

## BY EXTERNAL FORCE

### Agent that Wrecked the Maine Came from Without.

## BOARD UNANIMOUS ON THIS POINT

### Inquiry Into the Disaster Ended at Havana.

## FURTHER TESTIMONY AT KEY WEST

### Evidence Brought Up by the Divers is Very Strong.

## SHELLS INTACT AND POWDER UNEXPLODED

### Report of the Board of Inquiry to Be Forwarded Soon to Washington—Worst Will Soon Be Known.

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HAVANA, Feb. 24.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The United States naval board of inquiry has finished its labors here. All the board are now confined to the Maine was blown up externally. The report will be unanimous, in all human probability. It will not be sent to Washington before next Wednesday.

The investigating board has learned all they expect to know now except the evidence that divers may find under the forward part of the wreck. Divers in that vicinity today except that they found more powder cases. All showed seams split from pressure outside of them—seams collapsed in some. The copper was impressed by hexagonal forms. The insides were intact, with powder unexploded. They were not damaged. The board had most important testimony today and decided definitely that the Maine was sunk and destroyed through causes not accidental.

The court of inquiry will probably go to Key West tomorrow, continuing its sessions there. The divers of the wrecking steamer Right Arm were examined by the court today. Their testimony corroborated the evidence heretofore given by the government divers.

The members of the court, accompanied by Consul General Lee, were rowed around the Maine's wreck today. They inspected the work of the divers. Only one diver is working now. He is from the Right Arm. The work of recovering the contents of the ship is being done slowly. Two full dress coats and one dining room chair were among the things brought up today. No bodies were found. Frederick C. Holzer of New York, in San Ambrosio hospital, is dying. About thirty witnesses have been examined here. The Right Arm has brought up some important pieces of artillery.

## SYLVESTER SCOVILLE

### DETAILS OF THE INQUIRY

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—The court of inquiry held its usual sessions today. Captain Sampson reports that Chaplain Chadwick was examined as to his personal experiences at the time of the disaster to the Maine, and that the testimony was in favor of the captain of a British bark in the bay, and the superintendent of the West Indian Oil works, across the bay at Regla, both of whom witnessed the explosion.

Neither the officers of the court of inquiry nor the witnesses will give the slightest indication of the testimony, nor the conclusions deducible from it, and all say that the men employed on the wreck have been warned to observe an equally strict reticence.

This course is regarded as eminently wise by the Americans and all intelligent Spanish officials, as there is no telling what passions might be aroused, or what evil results might be brought about by talking freely on official matters in the present state of public feeling in Havana. Thus far Americans are treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness and it seems the special care of the residents of Havana to show friendliness.

Consul General Lee has no fault to find in the report that he had asked Captain General Blanco to disclaim from Cuba certain newspaper men for sending sensational stories to the United States. On the contrary, General Lee has never interfered with the American newspaper men in any way.

Today the principal streets and buildings are gaily decorated with flags and bunting in honor of the Spanish soldiers, 2,029 infantrymen, under the command of Jose Amador, who arrived this morning by the steamer Montevideo from Barcelona.

General Solano, the second chief of staff, today returned on board the Mangrove as the representative of the governor general. Admiral Manterola personally returned the visit paid to him by the court.

The Thursday receptions of General Blanco were resumed this evening.

The session of the court of inquiry this afternoon was devoted to taking the testimony of two American civilians who saw the explosion from the deck of the Ward Line City of Washington, which was moored a few hundred yards from the Maine, and of two divers who have been at work on the wreck for several days. It is believed the court will return to Havana after hearing the Key West witnesses, but no official confirmation of this report can be obtained.

With the departure of the court the center of interest will probably be at Key West of conversation. The public here appears to be content to await the report of the court of inquiry and to be assured that nothing but surmise is possible at present.

The coast survey vessel Bache, after many delays, left for Dry Tortugas this morning with three wounded, all doing well. Owing to the American quarantine regulations the wounded, having been in hospitals here and exposed to fever, must be taken to hospitals in the Tortugas for quarantine. The names of the wounded on the Bache are: John Heffron of Fremantle, N. J.; Thomas J. Wetzel of Philadelphia and Jeremiah Shea of Haverhill, Mass.

