ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

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OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 1898-TWELVE PAGES.

SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

SPAIN APPEARS TO BE COOLING OFF

Financial and Political Circles in Madrid Assume a More Quiet Mood.

RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ARE LESS

Dons Desire to Discuss Diplomatically the Questions of the Maine Report and the Re-establishment of Peace in Cuba, With the Idea of Reaching an Amicable Understanding--- Madrid Papers Say America is Yielding to Pressure by the European Powers, Especially Austria.

well aranged American grocery. Canned

beef and condensed milk are piled high on

shelves along with Cuban bread and Ameri-

can crackers. Yellow corn meal is the prin-

ciple article of reconcentrado food. Five

pounds of it, with a little salt, is sufficient

for a good sized family for a week. As the

PROOFS OF A SUBMARINE MINE

Startling Discoveries.

absolute proof of a submarine mine. Divers

found a portion of apparatus not used any-

where on the Maine nor anywhere else in the

world except for working regularly estab-

permission I cannot cable the exact de-

scription of the article found. I can only

now remains in the Spanish government

General Lee is tranquil. He expects to

have time enough to leave properly before

hestilities commence. Officers of the Fern

yesterday afternoon discovered the construc-

across the narrow entrance to Havana harbor

between two points a little inside of the

Punta on the one side and Morro on the

other. It is probable that the pontoon

bridge is intended to save a twenty-mile de-

cannot move their really good field artillery

All is breathless expectation here. Double

guards are held in readiness and every pre-

caution has been taken by General Blanco

to put down rioting. When the Bache leaves

here for American refuges.

Spanish torpedo fleet is bound,

there will be only two very small vessels

The Vizcaya and Oquendo seem to be pre-

paring for sea. It is expected that they

will go to Porto Rico for two reasons-first,

to avoid being trapped in Havana harbor

in case of a declaration of war; second, to

go to Porto Rico as the real strategic center

now of a possible war. Spain's only avail-

able coaling station is there and thither the

CHASING A MYSTERIOUS BOAT.

Officers of the Fern Have a Strange

Experience. yright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.

Cablegram-Special Telegram.)-Last night

about 7:30 the lookout on the Ferns boat

"Boat ahoy" the man seemed to drop some-

into the little shell and off they went into

the night after the just disappearing black

boat to overhaul its contents and crew.

Then the dingy was manned and, under the

direction of Captain Cowles, it made trip

after trio with grappling irons in tow. After

a half hour's search the wherry returned,

but the mysterious boat had not surely been

identified. It rounded close under the Viz-

caya's etern, but when the Fern's boat

reached there they found a couple of boats,

neither of which was suspiciously minned

The dingy kept dredging for over an hour

and all that section where a torpedo could

hooked on to the falls and hoisted on deck.

The mysterious boat was first challenged

It had no sail, and there seemed to be but

one man at the oars. He appeared unable to

gain against a strong wind blowing toward

challenged. He then leaned over the boat's

side, appeared to drop something and rowed

fast away in a direction somewhat changed

SPANIARDS SEARCH THE MANGROVE

Havana Harbor Officials Subject th

Vessel to Indignities.

Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.

HAVANA, March 28 .- (New York World

Cablegram-Special Telegram.)-The search-

ing of a vessel belonging to the American

government is the last in the series of in-

sults and affronts by Spain. A Spanish of-

icial wearing the military uniform of the

Havana customs house spent Saturday on

Mangrove prying into closets and doing ex

pert secret service work for his government

He left only on the vigorous protest on Gen-

When a vessel of any description passe

Morro Castle and enters Havana harbon

three Spanish government boats start out

from La Machina wharf to meet it. They

are the government pliot boat, the health

officers' barge and the customs house launch

The ordinary method of procedure is simply

to come alongside of the incoming vesse

whose captain bands out the necessary

papers for each department. Then with an adios and a bow from the sturdy Spaniards

at the cars the boats hurry back to a wharf.

eral Lee to Captain General Blanco.

SYLVESTER SCOVEL.

from that in which he approached.

the Fern's bow and was drifting for it when

nor loaded.

