SPANISH SHIP LEAVES NEW YORK. Vizcaya Completes Its Friendly Visit at the Nation's Metropolis. NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The Spanish cruiser Vizcaya, after spending a week in this port on a friendly visit to the United States, got up anchor at 1:40 o'clock this afternoon and started to sea. Its destination is Havana. There were no ceremonies or accidents of any kind connected with the vessel's departure. The fires under the boilers were lighted at daybreak and by 9 o'clock the big vessel was clear of everything and waiting the pleasure of its commander to give the word to go. At 1:19 o'clock Captain Eulate mounted the flying bridge with the pilot and gave the word to hoist the anchor. Few spectators were on the neighboring wharves at the time. The big anchor had hardly been cleared from the mud before the vessel got under way, and by the time it was called the Vizcaya had stretched for the narrows. The naval tug Nina and the police boat Patrol accompanied the ship as far as Fort Wadsworth, when they saluted and went about. The loud and deep steam whistle of the Vizcaya gave them three long blasts—the marine farewell. Forts Tompkins and Wadsworth soon were left astern and the ship entered the tortuous main, at times at full speed, then at half speed, again stopping. Pilot Lockman took no chance. He keenly felt his responsibility. When the vessel left its anchorage its flags were at half mast for the Maine, and a guard of the marine infantry was drawn up in double file ast. It was in full service uniform. Once well outside the Hook, more than a marine league from the shore, the flags were hoisted home, but the guard stood ready. Officers in uniform paced the deck. Four miles outside the Hook the pilot boat dropped away from the Spanish vessel, and after an exchange of salutes had been whistled it started for New York. Then the Vizcaya got under way and the pilot boat taking a southerly course. For a time its yellow funnels were visible, then they became lost to view. Later a mere pencil of smoke on the horizon was seen, and it was adios Vizcaya. The report that the Vizcaya will stop at a southern port is inaccurate. It will proceed to Havana and expects to reach there on Tuesday next. From Havana it may proceed to Spain.

URGE SPAIN TO STRIKE FIRST.

Jingo Press in This Country Stirs Up the Spanish.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—According to a special dispatch from Madrid, reports received there from the United States to the effect that public opinion in the latter country is becoming more excited owing to the impression that the loss of the Maine is not due to an accident, are "restraining popular feeling here (in Madrid) and the conviction is increasing in ministerial circles that the worst must be expected." Continuing, the special dispatch says: "The government has no choice if the United States adopts a threatening attitude, for the prospect of war is popular with all parties, and the more excitable newspapers are already urging the government to take measures to make Spain strike the first and decisive blow."

WOMEN APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE STRUCTURE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—At a meeting of the Woman's Temple trustees in this city today resolutions were adopted appealing to the general public of the country for assistance in raising the debt which hangs over the Woman's Christian Temperance Union building. The trustees resolved that when they had secured for the National Woman's Christian Temperance union the capital stock of the temple the building should be rechristened "Willard Temple," as a monument to Miss Frances E. Willard. The resolutions ask the newspapers of the country to present the appeal to their readers through the columns of the papers, to receive and acknowledge subscriptions for the fund to free the temple from debt, the fund to be paid to the treasurer of the board of temple trustees. G. B. Shaw, president of the American Trust and Savings bank, Chicago.

MAJOR DICK PAYS THE BILL.

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 25.—The Ohio senate bribery investigating committee met today and examined Manager Ross of the local telephone company with regard to evidence made and answered in connection with Hanna headquarters in the Nell house when he was a candidate for United States senator. The only new development was that Major Dick settled the telephone bill. Not even names of conversationalists by telephone were secured.

RAILROADERS DEN