The other wounded are doing well late tonight. Ever, Holzer, though sorely wounded, is better and is making a gallant fight for life.

No bodies were recovered today. Recent

## WAITING ON THE INQUIRY

### Secretary Long Says He Has Learned Nothing New.

## STARTLING RUMORS ARE BECOMING LESS

### Considerable Attention is Now Being Given to the Operations of the Wrecking Companies on the Maine.

## WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Rumors of startling discoveries in the wreck of the Maine were less frequent, but there were enough of them still afflating today to warrant Secretary Long in making this statement to the newspaper men as he left his office.

"Summing up the situation I should say that the Navy department knows today nothing more about the cause of the disaster than it did five minutes after the receipt of the first dispatch from Captain Sigbee."

The secretary's attention was drawn to the published statement that Captain Crowshill had not been to Cuba. He has been off with his boy on matters not in anywise connected with the business of the navy."

Secretary Long further said that he rather expected to see Captain Crowshill tomorrow.

Until the conclusion of the investigation of the court of inquiry at Havana the principal business of the Navy department in connection with the Maine will relate to the conduct of the wrecking operations.

Captain Lemly, the judge advocate general, who has this branch of the work immediately in charge, has been ordered to return from the Merritt & Chapman Wrecking company at New York, stating that the steamer Merritt and wrecking lighter Sharpe had sailed for Havana, and that the tug Underwriter would leave New York Saturday for the same place. The assistant wrecking master was going to Havana on the Ward line steamer Saturday, and it was suggested to the department that its inspector should take the same steamer. Inasmuch as Lieutenant Commander Kimball, who is now at Havana, has been assigned to the duty of inspecting the wrecking operations, it will not be necessary to observe this suggestion.

SIGSBEE SENDS A TELEGRAM.

The only exact information received by the Navy department from Havana during the day was conveyed in Captain Sigbee's telegram, as follows:

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—Long, Secretary Navy: Wrecking tug Right Arm arrived yesterday; begins work tonight. Much encumbering metal must be blasted away in detail. Navy reports about the bodies to be blown out of the hull before it would be necessary to use the guns at the forts.

The officers of the British battleship Hood today cabled from the island of Crete, expressing deep sympathy over the disaster to the Maine.

Late tonight the Navy department received two brief telegrams from Captain Sigbee at Havana. One related to some routine matter of expenditures in connection with the work on the Maine, and the other as follows:

"Divers report more bodies in wreck. Some in hammocks involved in debris. Probably not recognizable."

This dispatch indicates that the divers have finally secured at least a partial entrance to the quarters in the forward part of the vessel, where the crew were asleep when the explosion occurred, and under which were the magazines.

The fact that the divers were unable to extricate the bodies showed the fearful obstacles against which they are operating and bears out the belief that the work of submarine investigation will necessarily proceed slowly.

PURCHASE SEATS FOR A BENEFIT.

Performance will be given for the Maine sufferers.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—A thousand representative people gathered at the Metropolitan opera house this afternoon to bid for the boxes and seats for the performance Sunday night next for the benefit of the families of the sailors and marines who lost their lives on the Maine.

Chauncey M. Depew made a speech previous to the sale in which he said: "It is twenty years since this country stood in the shadow of a crisis so overwhelming as the present. We stand in the attitude of saying to the president: 'We wish you fearlessly and without favor to friend or foe to examine into and tell us what caused the death of these seamen, our brothers.' Our great ship went to Havana to protect American life and property. If called upon every one on board was ready to lay down his life."

The sale netted \$9,816. All of the portiere boxes were sold at prices ranging from \$900 to \$1,000. Among the purchasers were: Richard Croker, \$150; Lillian Russell, \$100; Stewart M. Brice, \$100; Maurice Grau, two boxes, \$100 each; August Belmont, \$100.

CUBANS IN NEW YORK CELEBRATE.

