

SPANIARDS REJOICE.

ARE PLEASSED OVER MAINE DISASTER.

Army Officers Drink Toasts That Other Disasters May Come to United States Whips—Rejoicing Too General to Allow a Charitable View.

New York, Feb. 22.—A dispatch from Havana to the New York Tribune says:

"Captain General Blanco and the palace officials show every official courtesy. Their sincerity is undoubted, so great is their anxiety. A special effort is being made to discourage the talk of the explosion being otherwise than accidental. The newspapers give prominence to dispatches saying that it is recognized in the United States that the casualty was purely an accident. Prominence is also given to Madrid dispatches quoting Sagasta and other Spanish statesmen to the effect that sympathy and sorrow have caused friendly feeling between Spain and the United States.

REJOICING AMONG SPANIARDS.

"Notwithstanding these assurances from abroad, a painful impression is caused in Cuba by the knowledge that a considerable element among the Spanish classes rejoices with little secrecy over the disaster. If instances were isolated it would not be important. Unfortunately the versified cases are too many to support this charitable view. In several places Spanish army officers have drunk toasts that other vessels of the American navy may follow the Maine. In Matanzas, where mutterings were heard at the time of the Montgomery's visit, the L'Intransigent newspaper La Region published an article saying in substance that the calamity to the Maine was a judgment on the United States for sending a ship to Havana as 'an affectionate sign of sympathy toward the suffering and heroic Spanish nation.' The tone is one of mingled sarcasm and mock condolence. In a frequented restaurant in Havana, last night, on the bill of fare was 'Chicken a la Maine.' This indicates the feeling of a part of the populace, especially of the volunteers. While aware of these manifestations Captain Sigsbee and Consul General Lee concur in advising against sending further war vessels to Havana at present.

OFFICERS BELIEVE MINE THEORY

"The Maine is actually in ribbons, but enough of the vessel remains to make possible a determination of whether the explosion came from without or from within. The officers of the Maine do not publicly discuss the theory of a submarine mine, which may have been set off by explosion, but it evidently has weight with them. They are particularly anxious for points to be gathered from the examination of the plates of the hull. Their belief is that these will have to establish whether the explosive force came from without or not. The nature of the damage to the port side has not been fully settled, but the weight of the opinion seems to be that the hole was made by an external explosion.

"Captain Sigsbee thinks that the investigation to be made by him will be completed in three days and the result laid before the court of inquiry. Special pains seem to be taken to gather facts which would help to establish whether or not the destruction could have been caused by a submarine mine. The Spanish authorities have an advantage on this point, for they know whether the torpedo system in the harbor has actual existence and whether submarine mines were laid, but it is not expected they will disclose the secrets of the Havana defenses to aid foreign investigation. Some persons believe that a plot was carried out by Weyler's partisans and that the secrets were disclosed to conspirators by the officials who were with Weyler, and who, during his incumbency, through their official position, became possessed of the information. All this is pure speculation, without basis of fact. Its only significance is that the matter should be discussed at all. The Maine's officers, while not denying the possibility of an accident, do not share the Spanish admiral's off hand confidence that the explosion came from within. It is well for everybody to await the official investigation before accepting that conclusion."

W. J. Stone in Texas

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, Feb. 22.—Ex-Governor William J. Stone of Missouri arrived here yesterday en route to Mexico. When asked about the recently published statements that he would be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, he denied it most emphatically. He said he was opposed to Bryan's plan of amalgamating all the silver forces into a virtually new party.

Requiem Services for Maine Victims.

BERLIN, Feb. 22.—United States Ambassador White and the American colony in Berlin were present at a requiem service for the victims of the Maine. The commemorative discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Dickle.

Sunday Work on Repairs of Monitors.

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 22.—Workmen at the Norfolk navy yard were engaged all yesterday on the repairs of the monitors, Terror and Puritan. A draft of men for the latter vessel arrived yesterday morning. One of their number died on the way. Naval officers will not discuss rumors of trouble.

