The Number of Dead Seamen Now Thought to Be 260.

Some Survivors Reach Key West, Fla., and They Pooh-Pooh the Idea That the Disaster to the Battleship Was an Accident.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.-After a day of intense excitement at the navy de partment and elsewhere, growing out of the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor Tuesday night, the situation last night, after the exchange of a number of cablegrams between Washington and Havana, can be summed up in the words of Secretary Long, who, when asked, as he was about to depart for the day, whether he had reason to suspect that the disaster was the work of an enemy, replied:

I have not. In that I am influenced by the fact that Capt. Sigsbee has not yet reported to the navy department on the cause. He is evidently waiting to write a full report. So long as he does not express himself I certainly cannot. I should think from the indications, however, that there was an accident-that the magazine exploded. How that came about I do not know. For the present, at least, no other warship will be sent to Havana.

The large majority of naval officers are inclined to the belief that the explosion resulted from spontaneous combustion of a coal bunker, the overheating of the iron partitions between the boilers and the magazine, or from the explosion of a boiler, though the last theory finds little support. The news of the disaster created a profound impression at the capitol. Senators and members of the house, as a rule, expressed the opinion for publication that the catastrophe was the result of accident, and not of design, but there were some opinions generally expressed under the breath, with the admonition not to publish, to the effect that the affair looked very mysterious and doubtful. As a rule senators expressed the opinion that the department would and should make thorough investigation and added that for the present it would be unnecessary for congress to take the matter up.

TELEGRAMS SENT AND RECEIVED. WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. - The following cablegram was received by the state department from Consul General Lee last night:

HAVANA, Feb. 16.-Profound sorrow ex! pressed by government and municipal auhorities, consuls of foreign nations, organized bodies of all sorts and citizens generally. Flags at half mast on governor general's palace, on shipping in harbor and in city. Business suspended; theaters closed. Dead number about 260. Officers' quarters being in rear and seamen's forward where explosion took place accounts for greater proportional loss of sailors. Funeral to-day at three p. m. Officers Merritt and Jenkins still missing. Suppose you ask that naval court of inquiry be held to ascertain cause of explosion. Hope our people will repress excitement and calmly await de-LEE

The president has ordered that today and until further notice the flag at all navy yards and on naval vessels, at posts, army headquarters and on all

public buildings shall be half masted. Late last night the following dispatch from Capt. Sigsbee, at Havana, addressed to Secretary Long, was received:

All men whose names have not been sent as saved probably are lost. Have given up Jenkins and Merritt as lost. Bodies are still floating ashore this afternoon. I keep nine officers, one private and Gunner's Mate Bullock here

Secretary Long, for the president sent this telegram to Capt. Sigsbee: Sigsbee, United States steamer Maine, Havana: The president directs me to express for himself and the people of the United States his profound sympathy with the officers and crew of the Maine, and desires that no expense be spared in providing for the survivors and the care of the dead. JOHN D. LONG, Secretary.

SOME SURVIVORS REACH KEY WEST. KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 17. -The steamship Olivette arrived here last night with a large number of the wounded and many other survivors of the Maine disaster. The officers were, as a rule, reticent, and followed in line with their chief, Sigsbee, in saying that the cause of the explosion could only be ascertained by divers, but many of the sailors were outspoken in their declaration of belief that the explosion was a deep laid plot of the Spaniards. They are greatly incensed against the Havana people, who have shown them small courtesy, who looked upon their presence as a national affront, and who have published anonymous circulars captioned "Down with Americans." They believe that the author of such expressed and cowardly hatred would not stop at an act of such terrible vengeance as the blowing up of the Maine. These sailors, acquainted with the drills, discipline and ensemble of a man-of-war, pooh-pooh the idea of an internal explosion as the last thing to be thought of. The correspondent of the Associated press has been assured in a reliable quarter that Capt. Sigsbee is under the impression that the warship Maine was blown up by a floating torpedo and that he has communicated his impressions to Washington, asking at the same time that the navy department should send naval engineers and mechanics to investigate the explosion. CAPT. SIGSBEE INTERVIEWED.