It is the third anniversary of the outbreak of the revolution.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The Cubans of this city held a mass meeting at Chickering hall tonight to celebrate the third anniversary of the outbreak of the revolution. Conspicuous among the decorations was an American flag draped in mourning and festooned with the flag of Cuba libre. A number of speakers gave vent to some fiery oratory.

In response to an address by one of the speakers a young Cuban girl cried out, "Death to the Spaniards!" and the audience wept wildly.

One of the supporters of the revolution in Cuba telegraphed from New Orleans that he could not be present, but he would give 100 uniforms and money to the cause. Other speakers of like character were received.

Seemed to Be Several Explosions.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 24.—F. C. McDonald and Edward M. Fowler of New York, who were passengers on the City of Washington at Havana at the time of the Maine explosion, have arrived here. They were walking on the rear deck of the Washington when the explosion occurred and they thought at first that the Alfonso XII. had opened fire on the Maine. They say there seemed to be a series of explosions in quick succession.

Grants Extradition Papers.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Governor Black today authorized the extradition to South Carolina of Charles Hays, a negro murderer arrested in Niagara county for criminal

## STOCK SHIPPERS ORGANIZE

### Steps to Form a Mutual Commission Company Formed.

## WILL OPERATE AT SOUTH OMAHA YARDS

### Members Intend to Share in the Profits of the Business—Details of the New Corporation.

## A Score of Stockmen from Various Points in Nebraska met at the Deltone hotel yesterday afternoon and organized the Shippers' Live Stock Commission company.

The organization of the new company is the outgrowth of proceedings in the federal court to test the legality of the South Omaha Live Stock exchange. In the new company the shippers forming it will endeavor to have the selling of their live stock so conducted as to result to their own gain.

Lafayette Coltrin of Omaha was elected president and treasurer; H. F. Blunk of Saunders county, vice president; R. A. Blunk of Teshamah, secretary, and Lafayette Coltrin, H. F. Blunk, R. A. Blunk, J. P. Freeman of Chapman and Frederick H. Patterson of Stockham were chosen directors. The principal place of business of the new company is to be at South Omaha. The business to be transacted is of live stock on commission for shippers of live stock to the Union Stock Yards of South Omaha or elsewhere in the United States. The buying and selling of live stock, the lending of money and the transaction of a general live stock commission business are named among the objects of the company. The capital stock will be \$15,000, and the greatest amount of indebtedness is set at \$5,000. The officers of the company are a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer and five directors, all to be chosen annually. The president is to be the general manager of the company.

FORMING NEW BRIGADES.

Aside from the forces shown in the above list, new brigades are in process of formation which promise to swell the total to much larger figures at an early day. The organization of this auxiliary arm of the naval service is under the immediate direction of Lieutenant Gibbons, U. S. N., whose energy has accomplished much in securing state organization and in the harmonizing of the bodies into one compact force, capable, in emergency, of co-operating with the regular navy.

In his last report Mr. Roosevelt said the state naval militia, in the event of a sudden emergency, could be utilized at once for manning the smaller national cruisers. It could be depended upon mainly, he said, as a second line of defense and also used in placing mines and the establishment of signal stations for coast defense.

The appropriation of \$50,000 made by congress to aid the work of the naval militia will be apportioned among the states in a few days.

Thanks to the promptness and efficiency of the chief of engineers and the chief of ordnance of the army, the city of Washington is now regarded as being well high safe and secure from attack by water. The fortifications of Fort Washington and Sheridan Point, on the opposite side of the Potomac river, are being strengthened to be able to repel an ordinary fleet of invaders and in case of necessity they could be vastly strengthened in a comparatively short time. These defenses are considered sufficient to keep all hostile vessels beyond the range of gunshot of the national capital.

Moreover, the river has been blocked off and prepared for mines and torpedoes at a point below the fortification already mentioned, so that it is probable some of the ships of that country would be blown out of the water before it would be necessary to use the guns at the forts.

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## THE BEE BULLETIN

### Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Fair; Variable.