FOAMY THROAT

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The body of former Police Commissioner Leonard Welles, of Brooklyn, was found in the woods near Scotch Plains, N. J., today. The throat was cut and it was evident Welles had committed suicide.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE NOW

French Cabinet Forcing a Crisis in Africa—A Dreyfus Case Offset.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Great activity is manifested by the colonial office, the West African department and among the high military officers who are going out to the Lagos Hinterland. The later are inclined to discredit the news which reached Akassa, Niger coast protectorate, yesterday to the effect that two French expeditions are advancing toward Sokoto, capital of the sultanate of that name, which is within the British sphere of influence, but add that if the news should be confirmed it must be followed by a declaration of war.

St. James's Gazette, commenting upon the subject, says: "If the invasion of Sokoto is directed from Paris, it admits of but one interpretation, and the seriousness of the situation is increased when it is remembered that these invasions of British territory must have been planned weeks ago before the present ferment in Paris over Dreyfus. It would appear that the French cabinet, foreseeing the revolutions which would be caused by the trial of M. Zola, had determined to bring affairs in Africa to a crisis to secure a renewal of its popularity."

PARIS, Feb. 21.—The government has no news of the French having crossed the Niger into the Sokoto country, and it is added any such authorized movement would be disavowed by the government.

THE VICTIMS WANT REVENGE.

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 22.—Sailors of the battle ship Maine, suffering from wounds in the Key West hospital, are smarting over the delay of the government in punishing what they term a Spanish outrage. In their minds there is no doubt as to the cause of the explosion, and they explain the delay in taking summary action by saying that the President is morally certain that there was an accident, and, wishing to deceive the Spaniards with a feeling of security, is using the short time to make the necessary preparations to enforce his ultimatum. If no action is taken, they say, not a man among them will again pace the deck of an American man-of-war; but if business is meant, it would take a strong force to keep them from hurrying to the front, wounded though they are, to take a hand in what they look upon as a personal vengeance.

"We were warned not to go to Havana," one said, "being told that danger awaited us there. When we got there we were again told, and it was current rumor, that the harbor bottom was honeycombed with mines. We first chose our anchorage and rested there for several hours, but the harbor master compelled us to weigh and proceed to a spot marked by a buoy. We were reviled on the streets of Havana, sneered at until our blood boiled, and found out for our own safety it was necessary to make our visits to the city in force. No man dared to go it alone. There was no knowing what would happen to him. "The explosion itself is the best evidence that it was a mine or torpedo. There were two sharp and distinct reports. The first was like a peal of thunder close at hand—a sound as of ripping parchment, a quick report—followed by a tremendous and awful roar, and then darkness and chaos, made more horrible by the screams of dying men, the fierce shouts of those fighting for egress, and the moans of those who were hemmed in to die by fire or by drowning. The Spanish war ship was lying close at hand and Moro castle was not a pistol shot away. Both have searchlights, but none was turned upon us to help the work of rescue and because of the darkness many brave men who could have been rescued went down to Davy Jones."

MAY TAKE WEEKS TO LEARN.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Rear Admiral Francis M. Bunce, commandant of the Brooklyn navy yard, and, until a few months ago, commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron, to which the Maine was attached, studied pictures of the wreck of the Maine with interest.

"Can you tell from the pictures whether a mine or a magazine explosion caused the wreck?" "No," he replied. "We don't want to know what there is above the water line. What we want to know is how things look below that line."

"Do you think the cause of the accident will be known as soon as divers have been sent down?"

"I think it will be necessary to raise the Maine before they can ascertain the true cause of the explosion. The water in the bay of Havana is unusually dark. I don't think a diver could see very far under water; certainly he could not see well enough to be able to tell what caused the explosion.

"Electric lights might be used, but I don't think they will furnish sufficient light to enable the diver to see so well as he should see in order to ascertain the cause."