SYLVESTER SCOVEL.

naval arsenal here.

of Investigation Makes Some

1898, by Press Publishing Company

SYLVESTER SCOVEL.

to bless the United States.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) it with the rations allowed to the family represented. The interior of the relief depot looks like

MADRID, March 28 .- (New York World Cablegram-Special Telegram.)-Both financial and political circles today are quieter, owing to the report that relations are less strained with the American government, as United States officials are disposed to adjourn the examination of the Maine report and more important questions connected with the erilef of the Cubans and the re-establishment of peace in Cuba to discuss diplomatically with Spain to see if an understanding is possible. Woodford today called at the foreign office to hand over a copy of the Maine report, and had a long conversation with Senor Gullon, agreeing to call again comorrow for another interview with Gullon, Cagasta and Moret. Much importance is attached to these conferences in official and diplomatic circles as indicative of a final exchange of views in the interest of peace. The quieter impressions tonight are attributed by the ministerial papers Correo and Correspondencia to amicable pressure brought to bear on the American government by the European powers, headed by Austria.

The Spanish naval officer bearing the text and translation of the Spanish commission cannot reach Washington before Thursday. The minister of state telegraphed the Spanish minister, Polo y Barnabe, extensive extracts of the report, with instructions to lay them before the president today and give them the widest circulation in the United States. Woodford will hand the minister of foreign affairs tomorrow a translation of the American commission's report, tion of a big pontoon bridge ready to swing with an intimation that the president persists in placing the whole issues of the Cuban question in the hands of the senate and house of representatives, with correspond-

The pope has again made officially very friendly demonstrations for Spain and its each way in four hours. success in Cuba. My investigations allow to say positive that all rumors about the alleged attitude of European governments must be received with caution. ARTHUR E. HOUGHTON.

WANT IN HAVANA.

on Every Hand. syright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) HAVANA, March 28 .- (New York World Cablegram-Special Telegram.)-War, want and despair are written all over this heartsick, careworn old city of Havana from the prado to the wharves. Yet the reconcentrados who come trudging lu from Pinar del Rio and Matanzas speak of Havana as a land

By comparison with the rest of the island of Cuba they undoubtedly tell the truth. Havana, with all its hunger and horror, is a hundred times better than the hears of ashes which all the way from Cape San Antonio to Cape Mayei mark the sites of what were plantations and villages. About all that is left of wealth and property in Cuba is in Havana. There still is money enough for a buil fight every week. Between \$50,-000 and \$60,000 was raised at a recent theatrical performance for the Spanish navy There are liveried coachmen on some carringes; gold braid and epaulettes glitter about the palace. Havana holds the last remnant of Spanish glory in the western hem's phere. But right here and in the principal streets men, women and children die of

starvation every day. Whenever times are hard or workingmen strike in New York, one hears much of starying strikers and starvation wages. But the workingmen around Walla Halla ball have no idea of what the starvation here is like. As one walks along any street of Havana he will see in some archway or doorway have been was crossed and crossed again. what at first glance he will take to be a Nothing was found and the little boat was bundle of rags. But if he looks again he will notice a yellow, shriveled face and see a human being crouched there. All look alike. half a ship's length, a little to the left ahead. Children have the same wrinkled, parchment faces as their mothers; all are living

Each reconcentrado usually has at his side tin in which is a paste made of white bean; and water. This is his food for the day; has been for many a day. Reconcentrados do not beg. If you hand one a centavo he will look up at you with his big eyes and may: "Muchas gracias," in a voice husky for want of food. If you ask one where he came from or the cause of his condition the answer in: "I am a reconcentrado." That tells the whole story, driven into Havana by Spain to starve; without friends, without nope. Sometimes a well-to-do Cuban will drop a penny as he passes a crouching reconcentrado. But a Spanish officer never will. Many do not hesitate to say that all recon-

centrados ought to die. station for American relief stores is open every day except Sunday. Havana is divided into six districts and a week's food supply is dealt out each day to all the entrades in one of the districts. I witnessed the distribution of rations today. Two orden publicos (armed police) kept back e crowd of about 1,000 persons. That was difficult, because the crowd was weak and sick. There were sufferers on crutches. their legs terribly swollen from starvation and dropsy. There were mothers with babes and there were children of 9 and 10 with unger brothers and sisters. The applita were admitted 100 at a time. Each had a pasteboard ticket and a gunny sack. ticket was laid on the counter the