## 1. Naval Inquiry Ended at Havana

### Naval Department in a Waiting A Spaniards Deny the Mine Story.

## 2. Maine Explosion Mystery Not Yet

### Allen Withdraws His Resolutions.

## 3. Nebraska News.

### Gov. Denies Three Years Franchise. Student Volunteers at Work.

## 4. Editorial and Comment.

## 5. Omaha Gets Another Fast Train.

### Much Wanted Bank Robber Captured. Affairs at South Omaha.

## 6. Council Bluffs Local Matters.

## 7. General News of the Farther West.

## 8. Time Called on Exposition Exhibitors.

## 9. Famous Vessels Blown Up.

## 10. Commercial and Financial News.

## 11. "Paul and Virginia."

## 12. Some Other Tension Cases.

Temperature at Omaha:

| Hour.    | Temp. | Hour.   | Temp. |
|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| 6 a. m.  | 22    | 3 p. m. | 32    |
| 7 a. m.  | 22    | 4 p. m. | 34    |
| 8 a. m.  | 22    | 5 p. m. | 34    |
| 9 a. m.  | 22    | 6 p. m. | 34    |
| 10 a. m. | 27    | 7 p. m. | 33    |
| 11 a. m. | 29    | 8 p. m. | 32    |
| 12 m.    | 31    | 9 p. m. | 29    |

acts heretofore enacted relating to the presentation of similar claims.

Sec. 5. That no claim shall be allowed under the provisions of this act which shall not be presented within two years after the date of its passage.

Sec. 6. That the secretary of the navy be, and he is hereby authorized, whenever in his discretion it may be deemed a practicable expedient, to cause the remains of all or any of those who perished in consequence of such disaster to be removed to the United States cemetery at Arlington; provided, that the relatives of any such deceased officers and others mentioned in this act who prefer that the remains of such be taken to their homes within the United States shall have such privilege extended to them, and the expense thereof shall be borne by the United States, and the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the provisions of this section.

VIZCAYA LEAVES NEW YORK TODAY.

Captain Eulate Receives Hurry Order from Madrid.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Unless some unexpected order is received from Madrid the Spanish man-of-war Vizcaya, which has been lying off Tompkinsville, S. I., since Sunday, will weigh anchor tomorrow afternoon and steam through the Narrows to the open sea on its way direct to Havana.

Arturo Badisano, the Spanish consul general in New York, called on Captain Eulate this afternoon and took to him important dispatches, one of which ordered him to leave this port without delay. Captain Eulate has been in suspense about the time of his sailing until the consul general called on him, but the order was not unexpected, and all day he had the vessel's crew preparing it for a voyage. The work of coaling was continued, with every available man handling the buckets, so that early in the morning the ship's bunkers will be packed. The Spaniards were also busy putting the ship in snug shape for cruising at sea, and in the afternoon the ship's gunners inspected and cleaned all the guns. After this work had been completed, leather boxes were placed over the gun's breeches.

Captain Eulate, in conversation today, said the story to the effect that the steering gear of the Vizcaya was out of order was imaginary. The steering gear has been overhauled and cleaned, nothing more.

A number of visitors were on board today, but the marine patrol continues as active as ever, keeping back all those who have not been accorded the special privileges of paying their respects to friends on board.

A number of officers of the Vizcaya dined with Consul General and Senora Badisano tonight, returning to the ship at midnight.

SOUTH DAKOTA AND EXPOSITION.

Committee Appointed by the Governor Meets at Mitchell.

MITCHELL, S. D., Feb. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—The committee recently appointed by the governor to look after the exhibit of the eastern half of South Dakota at the Omaha exposition next summer was requested by the governor to meet here today to take the first steps toward organizing a move in that direction. The governor's own county—Clay—has just appropriated \$500 toward a fund for the purpose of making South Dakota prominent at the exposition. The members of the committee are: Hiram Bowie, Forsyth; S. W. Narro, Grand; A. B. M. Beebe, Ipswich; John Hayes, Fort Pierre; O. H. Mann, Okoboko; C. A. Jewett, Sioux Falls; Hugh Smith, Howard; Hans Murphy, Elk Point.