Other officers who were seen in the navy yard concurred with Admiral Bunce, saying that it would be necessary to wait until the Maine could be raised before forming an opinion as to the cause of the blowing up.

Tampico's Big Wharf Burned.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 22.—A dispatch from Monterey, Mexico, says: "The new wharf at Tampico, constructed by the Central railroad, under government supervision, was totally destroyed by fire Sunday. The total loss on wharf, custom house and merchandise is nearly \$2,000,000."

New Coal Oil Inspector for Clinton, Mo.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 22.—Governor Stephens today appointed Sterling Davis coal oil inspector for Clinton for a term of two years.

NEW ANNEXATION PLAN.

A Bill Instead of the Treaty Problem—Annexationists for It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Almost convinced that the Hawaiian annexation treaty is doomed to failure because of the likelihood that it cannot secure a two-thirds vote, the friends of the project are considering the propriety of annexing the islands by bill or resolution—methods requiring only a majority vote. The indications are that annexation by resolution will have a long and stormy path to travel in the Senate. Under the rules of that body, debate can be almost indefinitely continued. That it will be protracted upon an annexation resolution is very frankly announced by Senator White and other leaders who are bitterly opposed to the programme.

Whether or not the speaker will attempt to use his great power to prevent consideration of the resolution is favorably determined upon by the committee, it is quite reasonable to suppose that he will not take any steps to forward an early determination of the question should it reach the House.

It is generally believed that the speaker thinks the quicker the present Congress can conclude business which is absolutely necessary, including the passage of the general appropriation bills and of a bankruptcy law, the better it will be, not only for the interests of the treasury, but also for the administration itself. With an early adjournment of Congress, the annexation of Hawaii by resolution may be defeated; with a protracted session, unless sentiment greatly changes, a good majority for the project would doubtless be found in both Houses.

WILL BE SECRET.

Maine Court of Inquiry Will Not Give Out Any Information.

HAVANA, Feb. 23.—The United States lighthouse tender Mangrove arrived here yesterday morning, having on board officers composing the court of inquiry appointed by Rear Admiral Sigsbee to inquire into the loss of the battleship Maine.

Captain Sigsbee, the commander of the Maine, was the first witness called. He was under examination until 1 o'clock, at which hour an adjournment was taken.

Captain Sampson said, in an interview:

"I would be glad to give news, but owing to the delicate situation, the board has decided to make nothing whatever public. I do not know what testimony may develop, or when, and it is only fair to the Spanish government not to tell the public the testimony until all has been received and the findings have been considered. "You may say that this rule is absolute. Due care will be taken for the rigid enforcement of it, and all stories purporting to come from the court should be put down as false. I have no idea as to how long the court will remain here. No one is authorized to fix the time, as the members themselves do not know."

Gunner Charles Morgan, of the cruiser New York, arrived on the Mangrove and is in immediate charge of the divers. The divers found a copper cylinder used in conveying charges to the six-inch guns. The fact that it had exploded seems to show that there was an explosion in the magazine for fixed ammunition on the port side forward.

WILL NOT STAY LONG.

The Vizcaya to Leave New York Within Three Days.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The social courtesies which the government intended to extend the officers of the Vizcaya have been abandoned on account of the Maine catastrophe. As a result, the stay of the Vizcaya at New York probably will be materially shortened, and she is likely to sail within the next three days, probably on Thursday next. The ship probably will proceed direct to Havana, not stopping at Charleston or other ports, as had been suggested during the earlier preparations.

The Vizcaya will not call at New York, according to the understanding here, nor will it be necessary for her to take coal before reaching Havana. This determination gives relief to the authorities here, as the taking on of coal in time of public excitement is attended with more or less risk, the coal affording an opportunity to extremists for the secretion of explosives, despite the utmost precaution that may be taken.

SPAIN WILL HAVE TO PAY.