Key West. Its errand here is to carry back the cannon and torpedoes that the derricks WAR TALK SOFTENS Key West. Its errand here is to carry back of the wrecking tuge have been hauling out of the Maine for the last week. The Mangrove belongs to the Treasury department of the United States, but is commanded by a reg- More Peaceful Feeling Now Prevails at ular officer, Lieutenant Commander Belden. Its regular work is to carry supplies and provisions to the various lighthouses that are scattered all along the Florida coast. SPAIN SHOWS A CONCILIATORY SPIRIT But ever since the Maine explosion it has been detailed as a sort of dispatch boat to carry messages and supplies between the Cabinet Officers Admit the Outlook is More White Squadron in Key West and American government officials here.

All of the mail for Captain Sigebee and the survivors has been brought over on the Mangrove. The Mangrove has a cable that is the joy and pride of the lighthouse service. Around its heavy oak table the court of inquiry conducted its entire examination into the cause of the Maine explosion. Spanlards in Havana know the trim, neat little Mangrove well and like everything else that has to do with the Maine they hate it. Any work connected with the Maine comes within the province of the Navy department. Lieutenant Cornwell was detailed as the Mangrove's commander on this visit to Havana The Spanish customs house is a part of the military service. The aduanaros or inspectors wear the regulation uniform of the Spanish army.

When the customs boat came alongside yesterday morning, Lieutenant Cornwell stepped to the rall to hand the customary papers to the captain, who sat in the stern holding the tiller ropes. As he took them the aduanaro climbed aboard and immediately proceeded to make timself at home on the rations are slipped over the counter each Mangrove'e deck. Before Lieutenant Cornreconcentrados said: "Thank you." One of the women added, with a courtesy: "God well had time to make any inquiries of the captain the rowers of the customs boat were bending to their oars and out of speaking bless the Americans." A woman knelt on the paving stones in front and prayed heaven distance. Then the advanaro began his day's work. With his hands behind him, he walked all over the Mangrove, beginning in the engine room. He walked into the cook's galley and peered into boxes of provisions and bags of potatoes. He even went into the pilot house, where was the mail bag containing department letters to Captain HAVANA, March 28 .- (New York World Cowles. The aduaparo stared hard at the Cablegram-Special Telegram.)-I am able mail bags, but there he drew the line. He to state definitely and decidedly that the did not open them. board of investigation two weeks ago found

One of the Mangrove's crew is a Frenchman who speaks Spanish. Through him Lieutenant Cornwell questioned his visitor. But his replies were short and not at all satisfactory. "It is my orders," was about lished governmental mines. Until granted all that could be gotten out of him. Lieutenant Cornwell jumped into his launch and went over to the Fern, where he told now say it could only have been used in of the searching of the Mangrove to his detonating a mine and that plenty of the ranking officer, Captain Cowles. same thing has been recovered and some

The big captain of the Fern at once went ashore and laid the matter before General Twenty minutes later a messenger from the American consulate was on his way to the palace with a letter to Captain General Blanco from the consul general. It was a polite note, but it was short and firm and to the point. "The presence of Spanish officials on vessels belonging to the United States government will not be allowed," it

There were the usual whisperings at the palace. General Blanco replied that the bout the rear of the city. The Spaniards take. He regretted it. A short time afterward a Spanish government boat put out from shore and brought the aduanaro back. That closed the incident.

Senor Arriette, the administrator of customs, who directed the searching of the Mangrove, said to me last night; "Of course I put an aduanaro on the Mangrove. I have orders from the palace to inspect every American ship that is not a man-of-war The Mangrove is not a man-of-war, is she? That is why I inspected her."

SYLVESTER SCOVEL. SAYS UNITED STATES IS TO BLAME.