HAVANA, Feb. 17.—Capt. Sigsbee, interviewed last evening by the correspondent of the Associated press with reference to the cause of the explosion

on the Maine, said: I cannot determine the cause, but competent investigators will decide whether the explosion was produced from an interior or exterior cause. I cannot say anything until after such an investigation has been made. I will not and cannot conscientiously anticipate the decision. nor do I wish to make any unjust estimate of the reason for the disaster.

UNCLE SAM'S FIGHTING FORCE.

Number of Men Available for Military Service in All the States Over 10,000,-

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 .- The government has been collecting information as to the strength of the militia in the United States and also the number of men who would be available for service in case of an emergency. The returns from the states are interesting in view of the prospect of trouble with Spain. The total militia force of the United States and the territories, as shown by the returns, is 1:4,362, and the total number of men available for military service is 10,301,339. The militia force consists of 58 generals, 916 general officers and staff, 3,240 regimental, field and staff, 20,455 non-commissioned officers and 80,000 privates. Besides these there are the musicians and others, bringing up the grand total to the number stated. The force, organized and available, is divided as follows among the different states and territories of the union:

STATES AND TERRITORIES.	gregate.	n availa- le unor- anized
Alabama	2,488	165,000
Arkansas	2,020	250,000
California	3,909	214,029
Colorado	1.036	85,000
Connecticut		
Delaware	458	18,080
Florida	1,134	70,000
Georgia		264,021
Idaho	508	20,000
Illinois		750,000
Indiana		500,000
Iowa		294,874 100,000
Kentucky		361,137
Louisians		135,000
Maine		106,042
Maryland		150,000
Massachusetts		433,975
Michigan		260,000
Minnesota		175,000
Mississippi		233, 480
Missouri		400,000
Montana	632	31,381
Nebraska		101.926
Nevada	368	6,200
New Hampshire	1,305	34,000
New Jersey		385,273
New York		800,000
North Carolia		45,000
North Dakota		19,937
Ohio		650,000
Oregon,		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota	a franchista de la constitución	180,000
Texas	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	300,000
Utah	A 100 PM	
Vermont	1 200000	
Virginia		3.4.227
Washington		
West Virginia	1 2723	125,000
Wisconsin		372,152
Wyoming	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	
Arizona		
New Mexico	632	
Oklahoma		
District of Columbia	1.271	47,000

MUST PAY ALL DUES.

Oklahoma Supreme Court Sustains A. O. U.

W. in Rejecting a Death Claim. GUTHRIE, Ok., Feb. 19 .- The supreme court of Oklahoma has decided the case of the grand lodge of the A. O. U. of the lower court was sustained. This case was appealed from Payne county by the grand lodge and involved the question of the right of the lodge to reject the claim for insurance when the assessment, made just before death had not been paid. Mr. Edmondson joined the Stillwater lodge, his initiation fee and one month's dues in advance being paid. The next assessment fell due on the 28th of the month. Edmondson died a few days later without having paid the dues and the lodge rejected the claim for insurance. The court sustained this action.

RIOTERS IN CONTROL.

Gov. Brady, of Alaska, Will Be Given Addi-

tional Aid to Suppress the Lawless. WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. - Secretary Bliss is in receipt of a letter from Gov. Brady, of Alaska, descriptive of the lawless condition of affairs at Skaguay and Dyea. It was referred to at the cabinet meeting and was considered sufficient justification by the members for the immediate dispatch of the additional military force already authorized to be sent to Alaskan territory. Gov. Brady said:

News from Skaguay by the steamboat now in port is serious. The United States deputy marshal has been shot dead in the discharge of his duty. Another man was killed at the same time and at the same place. Recently the steamers have been carrying great lists of passengers. Many of these are gamblers, thugs and lewd women from the worst quarters of the cities on the coast. They have taken in the situation at Skaguay and Dyea and appear to have combined to carry things with a high

SPANISH WARSHIP HERE.

New York City Practically at the Mercy of the Vizcaya.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.-The Spanish man-of-war Vizcaya is now off our coast awaiting orders. Should she receive word to begin hostilities she would be practically mistress of the North Atlantic. This armored cruiser is capable, naval men say, of demolishing the greater part of New York in less than two hours. The nearest American warship is the cruiser Brooklyn, in Hampton Roads, 350 miles distant. The Brooklyn could not reach here in less than 18 hours at the earliest.