The committee met during the latter part of the afternoon and evening.

EARTHQUAKES DESTROY PROPERTY.

Bad Shake-up on the Island of Montserrat.

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KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 24.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—A succession of terrible earthquakes has caused great destruction of property on the island of Montserrat. They began on the 15th, but the most severe occurred on the 20th. There were numerous landlides and water pipes were wrecked and the entire population of the island was thrown into great consternation. There is much distress in consequence. Montserrat is one of the Leeward Islands, in the West Indies, and is a British possession. Its area is only forty-seven square miles and the topography is mountainous. It has a population of between 8,000 and 10,000.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Feb. 24.

At Queenstown—Arrived—Britannic, from New York for Liverpool. Sailed—Teutonic, for New York.

At Naples—Arrived—Normanna, from New York; Albatros, from New York.

At Rotterdam—Sailed—Oldham, from New York.

At Philadelphia—Arrived—Nedeland, from Antwerp.

At Glasgow—Arrived—Anchora, from New York.

At Liverpool—Arrived—Waesland, from Philadelphia.

At Christiana—Arrived—Hekla, from New York.

At Stettin—Sailed—Norge, for New York.

At New York—Sailed—Karsruhe, for Bremen. Arrived—Frederich der Grosse, from Bremen.

At Cherbourg—Sailed—Havel, for New York.

At Genoa—Sailed—Kaiser Wilhelm II, for New York.

## DENIES MINE STORY

### Statement from High Official in the Spanish Government.

## NO MINE WHERE MAINE WAS ANCHORED

### Nothing to Say About Other Parts of Havana Harbor.

## SPANIARDS WILL NOT SELL CUJA

### Declars They Will Go to War Rather Than Do It.

## WILL FIGHT AGAINST SUCH A MOVE

### Sale of the Island, They Claim, Will Not Bring Enough to Begin to Pay Their War Debt.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.)

MADRID, Feb. 24.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—I submitted the query that if Spain would settle the point of the location of the submarine mine in Havana harbor it would go a long way to clear the government of the blame to a distinguished naval officer, Captain Novo y Colson, editor of Mundo Naval, the best professional naval illustrated weekly in Spain, who immediately undertook to introduce me to Admiral Terry, secretary and chief of staff of the ministry of marine. We went therefore to the ministry of marine. Admiral Terry received me with the traditional courtesy of Spanish naval officers and authorized me to state:

"The harbor of Havana contained no submarine mine in the vicinity of the place where the battleship Maine and the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII were anchored."

The idea of the sale of Cuba is ridiculed and scouted by classes of Spaniards. In fact it is dismised with the query: Why party or government dare moot the sale or independence of Cuba without incurring the certain risk of revolution? A popular wave of feeling, in which all other parties would join, besides the army and navy to a man, would rise against a sale of Spain's choice colony.

Financial circles and all men of business object to the sale of Cuba, because they say, even if \$400,000,000 were offered, that sum would not suffice to cover the Cuban debt, which already exceeds \$500,000,000 and which is growing at the rate of \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000 monthly. This debt is almost entirely in the hands of Spanish bondholders. The price suggested for the sale of Cuba would afford no compensation for the enormous amount of Spanish capital engaged in Cuban enterprises. My twenty years' experience of Spanish politics and what I have heard from statements of all parties, even lately from men now in office, enables me to express the opinion that Spain will not sell or part with Cuba, even if it is necessary to go to war to repel such a suggestion.

ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Mr. Alexandre Ribot, prime minister of France in 1896 and secretary for foreign affairs in 1892, a high authority in diplomacy, in reply to a question today, said: "The explosion being prima facie an accident, Spain is not in any way responsible, but if it proved to have been done maliciously the matter becomes one of settlement politically, not judicially by diplomatic negotiation, not by an international tribunal. It is not usual for continental governments to offer a reward for the arrest of a culprit in such cases, though England has sometimes done so. I cannot quote any precedents to guide. Spain's whole action must necessarily be conditioned by the facts as ascertained."

