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The Messenger.

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DESTRUCTIVE FOREST FIRES.

Much Damage Has Been Done in Wisconsin and Colorado.

DAUGHTER OF CONFEDERACY.

Commissioners Getting Ready for Work. The Governors May be Recalled—Secretary Hay takes the Oath.

The forest fires, which have been raging in various places throughout the Wisconsin for the past few days, fanned into furious storms by Friday's winds and did great damage in Douglas, Chippewa, Barro, Polk and Polk counties. Dozens of towns in Clayton, Alamena and Cadmus have been wholly or partly destroyed. Cumberland has suffered many losses. Glenwood, Barron, Phillips and Turtle Lake have escaped only by great efforts. Reports of loss of life are coming in, but are not verified except in one instance. Fires have been checked in places by rains and the subsidence of the wind. A rough estimate places the property loss at from $3,000,000 to $5,000,000.

The Colorado Forest Fires.

Reports from the western portion of Colorado continue to tell of the ravages of the forest fires, which bid fair to destroy the greater part of the forests in the State.

Reforms in Santiago.

Gen. Wood has inaugurated many reforms since accepting the governorship of Santiago. He has 170 men constantly at work. The garbage is taken from the city and burned, and the sewerage system of the city drained. The police force in the city and the city hospital in the harbor have been reestablished. The courts are in operation yet, but General Wood sits each day as a police judge. The sick are given careful medical attention and the worthy poor are fed, rations being distributed every Sunday. The Americans took the city treasury have been $100,000. The general expenses attending the work of operating the city, which are considerably extraordinary, are about $20,000 a week. By the effective measures adopted by General Wood, a general epidemic of yellow fever has been avoided. The general hopes soon to open the schools and thus get the children off the streets.

The Queen of the Confederacy.

A correspondent in London was shown the Associated Press dispatch from Washington which stated that Miss Lucy Lee Hill claims to have had the title "Daughter of the Confederacy" conferred upon her by her southern friends. The general asked if the title could be taken to signify kinship with great earl. Emphatically "no." Miss Hill was the only daughter of President Davis living in the Confederate White House during the life of the Confederacy. Mr. Jefferson Davis was the only President of the Confederate government, no daughter of any official had any regard at the Confederacy.

Getting Ready for Work.

A cablegram from Paris says: The United States peace commission took possession of its working quarters, a suite of seven rooms on the second floor of the Hotel Continental, adjoining the Rue de Rivoli and facing the Place de la Concorde. The Italian embassy, and formerly used by the Austrian Prince Lucenie. American sentinels are in entrance of the peace commission apartments. The clerical force of the commission have been systematized and are now working busily.

An Innovation Was to Be Reimbursed.

A. F. Mitchell, Acting Comptroller of the Treasury, has rendered a decision in the question of the reimbursement to the Governors of States and Territories of such expenses which they may have incurred in aiding the United States in raising a volunteer army. He holds that the Government may be required to reimburse such costs incurred in the accoutrement of the troops into the service of the United States.

Secretary Hay Takes the Oath.

John Hay was sworn into office as Secretary of State, at 11 o'clock today. The ceremony took place in the President's room at the Capitol and the oath was administered by Justice Harlan, of the supreme court. Mr. Hay immediately assumed charge in the regular manner, relieving Acting Secretary Day. Later in the day he entered upon his new duties.

Nominal Force for Santiago.

Details have been completed for the organization of a force of Cuban soldiers for the province of Santiago. It consists of a commandant with the rank of major, three captains, three lieutenants, ten sergeants, and 240 privates. The rules of pay of the officers are the same as in the regular army, while the officers of the staff, General Castillo has charged with the preliminaries of the application.

Dreyfus Reported Transferred.

It is reported in Paris that Dreyfus has been transferred from Isle de Salut to Cayenne, where he awaits a trial, bring him to a French or American port.

The Sirdar to Resign.

A correspondent of The London Telegraph says: "The Sirdar will become the first governor general of Soudan, and may hold that post for a time, but he will resign the sidar. Major Marchand was in straits when the Sirdar arrived, and was glad of supplies from the latter, which he would have been without at Fashoda. Major Marchand was unable to show any authority from the French government for holding the place."

ARMY AND NAVY DOINGS.

The Movements of Our Army and Navy Briefly Told.