Filibustering Expedition to Cuba.

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 19.-Plans have been laid in this city for the starting of a military expedition to Cuba that will surpass in size any expedition that has yet set out for the island. The wide publicity given to the matter prompted the promoters of the movement to delay the execution of their plans, but the Maine disaster has stirred them up to a point where they propose to risk the starting of the expedition from a place near this

SECRET FOR A TIME.

Proceedings of the Maine Inquiry Will Be Carefully Guarded.

When the Findings Have Been Considered the Public Will Be Enlightened-Vacancies Made by the Maine Disaster to Be Filled.

HAVANA, Feb. 22 .- The United States ighthouse tender Mangrove arrived here yesterday, having on board the officers composing the court of inquiry appointed by Rear Admiral Sicard to inquire into the loss of the battleship Maine. The board met on the Mangrove at ten o'clock, with Capts. Sampson and Chadwick and Lieutenant Commanders Potter and Marix present. Capt. Sampson presided and Lieutenant Commander Marix, recently executive officer of the Maine, acted as recorder.

Capt. Sigsbee, the commander of the Maine, was the first witness called. He was under examination until one o'clock yesterday afternoon, at which hour an adjournment was taken. Capt. Sampson received an Associated press correspondent immediately after the morning session of the board. He

said, in the course of his interview: I would be glad to give the Associated press 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 set 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. I shall give to the Associated press such routine news of the proceedings as is proper.

Capt. Sigsbee, on board the Mangrove, told the correspondent that he was quite pleased with the examination and that he was able to answer all the questions asked, not only as to his own acts, but as to those of his subordinates on the Maine.

Gunner Charles Morgan, of the cruiser New York, arrived on the Mangrove and is in immediate charge of the divers. The latter have been at work all day, but up to the time of sending this dispatch no discoveries of importance have been made. It is believed that the salvage by the wrecking company will be considerable and valuable.

The divers have made only three descents at the wreck of the battleship Maine. Capt. Sigsbee's state documents were rescued from a private drawer in his cabin. The keys to the magazines were found just above the hook over the head of the captain's bed-their usual place. They had W. vs. Mary Edmondson. The opinion been floated upward by the rising of e mattress. About 100 of heroes are yet in the wreck. 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.

> In the afternoon the court of inquiry personally inspected the wreck of the Maine. By their invitation, Capt. Peral, appointed by the Spanish government as a special judge to investigate the disaster, and his secretary, viewed the divers at work.

SENTIMENT IN HAVANA. NEW YORK, Feb. 22.-The Ward line steamer Seguranca arrived at quarantine yesterday from Tampico and Havana. The Seguranca arrived at Havana at ten o'clock on the morning after the disaster to the Maine, and passed close by the wreck. The Seguranca's passengers said that great excitement prevailed at Havana, and, at the time of sailing, the foreign population was generally of the opinion that the Maine was destroyed by design. They cited, among other things in support of this theory, the fact that the Spanish man-of-war Alfonso XII., which was anchored near the Maine, changed her mooring just previous to the disaster. One of the passengers, William L. Carbin went so far as to say that he saw a boat go near the Maine a short time previous to the explosion.

MAGAZINE SAID TO BE INTACT. NEW YORK, Feb. 22.-A dispatch to the Herald from Key West says:

It is learned from what may be considered a semi-official source that divers sent down on behalf of the United States to examine the wreck of the battleship Maine have made a preliminary report of the result of their work. Incredible as it may seem, it is said that after a partial examination of the magazines of the Maine, the divers report that the one in which the explosion is supposed to have occurred is intact. According to the correspondent's informant, the contents of this magazine are unharmed. Therefore, if this report be true, an entirely different aspect is given to the terrific explosion which brought death and destruction to the Maine. This report reaching Key West, it is said, caused the members of the court of inquiry to decide to proceed to Havana and begin their investigation at once, instead of organizing the court

NAVAL VACANCIES TO BE FILLED. WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Steps have been taken by the navy department to fill the vacancies in the enlisted branch of the navy caused by the loss of most of the crew of the Maine. The legal quota is now about 300 short, and arrangements have been made for the immediate enlistment of about that number of men. Telegraphic orders have been sent to the recruiting officers in charge of the receiving ships at New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk, authorizing them to make enlistments immediately.