A Report That the President Will Ask for About \$15,000,000 Indemnity.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—The Chicago Journal has the following special from Washington:

"Should it be proved that the Maine was destroyed by an outside explosion with the knowledge of Spanish officials, President McKinley will demand an indemnity of from \$15,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The value of the vessel is estimated at \$5,000,000. The rest is to be paid to relatives of officers and men who lost their lives by the destruction of the vessel."

Young Woman Fatally Burned.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Feb. 23.—Miss Maud Wise, a well known young lady, was fatally burned here last night. Her arms, breast, hands, neck and lower part of her face are burned to the bone. Her clothing caught fire from a redhot stove.

"Omaha Kid" Wins.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 23.—Oscar Gardner, the "Omaha Kid," met Luke Stevens, a Buffalo boy, before the Olympic Athletic Club, in Buffalo, last night and defeated him in nine rounds.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVER THE STATE.

A Complete Review of the Past Week's Happenings in the Tree Planters' State—Succinct Summary of the Most Important News.

Charlie Ellis of Tekamah, who was in charge of H. W. Monroe's place when searched last week, had his preliminary hearing in the county court on the charge of running a gambling house. He was bound over to the district court, his bonds being placed at \$500, which he secured.

The jury in the celebrated Columbus slander case returned a sealed verdict, which will be opened when the district court convenes. This is the case wherein William O'Callahan sued Dennis Ragan, sr., for \$5,000 for uttering and publishing alleged false and defamatory remarks, coupled with vile and abusive epithets of and regarding the plaintiff, whereby he claims to have sustained damages in the above amount.

Stephen A. Hail of Nebraska City was standing at his desk in his office, No. 800 Central avenue, cleaning a .38-calibre revolver, when the weapon was accidentally discharged and Mr. Hail fell to the floor dead at the feet of E. M. Chase, who was writing at an adjoining desk. The ball entered the neck two inches below the chin, ranging upward into the brain, and death was instantaneous. Coroner Karstens summoned a jury which returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts.

Mrs. Mary Curtis, the mother of young Peter Curtis who was so brutally assaulted near Union two months ago, died of inflammation of the bowels, at her home twelve miles south of Plattsmouth. Our readers will remember the details of the crime which appeared in these columns at the time. As a result of the injuries sustained, young Curtis was unconscious for over a week and decidedly out of his mind for some time afterward. During his illness his mother watched over him day and night and while in a temporary fit of insanity he struck her in the stomach with his clenched fist. Physicians say that the inflammation which caused Mrs. Curtis' death resulted from this blow.

Hearing in the matter of a complaint against telegraph rates is being held before the secretary of the board of transportation. F. Q. Feltz of Keith county, the complainant, is not present. Judge W. W. Morsman of Omaha appeared for the Western Union Telegraph company and G. M. Lambertson of Lincoln for the Postal Cable Telegraph company. Mr. Lambertson has taken no part, however, having stipulated that any order issued against the Western Union should apply also to the Postal company. A. G. Wolfenbarger of Lincoln appeared as attorney for complainant who declares in his petition that telegraph rates are unjust and unreasonable to the extent of 33 1/3 per cent. The complaint is the first one of its kind filed under the act of the last legislature giving the board of transportation power to regulate rates charged by telegraph telephone and express companies.

William Ellsworth is to have a hearing before United States commissioner William F. Wappich at Omaha on the charge of having in his possession stamped nickels not coined at a mint of the United States. Deputy United States Marshal Allen says that there are many counterfeiters circulating in Omaha at the present time. Counterfeit nickels are especially numerous, and many of these are made to use in slot machines and are very poor imitations. One slot machine in Plattsmouth recently yielded 1,500 such coins. If mere slugs with no attempt at imitating United States coins were used in these machines the offenders could not be prosecuted on account of the anti-gambling laws, but in most cases an effort has been made to imitate and persons passing such coins are accountable to the government authorities.

