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RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1898.

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Leads all Other North Carolina Dailies in Both News and Circulation.

THE BATTLE-SHIP MAINE IS BLOWN UP

The Explosion Broke Windows in All the Houses and Shook the Whole City of Havana.

NONE OF THE OFFICERS ARE REPORTED WOUNDED

MANY OF THE SAILORS ARE WOUNDED AND ARE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE STARTLING MYSTERY.—ESTIMATED THAT OVER 100 OF THE CREW WERE KILLED.

A SUSPICIOUS HINT OF SPANISH TREACHERY GIVEN BY CAPT. SIGSBEE'S DISPATCH

A Secret Dispatch Accompanies the Other One From Him—All the Officers Are Accounted For Except Two—It is Supposed That All Were on Shore—The Spanish Authorities Including Blanco Are Offering All Assistance Possible, Ordering All Boats to Her Aid—The Maine is a Complete Loss, What Remains Being Now in Flames—Captain Sigsbee Receives a Wound in the Head—Consternation in Havana and Thousands of People Crowd Upon the Wharves—The Officers Knocked Out of Their Berths and Behave Bravely—Many Theories, Including a Powder Magazine on the Maine as the Cause.

Havana, Feb. 15.—At a quarter of ten o'clock this evening a terrible explosion took place on board the United States cruiser Maine in Havana harbor. Many were killed or wounded. All the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII are assisting.

As yet the cause of the explosion is not apparent.

The wounded sailors of the Maine are unable to explain it.

It is believed that the cruiser is totally destroyed.

The explosion shook the whole city. The windows were broken in all the houses.

A correspondent of the Associated Press says he has conversed with several of the wounded sailors and understands from them that the explosion took place while they were asleep, so that they can give no particulars as to the cause.

OFFICERS OF THE MAINE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The officers of the Maine are:

CAPTAIN CHARLES D. SIGSBEE, Commanding.

Lieutenant Commander, RICHARD WAINWRIGHT.

Lieutenants, GEORGE W. HOLMAN, JOHN HOOD AND CARL W. JUNG.

Lieutenants (junior grade), GEORGE P. BLOW, JOHN J. BLANDIN AND FRIEND W. JENKINS.

Naval Cadets, JONAS H. HOLDEN, WAIT T. CLUVERIUS, AMON BRONSON, DAVID F. BOYD, JR., Surgeon, LUCIEN G. HENEBERGER.

Pay-Master, CHARLES W. LITTLEFIELD.

Chief Engineer, CHARLES P. HOWELL.

Passed Assistant Engineer, FREDERICK C. BOWERS.

Assistant Engineers, JOHN R. MORRIS AND DARWIN R. MERRITT.

Naval Cadets (engineer division), POPE WASHINGTON AND ARTHUR ORENSHAW.

Chaplain, JOHN P. CHIDWICK.

First Lieutenant of Marines, ALBERTUS W. CATLIN.

Boatswain, FRANCIS E. LARKIN.

Gunner, JOSEPH HILL.

Carpenter, GEORGE HELMS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAINE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The Maine is a battleship of the second class and is regarded as one of the best ships in the new navy. She was built at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and is 318 feet long, 57 feet broad, 21.6 mean draught, and 682 tons displacement. She carries four ten inch and six six inch breech loading guns in her battery, and seven six pounder and eight one pounder rapid fire guns, and four Gatlings in her secondary battery and four Whitehead torpedoes.

The Maine was built in 1890, at a cost of \$2,588,000. She had a steel hull and a complement of 874 men.

CAPTAIN SIGSBEE'S DISPATCH.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Secretary of the Navy received the following telegram from Captain Sigsbee:

"Maine blown up in Havana harbor, nine-forty, and destroyed. Many wounded and doubtless more killed and drowned. Wounded on board Spanish man of war and Ward Line steamer. Send light house tenders from Key West from crew and few pieces of equipment still above (water). No one had other clothes than those upon him."

"Public opinion should be suspended till further report. All officers believed to be saved. Jenkins and Merritt not yet accounted for. Many Spanish officers, including representatives of General Blanco, now with me and express sympathy."

(Signed) "SIGSBEE."