Bids have been opened at the Navy Department for the construction of four harbor defense vessels of the monitor type, authorized by Congress at an expenditure of $1,250,000 for each monitor. In type, they have no duplicates in modern ship construction, and more than anything else resemble the little monitors which distinguished themselves in the civil war. While resembling roughly the war monitors, the new vessels will be vastly superior to them in actual power. Their speed, for instance, will be 21 knots, about double that of the old vessels. Their batteries will consist of two 12 inch breech loading rifles, capable of piercing the side of nine-tenths of the naval vessels of the world, four 4-inch rapid-firing guns, like those that did such service in the destruction of Cervera's squadron. The latter, by the way, are to be electrically controlled like those on the Brooklyn. These turrets will be of the balanced type, 10 inches thick, behind 11-inch barbettes, and a belt of armour 11 inches thick and 5 feet broad will be placed on the sides of the vessel. The monitors will be 225 feet long, 50 feet broad and draw about 12½ feet of water, enabling them to move freely in any of the shallow Atlantic coast harbors.

Major General Hamilton S. Hawkins, United States volunteers, colonel of the Twentieth Infantry, who commanded the division which captured San Juan hill in the second day's fighting at Santiago, has been appointed a brigadier general in the regular army, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of General Wm. R. Graham. Immediately after receiving his commission, he was placed on the retired list on his own application, under the 30 years' service clause, and this will enable the President to similarly advance Major General J. F. Kent, U. S. V., colonel of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, to the grade of brigadier general in the regular army. General Kent commanded the wing of General Shafter's army which effected the gallant capture of Caney in the first day's fight, for which service he was promoted to the present rank of major general of volunteers.

Important results are likely to follow the extensive tour of inspection of the military camps just completed by Secretary Alger, especially in the matter of improving the hospital service in the field. The Secretary conferred closely with not only the commanders and medical officers of the camps, but especially with the fifteen colonels whom he met, looking to the ascertainment of their views upon the relative merits of the division hospital and the regimental hospital. Each had strong advocates and it remained for the Secretary to endeavor to reconcile their divergent views. After a thorough examination of the relative merits and demerits of the plans, Secretary Alger has framed a project, which he has now under consideration for the amalgamation of the hospitals, in such manner as to retain the most desirable features of both.

The War Department has decided to send five divisions of troops to Cuba for garrison duty. Each division will probably consist of three brigades of two regiments each. It has been decided to establish the headquarters of several commands at Havana, Puerto Principe and Santiago. It is certain that Major General Wade will be assigned to the chief command, being stationed at Havana. General Lawton will continue in charge at Santiago, and General Fitzhugh Lee will have chief command at Puerto Principe. General Wheeler will have command of the cavalry forces in the island, which will form one of the five divisions of troops to be stationed at several garrisons.

The following points have been recommended by the Schwan board and accepted by the War Department for camp sites: Augusta, Ga.; Columbia, S. C.; Greenville, S. C.; Spartanburg, S. C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Athens, Ga., Macon, Ga.; Columbus, Ga.; Americus, Ga., and Albany, Ga. These are the camps at which all the volunteer troops not sent to the front will be quartered for the winter, in accordance with the decision of the Department to transfer the troops in Northern camps to the South when cold weather begins. The selections were made by a special army board, headed by General Schwan, with Surgeon O'Reilly and Colonel Hodgeson as associates.

Lieutenant Colonel Maus, inspector general on General Miles' staff, spent a day in Anniston, Ala., recently inspecting the First and Second Regular Infantry, which have been designated as a part of the army of occupation which goes to Cuba about October 20th. Colonel Maus found these regiments, which were in all of the fighting around Santiago, so badly broken up, both mentally and physically, that he will advise against their going until they get in better shape.

Major General J. J. Coppinger has made a report to the War Department, including reports received from division brigade and regimental commanders of this corps, as to the quantity and quality of supplies furnished the troops of his command by the several staff departments since the beginning of the war with Spain. The general says in his judgment the quality of subsistence furnished by the Department was good and the quantity ample.

The Fourth United States Volunteer Infantry has been detached from the Seventh corps at Jacksonville, Fla., and ordered to proceed to Manzanillo, Cuba.

Major William Devine, brigade surgeon of volunteers, has been honorably discharged, his services being no longer required.

The battleships Oregon, Captain A. S. Barker, and Iowa, Captain Silas Terry, have sailed for Manila. It is expected that it will take the battleships 60 days to complete the journey. They will stop at Bahia, Brazil, to coal.

The War Department has decided to send more troops to Porto Rico. Orders have been issued directing that the Fifth Regular Cavalry, the Sixth United States Volunteer Infantry, and the Forty-seventh New York, shall proceed to such point in Porto Rico, as may be desired by the commanding general in that island.