The twenty-ninth anniversary of the chartering of the state university of Nebraska was as enjoyable as charter day usually is. The exercises during Tuesday, Feb. 15, were varied, including Phi Beta Kappa doings, basket ball game, dress parade and review by Governor Holcomb, department receptions and athletic contests. The evening exercises included the charter day oration by President Draper of Illinois university and conferring first degrees on ten students, master's degrees on two and an honorary degree on Isham Randolph of Chicago, lecturer before the electrical engineers. In honor of her birthday the university kept open house from 2 o'clock until 6 in the afternoon, and the buildings and campus swarmed with not only loyal sons and daughters, but relations-in-law and friends. Quite a party from Omaha were entertained by Omaha students. Soon after noon groups of visitors came in through the wide gates and before 2 o'clock the groups had grown into a steady stream, that poured in till there was an unending procession on the walks.

Fred Andrews, the boy convict from Fremont, has been released from the penitentiary. Governor Holcomb commuted the sentence and the boy was given his freedom and sent to his mother's home in David City. He will go to work on a farm in the spring. Andrews was sentenced from Fremont for stealing a bicycle which he used to get to David City to visit his mother. He appeared to be not over thirteen years old and Warden Leidigh determined not to allow him to remain among older convicts if there was any way to secure liberty for him. The governor cut the sentence short.

SMALL HOPE OF INDEMNITY

Opinions as to Spain's Responsibility—International Lawyers.

New York, Feb. 22.—Frederick R. Coudert, formerly counsel for the United States before the Bering sea commission, and a well known authority upon international law, was interviewed regarding the matter of an indemnity if it can be shown that the Spanish authorities at Havana failed to take proper precautions to insure the safety of the American warship Maine.

"Spain should pay indemnity for the loss of the Maine," Mr. Coudert said, "provided the accident is found to be due to the negligence of Spanish officials. The vessel went to Havana on a friendly visit and was entitled to full protection. It was proper that extraordinary precautions should be taken to insure her safety. "It was well known that there were individuals belonging to the Spanish nation who had ill feelings toward the United States. If any danger was known to exist in Havana harbor it was to be expected that Spain should inform the captain of the Maine of the fact and use every means to prevent any accident to the vessel. "If on the other hand a man with a basket of dynamite should have come aboard the Maine and blown up the vessel, the fault plainly would in the officers of the vessel. It is their duty to keep the strictest watch over everybody who comes on board. "The destruction of the Maine by accident or by the act of irresponsible individuals would not justify a declaration of war. Carnot, for instance, was assassinated by an Italian, yet France did not blame Italy. Italian subjects were killed by a mob several years ago at New Orleans. Italy was justified in demanding an indemnity, which she received, because the men when slain were in charge of officers of the law, who should have made every effort to prevent their prisoners from being killed. But it did not result in war."

Chicago, Feb. 22.—The question of responsibility which might attach to the government of Spain in case the Maine explosion was due to a mine in the harbor of Havana and was the work of a fanatic or an accident, has become a subject of discussion among lawyers. International law is a matter largely of precedent, and a mine explosion in a fortified harbor in time of peace has no precedent. All unite in saying that if such an event was by design it would be cause for war. No less an authority than Robert T. Lincoln, former minister to England, is positive that in case of accident, or if the mine was exploded by a Spanish fanatic, Spain would not be burdened with any legal responsibility.

Mr. Lincoln said: "In neither case would the slightest liability attach to Spain. Assuming a mine explosion by a fanatic or by accident, that would be the end of the affair. Giving international law the widest latitude and stretching precedents to their limit there would be no liability against the government of Spain. It is an elementary principle of international law that a government is in no way responsible for the acts of private citizens. If it were not so complications would be arising continually, which would keep nations in a turmoil and arbitrating continually. "It is another primary principle that no nation is responsible for accidents. As to the right of a nation to fortify its harbors as it sees fit there cannot be the slightest doubt. This right is a conceded one and is exercised by all nations. "Whenever a vessel, therefore, enters the harbor of a foreign power it is with notice of such defenses and with an assumption of the chances they involve. It would not do to say that one nation is bound to give the ship of another notice of where and how its harbor defenses are arranged, as the result of such a rule would be obvious. In entering the harbor of Havana the Maine did so with full knowledge that it was a fortified harbor and took all the chances of accident or the acts which might be done by those for whom Spain is not responsible."