The officers referred to in the above despatch are:

Lieutenant Friend W. Jenkins and Assistant Engineer Darwin R. Merritt.

From the wording of the despatch the Navy Department thinks it possible that they were on shore at the time of the accident.

The Secretary of the Navy received another despatch from Key West at the same time with the above, but its contents were not made public.

The orders for the light house tenders were at once sent to Key West in plain language, thus avoiding the delay that would have arisen from the use of cipher.

LITTLEFIELD IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Pay Master Charles W. Littlefield, who is given in the list of officers on the Maine has recently been replaced by Pay Master Ryan, and Littlefield is now in Washington.

FOREST FIRES RAGING.

Streets of Wilmington Filled With Dense Smoke—Heavy Winds—Fire at Fayetteville.

Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 15.—Forest fires are raging in this section, and streets here now are filled with dense smoke. This, supplemented with clouds of blinding dust, makes life outside houses almost unendurable.

The local weather bureau reports wind velocity at forty-eight miles per hour at 10 o'clock p. m. This is the heaviest wind that has been experienced here in over a year.

So far as is learned there is no damage to the shipping in port. Storm warning messages have been liberally distributed, and the harbor is well protected naturally.

At 11:30 o'clock the wind has fallen considerably.

A telegram from Fayetteville states that fire broke out there at 8 o'clock in the Cumberland Cooperation Works, entailing a loss of over two thousand dollars. It was gotten under control by 9:30 o'clock.

HANNA'S SISTER MARRIES.

Thomasville, Ga., Feb. 15.—Miss Lillian C. Hanna, sister of Senator Hanna, was married her to-day to Preston Baldwin, a young lawyer of Cleveland.

Senator Hanna was not present, being detained by official business.

WADESBORO POSTMASTER.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Among the postmasters nominated by the President today was: North Carolina—John L. Matheson, Wadesboro.

Admiral Manterola believes that the first explosion was of a grenade shell that was hurled over the Navy Yard.

Captain Sigsbee says the explosion occurred in the bow of the vessel. He received a wound in the head. Orders were given to the other officers to save themselves as best they could. The latter, who were literally thrown from their berths in their night clothing, gave the necessary orders with great self possession and bravery.

At 11:30 the Main continues burning. The first theory was that there had been a preliminary explosion in the Santa Barbara magazine with powder or dynamite below water.

SECRETARY LONG GETS NEWS.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Secretary Long received Captain Sigsbee's dispatch but a few minutes before the Associated Press dispatches from Havana were handed to him. He received the news with apparent calm and his first act was to comply with Captain Sigsbee's request that assistance be sent from Key West. He immediately wired Capt. Forsyth at Key West to proceed with the Naval tender Fern to Havana harbor.

Secretary Long then sent for Captain Dickens and the two discussed Captain Sigsbee's brief telegram. No other naval officers were present and besides the Secretary and Captain Dickens, the Naval colony here is ignorant of this disaster, the greatest which has befallen the American Navy since the disaster at Apia, many years ago. The Secretary is inclined to believe that most of the officers of the Maine were on shore at the time of the accident, as it was still early in the night. While neither the Secretary nor Captain Dickens are inclined to discuss the probable cause of the accident, several suggestions were ventured upon. They believe that it may have been caused by a fire in the bunkers, heating of bulkhead near a magazine, or that an accident may have occurred while inspecting high explosives for torpedoes. Of course this is mere speculation, and the Secretary is anxiously waiting a more detailed report from Captain Sigsbee.

Later the Secretary sent another telegram to Key West directing that the tender Mangrove also be sent to Havana.

THE PRESIDENT AWAKENED.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Commander Dickens, after carrying out the instructions of Secretary Long with regard to relief measures for the survivors of the Maine, went at once to the White House where the President was awakened and informed of the disaster. President McKinley received the news calmly and expressed his deep sorrow, but said nothing except that he was thoroughly satisfied with the measures adopted by the Navy Department. Secretary Long retired at 4 a. m., and gave orders that all further dispatches from Havana should be transmitted to Captain Dickens.