JOHN J. O'NEILL DEAD.

He Served Five Terms as a Missouri Congressman and Held Other Important Offices.

Sr. Louis, Feb. 21.-John J. O'Neill, ex-member of congress from the Elev-

enth Missouri district and author of the eight-hour law, died at the Mullanphy hospital here of Bright's disease after a long illness. He was 51 years old. Less than two weeks ago Mrs-O'Neill died, butthis fact was kept JOHN J. O'NEILL, from her husband

because of his precarious condition. Mr. O'Neill had a comparatively long legislative career. He served three terms in the Missouri lower house early in the '70s, and for several years was a member of the St. Louis city council. He was elected to congress in 1883 as a democratic member from St. Louis, and served, in all, five terms. Four years ago he successfully contested Representative Joy's apparent election and was seated by a vote of the house. While a member of the state legislature Mr. O'Neill was the author of the law authorizing school boards to maintain free public libraries and the law to protect railway employes in their wages. As a member of congress he was the author of many important bills. He introduced the eight-hour law of 1892, the law to compel railroads to use automatic couplers and brakes on freight trains and the law prohibiting the employment of Pinkertons in the United States service.

AMERICAN MAIZE PROPAGANDA.

Delegates to the Big Corn Convention Form an Organization with This Name.

CHICAGO, Feb. 21 .- The big corn convention, which has been in session here four days, with F. D. Coburn, of Kansas, presiding, came to a close Sat-

A committee on organization, reported, proposing that the name of the organization be the "American Maize Propaganda," which was carried unanimously. The further recommendations of the committee, regarding the province of the association were also adopted.

They provide that the body shall be composed of a national executive committee, consisting of a member from each state; state commissions, having charge of the corn campaign in their respective states, and of district associations to be formed where expedient in order to accommodate local requirements and to be the voice for public sentiment. Allied industries, as boards of trade, commercial bodies, manufacturers of corn implements, corn foods and other products of corn, dairy and poultry associations and live stock socie ties are to be affiliated with the movement by representation in the state organizations. The co-operation of official departments of agriculture, national and state, is also to be sought.

Col. T. W. Harrison, of Topeka, is the executive committeeman for Kansan; J. R. Ripley, of Columbia, for Missouri and R. M. Allen, of Ames, for Nebraska. The following officers were elected: President, Clark E. Carr, Illinois; vice president, John Crownie, Iowa; secretary, Bernard W. Snow, Illinois; treasurer, Andrew Langdon, New York. The first annual convention of the propaganda will be held at Omaha, Neb., next October.

If the efforts of the American Maize Propaganda bear fruit in proportion to the enthusiasm manifested at the initial convention of the organization just held, corn flour, corn meal and their products, corn cake, johnny cake and corn pone will figure much more prominently in the diet of the civilized world than they have.

"THE WORLD FOR CHRIST."

This Is the Motto of a Great Inter-Denominational Missienary Gathering at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 21. - "The World for Christ" is the war cry emblazoned upon the banner of one of the most unique and what is claimed to be one of the most powerful and efficient Christian enterprises-the International Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, which will hold its convention in this city, beginning Wednesday. It will probably be oneof the largest missionary gatherings of the century. Some of the best known men engaged in missionary work, both in the field and at home, and the greatest number of missionary boards and organizations ever brought together at one time will be here. Practically every nation of civilization as well as of heathendom will send delegate. Students, men and women and professors, will come from the five great continents of the world and from the islands of the sea. Most important and far-reaching results are dependent upon this gathering. A great revival and awakening of missionary interest in all civilized countries is expected to follow in its wake.

THREE STATES SNOWBOUND.

Severe Storms in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin Delay Traffic.