STORM SWEPT BRUNSWICK.

A Tidal Wave Inundates the City to a Depth of Five Feet.

SENATOR QUAY UNDER ARREST.

Foreign Fleet Assembling at Tien Tsin—Masked Men After Negro Miners—A Gigantic Deal on Foot in Cleveland, Ohio.

A Brunswick, Ga., special says that during the tropical hurricane of Sunday, a tidal wave was driven in from the sea and inundated for an average depth of five feet, practically every business house and warehouse in the city. Conservative estimates place the property loss at half a million dollars, though when the details are all in, the figures may be considerably shaded either way. The Mallory Steamship and Southern Railway docks were under water four feet. In the residence section of the city the water was from two to eight feet. There was a full sweep of wind and water from the ocean and across the city.

Two fatalities in Brunswick and one a few miles out have been reported. Those in the city were negro children. Their parents are missing and may have been drowned.

Five vessels were ashore in Brunswick harbor, two being the Norwegian barks Recork and Louise, one an American schooner and one a valuable pilot boat.

Untrue Baltimore & Ohio Rumors.

These Baltimore & Ohio rumors are not substantiated at the headquarters of the Company: That the Baltimore & Ohio is contemplating shortening its main line from West Union, W. Va. to the Ohio river by building a new track down the valley of Middle Island Creek to the Ohio river near Marietta; that the Baltimore & Ohio is about to invade the territory of the Pennsylvania South Western branch and that a road will be built from some point near Connellsville which will reach the coal deposits between the Youghiogheny river and the Pennsylvania Railroad; that the Baltimore & Ohio is to build a million dollar tunnel under Mt. Airy, Md., in order to eliminate a heavy grade. The only foundation for this rumor is the fact that recently there has been some talk as to what could be done toward improving that portion of the line, but no action whatever has been taken. That there will be any changes of any importance whatever in the Motive Power department. The record made has been seldom equalled on any railroad. That the general offices of the Baltimore & Ohio will be removed from Baltimore.

Masked Men After the Negro Miners.

A special from Washington, Indiana, says: This city is in a great state of excitement. One hundred and fifty coal miners from Paua, Ill., came here and met at the fair grounds, with the home union miners and organized. Ten o'clock at night they got together, masked and visited all the shacks where the colored miners live. About 50 negroes were corraled and at the points of pistols were driven out of town. One negro refused to go and the miners fired on him. He has not been found and may be killed. The police could do nothing.

Senator Quay Under Arrest.

Warrants were issued at Philadelphia, Pa., for the arrest of United States Senator Matthew Stanley Quay, his son, Richard R. Quay, ex-State Treasurer Benjamin Haywood and Charles H. McKee, of Pittsburg, law partner of Lieutenant Governor Lyon. They are accused of conspiracy with John S. Hopkins, formerly cashier of the People's Bank, to use public moneys for their own benefit. Hopkins killed himself last March, shortly before the bank's failure.

Foreign Fleet Assembling at Tien Tsin.

The State Department has received the following cablegram from Minister Conger, at Pekin: "There is no serious danger yet but considerable anxiety for the future. The foreign fleet is assembling at Tien Tsin. Some of the ministers are ordering marines to Pekin for legation guard."

American Ships to Take a Hand.

Secretary Long, upon advices received at the State Department, showing the existence of threatening conditions in China, has ordered Admiral Dewey to send two warships immediately from Manila to a point as near the Chinese capital as possible for a warship to approach. The vessels selected for this undertaking are the Baltimore and the Petrel.

Combination of Armor Plate Making.

One of the most gigantic projects for the combinations of capital in this country is being considered at Cleveland, Ohio. It is no less than an attempt to unite the warship building interest and the armor plate and gun-making interests of the world into one great syndicate, whose factories shall be located near Cleveland.

Gigantic Frauds Unearthed.

Mayor Van Wyck, of New York, has made a statement to the effect that the commissioner of accounts had discovered gigantic frauds in the asphalt paving contracts. District Attorney Gardner will prosecute the men charged with participating in the frauds.

Warships Wanted at Charleston.

Representative Elliott, of South Carolina, called at the Navy Department recently to request that some representatives of American warships be ordered to Charleston, S. C., to take part in the peace jubilee to be celebrated there on the 24th inst. Secretary Long was not able to say at that time what the Department would be able to do in the matter, but made a general promise that some ships would be sent to Charleston if it is possible to do so.

COIN HARVEY AS LEADER.