The increase of 145 per cent in the value of gold, caused by its increasing scarcity, from 1869 to 1894, as admitted by leading advocates of the gold standard found expression at that time in extremely low prices and conditions of unparalleled distress. The discovery of gold and silver in extraordinary quantities, and the great increase in the volume of metallic money resulting therefrom, relieved this distress, and brought in its stead wonderful prosperity. Prices rose, business flourished, producers prospered, all were happy. Substantially this condition would have continued if both the precious metals had been allowed to remain in use as money, because they were being found in nearly sufficient quantities to increase the volume of money in proportion to the development of business. A wicked conspiracy, however, deprived one of them of the money function. This was done with the deliberate purpose of raising the value of the other by rendering the supply of metallic money relatively scarcer as compared with the demand.

From the hour of the consummation of this crime mankind has suffered commercial disaster and social distress in almost constantly increasing measure. Just in proportion to the growth of arts and civilization and the expansion of commerce, business and industry, the inadequacy of the volume of gold is felt, its scarcity is emphasized, its value increased.

The repression of life and happiness, which is inseparable from a long course of declining prices, has now checked development and, if continued, will ultimately stifle civilization. An eminent American, some years ago said: "Our national debt on September 1, 1865, was two and three quarters billions; it could have been paid off with eighteen million bales of cotton, or twenty five million tons of bar iron. When it had been reduced to a billion and a quarter, thirty million bales of cotton, or thirty million tons of iron would have been required to pay it. In other words, while a nominal shrinkage of about fifty

TO SILVER MEN A GREETING

Addresses by the Chairmen of the Three Parties.

RESULT OF CONFERENCES

TO UNITE ALL FRIENDS OF THE WHITE METAL.

THE REPUBLICAN SURRENDER TO GOLD

Money Increased in Value 145 Per Cent. in Forty Years, Leading to an Unparalleled Distress—A Luminous Review of Situation.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The addresses on behalf of the Democratic, Populist and Silver Republican parties, which are the result of the conferences which have been in progress among the leaders of these parties at the capitol for the past few weeks, were issued to-day. They seek to unite the members of the three parties in future elections upon the financial issue as the question of paramount importance and are separate appeals to each of the parties to consolidate all along the lines for this purpose. The address to Democrats is signed by Senator James K. Jones, of Arkansas, chairman of the Democratic National Committee and is endorsed by Democratic Congressional Committee; that to the Populists by Senator Marion Butler, chairman of the Populist National Committee and twenty-five other Populist members of the Senate and the House, and that of the Silver Republicans by Chairman Charles A. Towne, and the Silver Republicans in the Senate and the House and also by ex-Senator Dubois.

THE DEMOCRATIC ADDRESS.

The Democratic address is as follows: "To the People: The surrender of the Republican party to the advocates of the gold standard and monopoly is at last complete. The present administration, called to power upon the solemn pledge of the Republican National Convention at St. Louis to promote bi-metallicism, has formulated and sent to Congress a bill, the leading purpose of which, the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury avows is 'to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard.' The country has already, for twenty-four years, been so thoroughly committed to this standard, partly by law and partly by the usurpations of the executive branch of the government, that its effects are seen and felt on every hand; wages are reduced; work is harder to get; the weight of debt is doubled; the value of land and other property is reduced one half or more, until the lives of the people are 'made bitter and hard bondage.' It is certainly not in the interest of humanity to have this condition of things more thoroughly established.

The continued rise in the value of gold, which is the same thing, the continued fall in prices, must inevitably transfer the property of all these engaged in active business, the actual creators of wealth, whether by hand, brain or capital, to those who, avoiding the risk and efforts of active business, only draw interest.

The increase of 145 per cent in the value of gold, caused by its increasing scarcity, from 1869 to 1894, as admitted by leading advocates of the gold standard found expression at that time in extremely low prices and conditions of unparalleled distress. The discovery of gold and silver in extraordinary quantities, and the great increase in the volume of metallic money resulting therefrom, relieved this distress, and brought in its stead wonderful prosperity. Prices rose, business flourished, producers prospered, all were happy. Substantially this condition would have continued if both the precious metals had been allowed to remain in use as money, because they were being found in nearly sufficient quantities to increase the volume of money in proportion to the development of business. A wicked conspiracy, however, deprived one of them of the money function. This was done with the deliberate purpose of raising the value of the other by rendering the supply of metallic money relatively scarcer as compared with the demand.