Spain Charges This Country With Fostering the Rebellion. LONDON, March 28.-The Madrid corre spondent of the Dally Mail gives a version of the negotiations between United States Minister Woodford and the Spanish cabinet last week, differing somewhat from that given yesterday by the Standard's Madrid HAVANA, March 28 .- (New York World

correspondent. He says: "The note which General Woodford presented on Wednesday was of a comminatory challenged a suspicious small boat. At his nature. It demanded that Spain put an end to the war in Cuba immediately, recapitulat thing heavy overboard. He then took to his ing the damage to American interests, and oars and slid into the night towards shore further hinting that the war was a danger and with a brisk wind behind. After a secto the public health of the United States, the ond's consultation the boat falls rattled and continual smuggling between the coasts of came down by the run. Two men sprang Cuba and Florida being the means of convey-

ing the yellow fever. "Spains reply was energetic. It declares

agent and representative of the rebels. "Public opinion rejects all idea of yieldng and apparently neither desires nor fears war with the United States. Yet Spain knows it is confronted with the most serious conflict it has had to face since the Napoleonic war. There is an ominous absence of excitement among the people, whose one topic is the possibility of war. It is the calm before a storm, which will break out if the American ultimatum comes."

Thinks War is Likely. (Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.) LONDON, Murch 28.—(New York World Cablegram-Special Telegram.)-Sir Charles Dilke said tonight: "It is impossible to express an opinion on such meager details of the findings of the Maine inquiry as have been published here, but as to the general American-Spanish situation I can't see how war can now be avoided. Does it occur to you that affairs have come to such a puss with Spain that now she may welcome war as the best means of getting rid of Cuba? It has become such a millstone round her neck she must free herself from it somehow, and to the proud Spaniard war would be the least displeasing way. I do not think mediation by any European power or powers likely."

Promises a Statement. LONDON, March 28.-In the House o Commons today A. J. Balfour, acting minis ter for foreign affairs, replying to Sir Wil-

iam Vernon Harcourt, the liberal leader

promised a ministerial statement on the sit-

ation in the far east before Easter.

Sampson Appoints His Staff. KEY WEST, March 28.-Captain Sampso nnounced his staff appointments today. Rear Admiral Sicard's force, with the excommand of Commander West, who will take the findings of the American court.

Washington.

Assuring. AMICABLE ADJUSTMENT IS EXPECTED

Precipitate Action by Congress May Bring a Conflict.

But While the Danger Point is Not Yet Passed, the Political Atmosphere is Clearer Than for Many Weeks.

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- Today has been one of action in every branch of official life; action in the White House, where the president and his cabinet advisers assembled in special cabinet session at 10:30 o'clock; the message of the president on the Maine dicaster and the report and testimony of the court of inquiry were received; action in the secret conferences of state officials and diplomats concerning the latest phases of Spanish situation as the common purpose of all the varying aspects of official action.

many diverse and important phases of a upon as foreshadowing at least sympathy, single subject. And yet, throughout this activity, the prevailing tone as removed from administration sources, has been more assuring, more in the line of peace than it has been for some days.

This was the impression conveyed to cabinet officers after the special cabinet session. The same sentiment characterized the diplomatic conferences at the State department But in congress, which afforded the greatest field for anti-Spanish and warlike expressions, a strain of discontent and uneasiness prevailed after the president's message and tive step in such mediation. the Maine report were submitted, especially on the house side.

The president's message, submitting the Maine report and accompanying evidence, was the main event of the day. Those who had anticipated that the message would contribute to the aggressive spirit were disappointed. It contained no surprises.

In the house of representatives the message and report was referred to the committee on foreign affairs, and Spanish debate was for the time being diverted. In the senate there was a similar reference to the committee on foreign relations, and Mr. Money of Mississippi delivered a brief and energetic speech picturing the woes of Cuba. With the report was submitted the volumnious evidence taken at Havan West before the court of inquiry. Examined in detail, this evidence proved to be much more interesting in recital than the cold and

dispassionate review submitted by the court. The special cabinet session was held to go over the president's message, and more particularly to consider the latest developments in the negotiations now proceeding with Spain. These had assumed a wide field, embracing not only the Maine question, but the