A Committee Appointed by Chairman Jones Selects Him.

Hon. James K. Jones, of Arkansas, chairman of the National Democratic committee, has appointed ex-Governor Stone, of Missouri; ex-Governor Stone, of Missouri; ex-Governor John P. Altgold, of Illinois; Senator Wm. V. Allen, of Nebraska, and Senator Henry M. Teller, of Colorado, to act in conjunction with himself as a committee on ways and means. This committee addressed the following letter to Wm. H. Harvey (Coin) of Chicago:

Mr. W. H. Harvey, Chicago:

"Dear Sir: The undersigned committee on ways and means to further the cause of bi-metallism and the overthrow of corrupt Republican domination in this country, tenders you the position of general manager of its work. You will observe that the committee represents not only the Democratic party, but the allied forces that are working with it for the protection of the republic and free institutions, and it is in a spirit of harmony and true patriotism that we desire your assistance.

(Signed) "JAMES K. JONES,
"WM. J. STONE,
"JOHN P. ALTGELD,
"WM. ALLEN,
"HENRY M. TELLER."

Mr. Harvey has notified the committee of his acceptance of the position and has opened an office in the Unity building, in Chicago.

Travelled on a Tag.

A number of passengers at the railroad depot in Cincinnati gathered in the waiting room around a very interesting little mite of a girl, Bohumain Homa, perhaps five years old, who sat by herself, hugging her doll. The little one was pretty, with large black eyes, raven black hair, rather dirty hands, but a face so pleasant and full of light that it naturally attracted everybody. Around the child's neck was a string that held suspended upon her bosom the photograph of a young woman holding a babe in her arms. To the photograph was a note written in the Polish language, stating the name of the child, whither bound, and asking strangers to show her along the way. The child had come all the way from Bremen, in North Germany, all alone and was on her way to her mother, whose name is Anna Kloboska, and who lives in St. Louis.

The Empress Invited the Emperor to Drink.

According to a dispatch from Shanghai the Emperor of China intended to remove the Empress Dowager from his path, and entrusted his plans to an adherent. The latter proved a traitor.

EMPEROR OF CHINA.

The Empress Dowager, on learning of the plot, sternly upbraided the Emperor and invited him to drink the contents of a cup to which she pointed. He swallowed the fluid at a gulp.

Peace Jubilee.

Eight thousand people attended the peace jubilee at Convention hall in Washington. Speeches were made by Rev. H. M. Wharton, of Maryland; Rev. Father Stafford; of Washington and ex Senator Patrick Walsh, of Augusta, Ga. All spoke in the highest terms of praise of the conduct of our sailors and soldiers in the war.

Held a Joint Session.

The United States and Spanish commissioners held a joint session in Havana Oct. 4. The streets near the palace were carefully guarded.

Tradesmen's Bank Closed.

The Tradesmen's National Bank, in New York, was closed by Bank Examiner Kimball, pending an official examination. Its latest statement showed over $1,000,000 assets. Its checks were refused at the clearing house. The failure of the Tradesmen's bank is due to backing the Wool exchange which recently closed. Vice-President Bales says depositors will be paid in full.

General Wheeler Testifies.

Gen. Wheeler was the first witness before the War Investigation Commission Tuesday. Gen. Beaver conducted the examination. Gen. Wheeler told of his trip to Cuba. He said he had no knowledge of the plan of campaign until he boarded the ship. He described the landing and reconnoitering under the orders of Shafter. He told of the first battle at La Quasina and complimented the regular troops on their excellent fighting. He testified regarding the Santiago campaign and said it was well planned and well executed. He said he did not notice any lack of supplies or munitions of war, though some of the surgeons were killed or taken ill.

Strike With the Sword.

The Berlin Vorwaerts publishes an order issued by the Prussian minister to the Governor of Erfurt complaining of the leniency shown by the police in the recent election disturbances, and enjoining the police in future to act resolutely, using the edge and not the flat of their swords if rioters refuse to disperse.

Confederate Veterans Meet.

The Grand Camp Confederate Veterans of Virginia met in Culpeper recently.

CHINESE EMPEROR DEAD.

America for Americans, Philippines for Filipinos.

FUNERAL OF MR BAYARD.

The War Investigating Commission's First Case—Peace Commission Getting Down to Business—Department of Porto Rico.