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five per cent had taken place in the debt, it had, as measured in either of these two world's staples, actually been enlarged by some fifty per cent."

Although more than half the principle of this enormous debt and every cent of accumulated interest had been paid by the labor of the United States, the holders of the bonds still hold a claim for more of the labor of the people than they held before these enormous payments had been even begun. This cruel confiscation of the lives and liberty of the laboring millions of this country is the most stupendous crime that has been committed in the annals of civilization. Unless a government "of the people, by the people and for the people" has perished from the earth, surely the present boldly avowed scheme, not only to continue, but to increase these evils, will not be permitted. In addition to this purpose of more thoroughly establishing the gold standard, the plan of the administration is to retire the paper money of the government, to issue gold bonds, and to increase the power, privileges and profits of national banks.

The retirement of the government paper money must reduce the volume of circulation and while the Secretary admits that the contraction of the currency would be more ruinous in two years than interest on a like amount of bonds for forty years would be, he calmly informs us that the national banks will probably issue a sufficient amount of money to prevent this enormous suffering.

The national banks are not to be required to redeem their notes in gold, but it is arranged that the United States government shall do so on demand; and after having done so the government must be content to have the national banks reimburse it in "any kind of legal tender money, at the option of the banks." We are frankly told that lawful money will be made "relatively scarcer than it is now," and that it is intended that under the operation of the bill it will be "easier to get gold than lawful money." Practically all of the money in the hands of the people now, as the Secretary distinctly admits, is silver, chiefly in the form of silver certificates. The avowed purpose of the bill is to make it hereafter more difficult to get these than gold.

"The Monetary Commission" selected by the Executive committee of a self-constituted Indianapolis convention, which assembled for the express purpose of establishing the gold standard, have also made a report and promulgated a bill, the provisions of which are so strikingly like the propositions of the Secretary of the Treasury, in all material particulars, as to suggest that they were compared and harmonized before either was given to the public. This report and bill are somewhat more bold in the assertion of the purposes contemplated than is even the proposition of "Mr. Frage." These distinctly propose that silver dollars shall not hereafter be coined; that standard silver dollars shall be redeemed in gold; that the silver bullion on hand at present shall be sold, and suggest that silver dollars may also be melted down and sold as bullion. We are assured that the notes of the banks "cannot fail to be safe," "because being based upon all the resources of all the banks issuing them, they are based upon the whole business of the country." Certainly no bank will become liable for the notes issued by another bank over which it has no control or supervision; hence this scheme must contemplate the establishment of some central bank authority, having the absolute control of the issue of all paper money—a great bank trust, pool, or syndicate, with powers such as not man has ever before had the audacity to suggest. This committee has called upon commercial bodies all over the country to assemble and endorse their report. Thus, the people are put upon full notice of what is intended, and of the means of its accomplishment.

TO STIFLE FREE OPINION.

Considering all this, is it any wonder that the "Spectator," one of the great English newspapers, should say as it did some months since: "Being audacious beyond any old world experience, the great capitalists of America are determined to capture free opinion and to prevent criticism. They subsidize pulpits, they buy the press, they seat their well paid attorneys in the United States Senate, and at length they stretch their hands over the colleges, which it is easy to capture by examples of generosity. Thus their design is to prevent any effective action which shall in any way weaken their authority or undermine their position. Their object cannot be mere wealth making, for they already enjoy wealth beyond the dreams of avarice. Apparently their intention is first to convert the United States into a powerful oligarchy over other lands. It is reserved for the 'free' west to dismiss from academic service tried and competent teachers at the bidding of rings of millionaires who will not hear one single criticism or questioning of the justice or necessity of their doings, or of the character and tendency of the trusts they have built up with land at the expense of the public. The divine right of kings is to be succeeded by the divine right of millionaires, who are to run everything, including the American Senate and the conscience and intellect of university professors. It is none of our duty to say how the American people shall deal with the pernicious growth of that money power which overshadows the institutions of the republic. But we think that the rich men of America are revealing such a deadly plot against all genuine public freedom that unless we are mistaken, the opening years of the new century will witness an outburst in the west which will amaze the civilized world."