entire Cuban problem. The answer of Spain was in hand to the firm note sent through Minister Woodford last week, stating that the condition of Cuban affairs had become so intolerable that the United States could not much longer remain inactive toward it. The general tone of the Spanish answer impressed the president and cabinet officers most favorably, so much so that after the meeting it was said by members that the outlook was far more assuring, and that Spain has shown such a conciliatory tone that it was believed it would make concessions sufficient to permit an amicable adjustment of the present strained

relations. DANGER POINT NOT PASSED. This was qualified, however, by the state nent that the danger point has not yet passed, and that war, while no longer a probability, was yet a possiblity. The president has distinctly disclosed to his cabluet assoclates his purpose to avert war if it was possible, with a just solution of the Cuban problem, and he had felt from the disposi-

submitted through him did not get before the cabinet. At least two of these new phases submitted by the minister were of

The Spanish government made it known that no objection would be made to the humanitarian objections of the United States government in extending relief to the sufferers in Cuba on a far greater scale than hitherto had been contemplated. On the contrary, Spain has made known that it these purposes will be executed in such a is purely humane.

This acquiescence by Spain clears the way for the president's message of the next few days, asking a large appropriation for the relief of destitution in Cuba. It had been feared that this relief given directly by the United States government would be resented by Spain as indirect intervention. In that event there is little doubt that the relief would have been forwarded at any cost, even the cost of war, as the administration has felt that a war in behalf of a humane object would command the universal approbation of the world.

Another important Spanish documen which reached the government during the day was the abstract of the report of the Spanish naval commission, which investi-gated the destruction of the Maine. It is the only answer Spain has thus far made to the action of this government in aubmit ting to Spain through Minister Woodford,

THE BEE BULLETIN. Weather Forecast for Nebraska-Fair; Colder; Variable Winds

Spain Cools Off a Bit. War Talk is Not so Loud. President's Message to Congress.

Testimony in the Maine Case. Eugene Moore Not Yet Free. General Nebraska News.

Editorial and Comment. 5 Commodore Schley in Command. 6 Council Bluffs Local Matters.

Municipal Elections in Iowa. 7 Senlers Perish in a Storm. Affairs at South Omaha.

8 Live Stock Exchange Hearing. Bemis Bag Company Will Build. Oerter is Held for Trial. Cuban Coasts and Ports. Police Board is Impeached.

Rare Lace for the Exposition. Orders for New Box Cars. Commercial and Financial News.

12 "The Palmist's Reward." Philosophy of the Dance. SOME DISSATISFACTION IN THAT BODY

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sion are directly opposite of those of the action in both branches of congress, where American court. No demands have been made in connection with the Maine, and therefore there is no response beyond the aubmission of the Spanish report.

Following the call of the Spanish minister at the State department, the French am-Spanish-American negotiatione; and action in bareador, M. Cambon, had a conference with the War and Navy departments, with the Judge Day. This renewed the talk of European mediation, which is assuming tangible form. The speech of Premier Hanotaux Seldom has a day been replete with so in the Paris chamber last Saturday is looked if not direct steps, toward mediation by France and other continental powers. There is good reason to believe that Spain is ready and anxious for this move and has been encouraging it at the European capitals. It would not be an offensive intrusion, but a friendly offer to mediate the differences which have recently threatened to terminate in war between the United States and Spain. It is understood, however, that up to the present time, M. Cambon has not received any definite instructions to take the initia-

PLANNING THEIR CAMPAIGN. After the adjournment of the house today there was considerable discussion over proposed consolidation of the forces in the house who favor some form of immediate action

on the Cuban Issue. There was a strong feeling shown over the avoidance in the message of any outline of a definite administration policy, and a decided disposition apparent not to await any

further delay nor ersort to temporizing measures. The project to furnish ad libitum relief supplies to the Cuban non-combattants is meeting with opposition, to which members on both sides of the house have given voice in private discussion, on the ground, first,

that Spain alone is responsible for the contending of such large and continued aid abroad is unjust to the people of this coun-The steps taken today on this line were of an informal nature. Representative Hull of

Iowa, chairman of the house committee on military affairs, is leading the movement for prompt action. A number of senators and representatives

of both parties conferred with the president at the White House today. It is said the opinion expressed by those who talked with Mr. McKinley was that congress was inclined to object to further delay toward a settlement of the Spanish situation, and that unless the next message was more definite the radical members could not be

At the meeting of the senate committee on foreign relations Wednesday Mr. Frye will move that the committee remain in continuous session until the questions relating to the Maine, Cuba and Spain are settled. Mr. Foreker will introduce tomorrow resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba.