A special despatch from Shanghai, says telegrams furnished by the Taotia or local governor, a local paper, alleges that the Emperor of China committed suicide on September 21, after signing the decrees which placed the Dowager Empress at the head of affairs in China. This, it is added, is understood to mean that the Emperor was assassinated. The reports as to the means employed in his taking off differ. One story has it that he died by poison, and another that death was caused by strangulation, while a third states that he was subjected to frightful torture, a red-hot iron being thrust through his bowels. All English speaking secretaries and the principal members of the Chinese Foreign office, it is further announced, have been seized and banished.

The Commission's First Case.

The war investigating commission devoted its time Saturday largely to the consideration of a statement filed by Mr. Nelson, Hirsh, on behalf of the New York World, giving what he styles a record of facts concerning the establishment of Camp Wikoff and its management, together with specific instances of abuses, charged to have existed, dates, number of sick in hospitals, deaths, etc. A long list of witnesses were forwarded and there was a general request that the correspondents and reporters of the World be called. The commission directed that a reply be forwarded to Mr. Hirsh informing him that the statements should have careful consideration.

THE SPANISH BATTLESHIP MARIA TERESA.
(Recently Raised off Santiago by Lieut. Hobson.)

Aguinaldo Makes a Speech.

There is considerable comment at Manila upon Aguinaldo's speech at Malolos recently. The key-note was the independence of Phillippine Islands. During the course of his remarks, Aguinaldo said: "Our friends, the Americans, came for the purpose of demonstrating the generosity and grandeur of their government and to assist in releasing the people from slavery without annexing the islands, thus setting a good example. We now understand and appreciate the famous Monroe doctrine of America for Americans, and justice demands that they add the Philippines for the Filipinos."

Expelling the Squaw Men.

The Dawes commission has issued orders declaring about 20,000 white men who have married Indian women in the Indian Territory to be intruders and ordering them to leave the country at once. The Indian agent has been called upon for his police to eject these squaw men, as they are called.

Henry George Nominated.

At a meeting of the Chicago platform Democrats in New York Henry George, the son of the single tax advocate, was nominated to head an independent Democratic ticket.

Filipinos at the White House.

Agoncillo and Lopez, representatives of Aguinaldo, called at the White House in company with General Greene, and had a private conference with the President in the cabinet room. The interview was entirely informal, it being distinctly understood that the administration did not receive the representatives of the insurgents in any official capacity.

The Sick to Be Brought Home.

The President has given instructions that all sick at Porto Rico be sent North as soon as they are able to travel with safety, his purpose being to relieve General Brooke of the further care of the sick, and at the same time enable the men to receive the treatment obtainable in the better appointed hospitals.

Will Seize Custom House.

The conduct of the Spanish customs officers at Havana is very unsatisfactory to the President, and it is said to have been decided to take possession of the customs house there at an early date and administer its affairs under regulations to be prescribed by this government.

The Insurgents Will Disband.

Gen. Maximo Gomez, in an interview at Camp Rojas, province of Santa Clara, is quoted as saying that the insurgents will disband and apply themselves to farm labor as soon as the Spanish troops evacuate the island.

The Ground Burning.

Reports from the fire swept sections of Colorado and Wisconsin indicate a heavy loss of property, with a few casualties. In one place in Colorado it is reported that even the ground is burning.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. BAYARD.

A Profusion of Floral Offerings—Ceremony Very Simple.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Hon. Thos. F. Bayard were held in the old Swedish church at Wilmington, Del. Thousands of people assembled at the edifice, but were not admitted, as it had been decided not to open the casket and permit the public to view the remains. There was a profusion of floral offerings, in addition to those of the family, coming from friends at home and at other places. The honorary pall-bearers were: Former President Grover Cleveland, former Secretary of the Treasury Charles S. Fairchild, Ebe W. Tunnell, Governor of Delaware; Chancellor John R. Nicholson, George L. Rives, of New York city; John V. Craven and Thomas Craven, of Salem, N. J., and Judge Ignatius C. Grubbe, Dr. James A. Draper and Henry G. Banning, of Wilmington. The services comprised simply the prayer-book service for the burial of the dead of the Protestant Episcopal church. The service was read jointly by Rev. Dr. G. W. Douglass, of Tuxedo Park, N. J., who as rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, Washington, performed the marriage ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. Bayard, and Rev. Martin B. Dunlap, rector of Old Swedes.

New Steamer for Baltimore Steam Packet.