CHICAGO, Feb. 21. - Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois are practically snowbound Reports from Cedar Rapids and Webster City, Ia., and Freeport, Bloomington, Rockford and Galesburg, Ill., indicate an average snowfall Saturday night of two feet. Throughout Wisconsin and northern Michigan the fall was heavier, in fact, the greatest of the season. A 40-mile gale has piled the snow into enormous drifts, completely paralyzing the street railway traffic and seriously interfering with the operation of trains on the steam

THE COMING CENSUS.

Senate Favors Taking It Under Direction of the 5 cretary of the Interior.

Big Reduction in Sandry Civil Apprapriation Bill-Monument for Maine Victims -Indian Territory Reorganization-Pure Flour Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. - In the senate yesterday a resolution offered by Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, directing the committee on naval affairs to make an investigation of the disaster to the battleship Maine was adopted without debate. The joint resolution providing for the recovery of the bodies of officers and men from the wrecked battleship Maine and for the recovery of valuable property on the ship, which was passed by the house of representatives last week, was presented to the senate and passed it. It carries an appropriation of \$200,000. As no other business was pressing, the senate, at the suggestion of Mr. Hale, of Maine, began to consider unobjected bills on the calendar.

At two o'clock consideration of the bills on the calendar was discontinued and the measure providing for the 12th and subsequent censuses was laid before the senate. Mr. Allison thought the census bureau ought not to be made an independent bureau, but be placed under the department of the interior, under the general supervision of the secretary of the interior, and he proposed an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Teller, of Colorado, offered an amendment to Mr. Allison's amendment providing that the census bureau be placed under the department of labor and that the commissioner of labor have general supervision of the work. The amendment to the amendment was lost, 21 to 29. The question reverted to the amendment offered by Mr. Allison. It was adopted, 39 to 8. The bill was discussed until 5:10 p. m., when, without action, the senate, on motion of Mr. Carter, of Montana, went into executive session and shortly afterwards adjourned.

THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.-This was private bill day in the house, but little was accomplished, owing to the fact that most of the time was consumed in the passage of private pension bills coming over from the Friday night session three weeks ago. The feature of the day was the spirited contest over the bill to pay Newberry college, a Lutheran institution in South Carolina, \$15,000 for damages by federal troops. It was finally passed. On motion of Mr. Bailey the house voted -58 to 35-to observe Washington's birthday by adjournment over to-day, but Mr. Dingley raised the point of no quorum, and before further action could be taken the house recessed under the rule until eight o'clock. The republicans desired to go ahead with the sundry civil appropriation bill to-day.

A sweeping reducing of over \$8,000,-000 from the amount carried by the current law is made in the sundry civil appropriation bill, which was reported to the house, the aggregate appropriation carried being \$44,749,898. The total is \$13,234,541 less than the regular and supplemental official estimates made for the fiscal year 1899; and \$8,-861,890 less than the appropriations made for the current fiscal year:

Mr. Cummings, of New York, introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the sum of \$100,000 be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the secretary of the navy, for the erection of a monument at Fort Lafayette. New York harbor, in henor of the officers, sailors and marines of the United States war vessel, the Maine, who lost their lives in the harbor of Havana on the night of Tuesday, February 15,

INDIAN TERRITORY REORGANIZATION. WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.-The Curtis bill for the reorganization of the Indian territory, was completed yesterday by the committee on Indian affairs, and a report authorized to be made. Several amendments are made, one of the principal ones being the insertion of a provision giving all persons who have made improvements on their property until December 31 to dispose of their improvements to members of the tribe owning the land. Parties who claim rights under the acts of congress are authorized to bring suit to determine their legal rights, but it is stipulated that the provision shall not be construed to prevent allotment, and the courts given jurisdiction are prevented from exercising by injunction any authority to prevent the operation of the act. The coal lease section has been rewritten, but the only material change made in it is a clause that the bill should take effect, so far as coal leases are concerned, within nine months. While the laws of Arkansas are extended over the territory, it is provided that only the United States law shall prevail as regards the

sale of intoxicating liquor. THE PEARCE PURE FLOUR BILL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The hearing on the Pearce wheat, flour adulteration bill was closed yesterday by the ways and means committee of the house. M. H. Davis, of Shelby, O., president of the Winter Wheat Millers' league, and chairman of the executive committee of the Millers' National association, made an urgent plea for the bill as having the approval of the organized milling interests of the country.