REPORT OF THE SPANISH COURT. It Finds that the Explosion Was an

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- A full synopsis of the report of the Spanish naval commission, which investigated the destruction of the battleship Maine, is here given by the Associated Press. It is taken from a copy clusions are directly opposite to those in the ongress today. The synopsis is as follows: The report contains declarations made by statements it clearly deduces and prove he occasion of the explosion of a torpedo. The evidence of witnesses comparatively

close to the Maine at the moment is to the effect that only one explosion occurred; that no column of water was thrown into the air; that no shock to the side of the nearest vessel was felt, nor on land was any vibration noticed, and that no dead ish were found. The evidence of the senior plot of the

harbor states that there is abundance of fish in the harbor, and this is corroborated by other witnesses. The assistant engineer of works states that after the exphysions made during the execution of work recognizes the humane purposes animating in the harbor, he has always found dead this country and that it does not doubt that The divers were unable to examine the

bottom of the Maine, which was buried in the mud, but a careful examination of the sides of the vessel, the rents and breaks in which all point outward, shows without a doubt that the explosion was from the inside. A minute examination of the bottom of

the harbor around the vessel shows abs lutely no sign of the action of a torpedo, and the fiscal (judge advocate) of the commission can find no precedent for the explosion of the storage magazines of a vessel by a torpedo.

The report makes clear that owing to the special nature of the proceedings followed, and the absolute respect shown for the extra-territorialidad of the Maine, the commission has been prevented from making such an examination of the inside of the vessel as would determine even the hypothesis of the internal origin of the accident. This is to be attributed to the regrettable refusal to permit of the necessary co-operation of the Spanish commission, both with the commander and the crew of he Maine, and the different American officlass commissioned to investigate the causes of the accident, and later on with

Tae report finished by stating that an ex-

PRESIDENT LAYS IT BEFORE CONCRESS

Sends Report of the Naval Inquiry Board to Legislative Branch.

REQUESTS DELIBERATE CONSTRATION OF THE DOCUMENT

"The evidence of the divers establishes

Upon the evidence of concurrent external

cause the finding of the court is as follows:

BOTTOM FORCED UPWARD.

"At frame seventeen the outer shell of

"The outside bottom plating is bent into a

reversed 'V' shape, the after wing of which,

in length (from frame seventeen to frame

against the continuation of the same plating

"At frame eighteen the vertical keel is

broken in two and keel bent into an angle

singular to the angle formed for the out-

side plates. This break is about six feet

below the surface of the water and about

thirty fect above its normal position. In the

opinion of the court this effect could have

been produced only by the explosion of a

mire situated under the bottom of the ship,

at about frame eighteen and somewhat on

"That the loss of the Maine was not in any

respect due to fault or negligence on the

"That the ship was destroyed by the ex-

"That no evidence has been obtainable fix-

ing the responsibility for the destruction of

I have directed that the finding of the

erument thereon be communicated to the

government of her majesty, the queen, and

I do not permit myself to doubt that the

dictate a course of action suggested by honor

and the friendly relations of the two gov-

It was the duty of the executive to advise

the congress of the result and in the mean-

GALLERIES OF HOUSE CROWDED.

Crush is a Reminder of Inauguration

Times.

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- Except on the

occasion of the inauguration of a president.

no such crowds as surged through the corri-

dors and stormed the galleries for admis-

sion have been seen at the capitol in a quar-

ter of a century. Public interest in the

findings of the board of inquiry, appointed

to investigate the disaster which sent one

of Uncle Sam's noblest vessels to the bottom

of Havana harbor and sacrificed the lives of

260 brave American sailors, was at white

WILLIAM M'KINLEY,

Executive Manslon, March 28, 1898.

time deliberate concideration is invoked.

the Maine upon any person or persons."

plosion of a submarine mine, which caused

part of any of the officers or members of

The conclusions of the court are:

the partial explosion of two or

forward magazines; and,

ernments.

extending forward.

the port side of the ship."

the ship, from a point eleven and one-half

feet from the middle line of the ship and

ward part was completely demolished."