Secretary Barry of the state Cuban relief commission has received several letters from Hemingford and other places in which the writer expresses the suspicion that supplies cannot reach Cuban insurgents. In reply Secretary Barry informed the writers that it is taken for granted that the supplies are Cubans in the Spanish lines. The supplies will be disposed of by authority of Consul-General Lee and Secretary Barry is confident they will go to suffering Cubans.

Ex-Auditor Eugene Moore is now a free man. The judgment hanging over him was reversed by the supreme court and the case ordered dismissed. Commissioner Irvine wrote the opinion and Judge Sullivan wrote a dissenting opinion. This is supposed to end the matter so far as criminal proceedings are concerned. Whether the insurance companies whose fees were converted will bring an action for recovery of the amount remains to be seen. The decision of the supreme court in the Moore case prohibits state officers from accepting fees and requires the payment of fees in advance into the state treasury. The state treasurer is the only executive officer permitted to accept fees. State officials have not examined the opinion, but all are preparing to abide by it.

It has been learned that the grand jury, now sitting in Lincoln, is after Eugene Moore, the ex-auditor. The officers in charge of the jury are compelled by statutory provision to be very secretive about whatever occurs in the jury room or what is likely to be brought before the jury. Recently it was learned, however, that they were concealing some papers very assiduously, which resembled subpoenas for persons whom it would be necessary to call if an indictment against Mr. Moore was contemplated. The fact will excite very general public interest, as many attorneys believe there are still ways to reach Mr. Moore's case. The case that has recently been dismissed was based upon section 124 of the criminal code, which charged Mr. Moore with embezzling public funds which he was charged to collect, receive and keep as an officer. But it is the belief among several who have looked up the matter that now a prosecution under section 123 will hold. This section provides a penalty for the embezzlement of money belonging to any individual or corporation received by any officer under the color or guise of his office. The money which Mr. Moore took was the property of the insurance companies who paid it and it, embezzlement would fall under the provision of the statute. It may be objected that a prosecution under this section of the statute would be placing Mr. Moore twice in jeopardy for the same offense, which the constitution specifies shall not be permitted. The theory of criminal law seems to be that a man has not been placed in jeopardy till he has been tried under a valid indictment. In the present case, the supreme court held that the indictment was not valid.

NO DELAY.

The Naval Board of Inquiry Goes Direct to Havana Instead of to Key West.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The naval court of inquiry appointed to investigate the Maine disaster began its work at Havana today. This news comes to the navy department from Admiral Sigsbee at Key West. He simply telegraphed as follows: "The court of inquiry sail for Havana the 20th by lighthouse steamer Mangrove, Marix arrive today." Captain Sigsbee today sent two telegrams to the navy department on the subject of interviews with him. The first merely said: "I have consistently refrained from expressing any opinion of the Maine disaster." "Later in the day he wired: "No newspaper divers have been used on the wreck of the Maine. One man engaged by me was subsequently bought up by a newspaper. I declined his services. Subsequently on his being unconditionally released, I might have used him in charge of an officer in recovering bodies, but decided not to do so. Any interviews with me, if printed, are untrue."

Two New Torpedo Boats.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 22.—Similar orders to those given the officials of the Norfolk navy yard to push the work on new torpedo boats have been received at the Columbian Iron works here. The force of workmen has been increased on the three new torpedo boats, and the construction of the submarine torpedo boat Plunger is being specially hastened. This boat is designed to steal into an enemy's harbor and explore the bottom for submarine mines and torpedoes and destroy them.