In view of the great principles involved, and of the danger so close at hand, we urge the people everywhere to arouse themselves, and at once to take steps to save themselves and their children from the fetters now being openly forged to bind them. In recent years there have been a number of instances of Congressional districts where the ad-

(Continued on second page.)

THE KANSAS PACIFIC

Will the Government Redeem First Mortgage Bonds?

MR. HARRIS' RESOLUTION

IT IS PASSED AFTER A SPIRITED DISCUSSION.

A LOSS BY PRESENT PLAN OF \$6,000,000

The Attorney General Called Upon to Inform the Senate of the Status of the Negotiations—A Busy Day in House - Bankruptcy Bill.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—A resolution of inquiry offered yesterday by Mr. Harris, of Kansas, precipitated a spirited discussion of the Pacific Railroad question in the Senate today. The resolution called upon the Attorney General, for the reasons which induced him to abandon his plan of redeeming the first mortgage bonds of the Kansas Pacific branch of the Union Pacific, and having the road operated under a receiver. Mr. Harris denounced the present plan to sell the road at the bid of the re-organization committee, as defrauding the government of something more than \$6,000,000. Mr. Foraker, of Ohio, explained the view taken of the matter by the administration showing the President was convinced the re-organization committee proposed to pay for the road all that it was worth.

The resolution finally passed in amended form. It is as follows: "Resolved, That the Attorney General is directed to inform the Senate if he has authorized the abandonment of any intention to redeem the first mortgage bonds issued by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, eastern division, now the Kansas Pacific division of the Union Pacific Railway, and to ask a postponement of the sale thereof, and for the appointment of a receiver therefor in the interests of the government of the United States, and also if he has authorized an agreement by which said property is to be sold for the face value of the bonds resulting in a loss to the government of the amount of six million, six hundred and twenty-four thousand and seven dollars, and if the government has agreed not to be a bidder at said sale."

At 2:30 o'clock p. m., on motion of Mr. Davis, the Senate went into executive session. Open session was resumed, a number of bills passed, and at 5:35 o'clock p. m., the Senate adjourned.

THE HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The House put in a busy day. The time was devoted to the consideration of bills and joint resolutions presented under the call of committees, and sixteen of more or less public importance were passed. An order was also entered by unanimous consent for the consideration of the Land bill relating to second-class mail matter, on March 1, 2 and 3, and the order for the consideration of the Bankruptcy bill, which begins tomorrow, was modified so that the final vote shall be taken on Saturday instead of Monday, as arranged last week.

Among the bills passed today were the following:

Senate bill to amend the navigation laws relating to the coastwise trade; to amend the laws relating to official fees; to better control and promote the safety of national banks by inhibiting loans to officers, directors or employees without the approval of a majority of the directors; to amend the law relating to the licensing of mates on ocean and river steamers; to compel the attendance of witnesses before registers and receivers of the General Land Office, and to repeal the statute requiring proof of loyalty by the holders of land and bounty warrants.

At 5 o'clock p. m., the House adjourned.

KILLED ON THE TRACK.

Probably Concealed Himself on the Track—Horribly Mangled.

Hickory, N. C., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—On Saturday morning about a half mile from the Eastern part of this town, some persons walking along the track of the Southern Railroad, made a ghastly find. A human liver lay near the road-bed, and down the track for fifty yards entrails were scattered. Farther on they discovered what remained of a human body, ground and pounded and crushed by the wheels of a through freight. The dead man was a negro. From letters and photographs found in his tattered clothing it is supposed that his name was James Brown. He probably concealed himself on the tracks of No. 74, an eastbound freight, on Friday night, and so went to his death. He was buried by order of the railroad authorities.

Mrs. H. F. Elliott, a very estimable and Christian lady, lies critically ill at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. J. D. Elliott.

VALENTINE PARTY AT ENFIELD.

Enfield, N. C., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—One of the most enjoyable events of the season, was a Valentine Party, given by the charming and talented Miss Marie Dennis at her elegant home, on South Dennis street, Monday night.