Executive Makes Little Comme to Situation Further Than to Say that He Has Transmitted Findings to Spain and that He

ward magazines.

Thinks the Sense of Justice of that Nation Will Induce it to Continue Its Friendly Relations with

the United States.

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- The president, lifted the forward part of the ship very pertoday sent the following message to con- ceptibly, the second, which was more prolonged, is attributed by the court to the partial explosion of two or more of the for-To the Congress of the United States: For

some time prior to the visit of the Maine to Havana harbor our consular representatives pointed out the advantages to follow from that the afterpart of the ship was practically the visit of national ships to the Cuban intact and sank in that condition a very waters, in accustoming the people to the few minutes after the explosion. The forpresence of our flag as the symbol of good will and of our ships in the fulfillment of the mission of protection to American interets, even though no immediate need therefor might exist.

Accordingly, on the 24th of January last, after conference with the Spanish minister, in which the renewal of visits of our six feet above the keel, when in its normal position, hes been forced up so as to be now war vessels to Spanish waters was discussed and accepted, the peninsular authorities at about four feet above the surface of the water; therefore, about thirty-four feet above Madrid and Havana were advised of the purpose of this government to resume where it would be had the ship sunk unfriendly naval visits at Cuban ports, and that injured. in that view the Maine would forthwith call at the port of Havana. This announceabout fifteen feet broad and thirty-two feet ment was received by the Spanish government with appreciation of the friendly character of the visit of the Maine and with twenty-five) is doubled back upon itself notification of intention to return the courtesy by sending Spanish ships to the principal ports of the United States. Meanwhile the Maine entered the port of Havana on the 25th of January, her arrival being marked with no special incident besides the exchange of customary salutes and ceremonial visits.

The Maine continued in the harbor of Havana during the three weeks following her arrival. No appreciable excitement attended her stay, on the contrary a feeling of relief and confidence followed the resumption of the long interrupted friendly intercourse. So noticeable was this immediate effect of her visit that the consul general strongly urged that the presence of our ships in Cuban waters should be kept up by retaining the Maine at Havana, or in the event of her recall, by scoding anther vessel there to take her place. DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION.

At forty minutes past 9 in the evening of the 15th of February the Maine was destroyed by an explosion, by which the entire forward part of the ship was utterly court of inquiry and the views of this govwrecked. In this catastrophe two officers and 260 of her crew perished, those who were not killed outright by the explosion being penned between decks by the tangle of wreckage and drowned by the immediate sense of justice of the Spanish nation will sinking of the hull.

Prompt assistance was rendered by the neighboring vessels anchored in the harbor, aid being especially given by the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alphonso XIII and the Ward line steamer City of Washington which lay not far distant. The wounded were generously cared for by the authorities of Havana, the hospitals being freely opened to them, while the earliest recovered bodies of the dead were interred by the municipality in a public cemetery in the city. Tributes of grief and sympathy were offered from all official quarters of the island.

The appalling calamity fell upon the people of our country with crushing force, and for a brief time an intense excitement prevailed, which in a community less just and self-controlled than ours might have led to hasty acts of blind resentment. This spirit, however, soon gave way to the calmer processes of reason and to the resolve to investigate the facts and await the material proof before forming a judgment as to the cause, the responsibility, and if the facts warranted, the remedy due. This course necessarily recommended itself from the outset to the executive, for only in the light of a dispassionately ascertained certainty could it determine the nature and measure of its full duty in the matter.

FINDINGS OF NAVAL COURT.

The usual procedure was followed, as in all cases of casualty or disaster to national vessels of any maritime state. A naval court of inquiry was at once organized, composed of officers well qualified by rank and practical experience to discharge the onerous duty imposed on them, and by a strong force of wreckers and divers the court proceeded to make a thorough investigation on the spot, employing every available means for the impartial and exact determination of the causes of the explosion. Its operations have been conducted with the utmost deliberation and judgment, and while independently pursued, no source of information was neglected and the fullest opportunity was bers awaited the reading of the official findallowed for simultaneous investigation by the Spanish authorities.