DOUBT THE TUNNEL STORY.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The Press says: Cubans in this city ridicule the reports of a tunnel under Havana harbor. Arturo Argula, who has spent most of his life in Havana, says:

"In my opinion the whole story is built on the submarine passage that connects Cabanas with Moro, a land passage which has been in existence for we know not how long. It probably extends back to the early part of the eighteenth century, and was constructed for the purpose of affording a means of escape from the outer Forts Moro to the inner Cabanas in the event of an attack. I have been through it half a dozen times. It is now pretty well choked up, and there is no man living today who remembers when it was put to any practical use."

MINISTER WOODFORD EXTENDS COURTESY TO HIS CO-COUNTRYMEN.

MADRID, Feb. 24.—The United States minister, Mr. Woodford, gave a banquet today in honor of the new Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Polo y Bernabe. The guests included the Austrian, Prussian, French, German, Italian, Turkish, Dutch and British ministers and the duke of Veragua, the lineal descendant of Columbus, who was the guest of the United States at the Chicago fair; the premier, Senor Sagasta; two members of the cabinet and the staff of the United States legation. Much political importance was attached here to the incident and the banquet, "coupled with the peaceful utterances of President McKinley," according to a semi-official report, have been "optimistically" utilized by the ministerial press.

But the impartial today takes the Spanish government to task for its "apathy, contrasted with the patriotic feeling of the country," and warns the nation against "hypocritical Yankee policy, which aims at the independence of Cuba." Continuing, the imperial says: "President McKinley may make and reiterate protestations of friendship and his intentions, but his attitude contradicts his words. While the president of the United States is enjoying up with words he sharpens his dagger to stab us behind. While talking concord he utilizes his Sundays in unusual war preparations at the docks and cancels the furloughs of marines. Can we trust these who are preventing the pacification of Cuba and fomenting rebellion and filibustering expeditions, sending war ships under the pretext of friendship and preaching peace? We must prepare for war. There is no time to acquire war ships, but we should fit out immediately what we have, sending the Pelayo, Colo, Carlos V and Maria Teresa to follow the Almirant, Oquendo and Vizcaya to Cuban waters and the rest of the fleet to guard the peninsula. The other policy than preparedness is only to play into the Americans' game, which is

## MONTEGOMERY GOES TO KEY WEST.

### Many Passengers Arrive on the Olivette.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 24.—A special to the Times-Union and Citizen from Tampa, Fla., says:

The United States cruiser Montgomery, which arrived at Port Tampa yesterday, remained at the coal docks all of today taking on coal, getting over 300 tons. One of its officers said tonight that the ship would sail for Key West tomorrow unless otherwise ordered.

The revenue cutter Olivette arrived this afternoon from Havana, and a number of passengers from that city said the report to the effect that the Americans had been advised by General Lee to leave the city was absolutely false, that the city was quiet and no one expressed any fears for their safety. The government's recruiting stations for volunteers here was very heavy and the greater portion was directed to the Navy and Navigation departments.

## TROOPS RECALLED TO THE FORT

### Taken from Rifle Range and Put Through Fatigue Drill.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 24.—Under instructions from Washington, Colonel Cochran, commanding at Fort Thomas, Ky., today issued orders bringing the men on rifle range at Culbertson, Ky., back to the fort. New bayonets that can also be used for trenching tools were issued to all the troops. The men are daily undergoing fatigue drill, and expect to go to Key West instead of Charleston, S. C., as reported.

The First regiment of the Ohio National Guard, located here, is filling up with recruits. Several companies of recruits are being organized for volunteers here and in other parts of this city and their enrollment would more than fill a regiment.

MONITOR TERROR PUTS TO SEA.

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 24.—The monitor Terror reached Norfolk at 10:15 a. m. on its way to sea under sealed orders, but will cruise in Hampton Roads at least a short time. The vessel had been ready for sea since noon yesterday. On leaving the yard the Terror was saluted by the Franklin's guns, but did not respond. Its departure created considerable excitement and thousands witnessed it. There was, however, no cheering either from the shore or the decks of the vessel.

Bunce Receives His Commission.</