The finding of the court of inquiry was ous labor on the 21st of March, instant, and having been approved on the 22d by the lilles of the valley, cast an air of sadness commander-in-chief of the United States over the vast assemblage. naval force on the North Atlantic station was transmitted to the executive. It is herewith laid before the congress,

logether with the voluminous testimony tuken before the court. Its purport is in brief as follows:

"When the Maine arrived at Havana she pilot to buoy No. 4, to which she was

"The state of discipline on board and the condition of her mugazines, boilers, coal bunkers and storage compartments are passed in review with the conclusion that cation of any cause for an internal explosion existed in any quarter.

all was quiet.

"At forty minutes past 9 o'clock the vessel was suddenly destroyed.

leaving us in peace and tranquillity. "Yet if war must come," he prayed, "in vindication of the truth and justice, mercy and

was conducted by the regular government | power that these clouds might pass away,

"There were two distinct explosions, with right, help us to be prepared with brain and brief internal between them. The arm heart and branch Bull Je

At exactly 12 o'clock the speaker ascended the rostrum and called the house to order. Amid the impressive stience that followed the blind chaplain delivered a solemn prayer excellent order prevailed and that no indi- which rang through the hall like a warning. He referred to the storm clouds that hung above the country, threatening to break at

"At 8 o'clock on the evening of February any time. He prayed to God to interpose his 15 everything bad been reported secure and power that those clouds might pass away

ing of the board.

heat. At daylight this morning people were already seeking entrance to the capitol, and hours before noon, when the houses convened, the marble stairways were choked with a pushing, jostling, crowd, pressing toward the galleries. Not an inch of space remained in the public galleries at 9 o'clock, though long lines of people stretching down the stairways to the lower corridors continued to press forward. Within a few minutes of the time the reserved galleries were thrown open they were completely filled. with the exception of those reserved for the diplomatic corps and the families of the president and cabinet. Admission to these galleries was strictly by card. Many distinguished personages were in the galleries. The hall buzzed like a beehive with the sound of many voices. On the floor there was almost as much excitement as in the galleries, although the full synopsis of the report which was printed by the Associated Press this morning had taken the keen

Upon the desk of the late Representative Simpkins of Massachusetts, who filed sudreached after twenty-three days of continu- | denly on Saturday night, a wreath of easter lilies, interwoven with tulips, crocus and Fifteen minutes before the house convened

edge off the anxiety with which the mem-

the floor was cleared. The diplomatic and executive galleries shortly afterward were opened and before the gavel fell at soon not a seat was vacant. Altogether there were an unusually large number of women in the galleries and their gay spring costumes scene. Chairman Dingley and Mr. Bailey and the other leaders entered the hall without

that the war would have ended long ago ion manifested by Spain that this just solu of the original report, which is now on its but for the material and moral help and tion could be reached. This, however, is way here from Havana, the synopsis being support the rebels were continually receivwithout considering congress, which may, cabled in the meantime and today placed in ing from the United States. The Spanish now that the subject is formally before it, the hands of the government. The connote complains of the policy followed by the ake some radical action. United States in demanding from Spain the Meantime at the State department cable report of the court of inquiry submitted to termination of a war which the United grams were being received from Minister States was virtually maintaining by the Woodford and the Spanish minister, Senor presence of a squadron in the neighborhood' occular witnesses and experts. From these Polo y Bernabe, was in lengthy conference of Cuba and by organizing succor for the with Judge Day as to the prospective adthe absence of all those attendant circumreconcentrados in a manner that would be justment. stances which are invariably present on offensive to any nation, as well as by keep-The meeting between the Spanish minister ing in Havana a consul who is publicly the

and Judge Day came after the cabinet conference, so that such representation as Spain

exceeding importance.

way as to avoid all opportunities for frietion. It is not expected that the relief will be carried in war ships, as this would introduce a political aspect into a project which