A steamer has just been completed for the Baltimore Steam Packet Company's service on Chesapeake Bay, between Baltimore, Old Point Comfort, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., which is one of the largest yet built for use on the inland salt water bodies of this country. The vessel has 2,000 horse power and 1400 tons measurement. She has a speed of 18 miles an hour when loaded and is propelled by twin screws, a novelty in boats of this class. The twin-screws will enable her to be turned in a much smaller area than a single screw steamer, and will be of great value in moving about harbors. The Tennessee which is the name of the new vessel is modeled with a flare in the hull which gives her much greater width above the water line than is usual without interfering with her speed. This feature will render her extremely seaworthy. She is built of steel with lengthwise and crosswise water tight bulkheads, is finished in hardwoods and will have accommodations for 300 passengers in addition to a large freight capacity. The Tennessee will be put on the route between Baltimore and Hampton Roads, connecting with trains of the Seaboard Air Line and other lines terminating at that point.

A Business Meeting at Last.

A special from Paris says: The American and Spanish peace commissions assembled for their first business session at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, in the rooms assigned to them for the deliberations at the French Foreign Office. A special entrance is set apart for the use of the commissioners, in order to furnish them with every privacy and convenience possible.

Wants to Send Troops From Manila.

The rebellion in the Visayas is spreading, and several provinces in the Island of Luzon have been invaded and some officers of the gendarmes and their families massacred. The governor and officials at Iloilo, island of Panay, have fled to Manila. The Spanish government is seeking the consent of the United States to send Spanish troops from Manila to the Visayas Islands to suppress the rebellion there, so as to avoid the necessity of dispatching troops from Spain.

The Department of Porto Rico.

The President has issued an executive order creating Porto Rico into a new military department to be known as the Department of Porto Rico, with Major General John Brooke in command. The headquarters of the department will be at Ponce until after the evacuation of the island by the Spanish army, when it will be transferred to San Juan.

Chinese Attack British Subject.

The British Foreign Office has received a dispatch from her majesty's minister at Pekin, saying that Mr. Mortimer, a member of the British legation, on returning home Saturday with a lady, was insulted and attacked by a mob, which stoned him and covered him with mud. Later in the day, the dispatch adds, some American missionaries were similarly attacked, as was the Chinese secretary of the United States legation. The latter's ribs were broken. Sir Claude M. MacDonald, the British minister at Pekin, reports that there is a dangerous feeling abroad. Steps have been taken to call the attention of the Chinese government to these outrages.

$40,000 Sent to Spain.

Information has reached the President that the Spanish authorities at San Juan, Porto Rico, recently took possession of and sent to Spain about $40,000 belonging to an association of school teachers. This matter has been the subject of a protest sent to the Spanish government. It is said to be the purpose of this government to compel its return, and, if not, vigorous measures will be taken to collect it from the persons responsible for its disappropriation.

THE ILLINOIS LAUNCHED.

Forty Thousand People Present---The Launching a Success.

RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT FAURE.

Great Destruction of Property by the Hurricane—One City Wiped Out—Merritt Testifies Before the Commission.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., (Special).—Amid the enthusiastic plaudits of nearly 40,000 intensely interested people, the shrill salutation of steam whistles from many boats and tugs, and the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner," the first class battleship Illinois was launched Tuesday. The launch was a brilliant success in every particular, the mechanical preparations being perfect, the assemblage of spectators unprecedented in the history of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company, and distinguished personnel. The sponsor of the vessel, Miss Nannie Leiter, of Chicago, accompanied by Governor Tanner, of Illinois, his staff in full uniform, and a crowd of distinguished Chicagoans, came up from Old Point early in the morning by steamer. The steamer Newport News brought the distinguished guests of the ship yards from Washington, and all the steamboat and railway lines poured people into the port up to the very hour of the launching. Notable among the vessels in the harbor was the President's dispatch boat Dolphin, having on board Assistant Secretary of the Navy Allen and a party of Washingtonians.

The dimensions of the Illinois are as follows: Length on load water line, 368 feet; beam, extreme, 72 feet 2½ inches; draft on normal displacement of 11,525 tons, 23 feet 6 inches; maximum displacement, 11,525 tons; maximum indicated horse power (estimated), 10,000; probable speed, 16½ knots; normal coal supply, 800 tons, coal supply, loose storage, 1,200 tons; full bunker capacity, 1,400 to 1,500 tons; complement of officers, 40; seamen, marines, etc., 440. The main battery will consist of four 13-inch, breech loading rifles, in Hichborn balanced turrets, oval in shape, and placed in the centre of the vessel, and fourteen 6-inch rapid-fire guns. The second battery will consist of sixteen 6-pounder rapid fire guns, two Colt guns and two field guns. She will carry four torpedo tubes.

Received by Faure.

A special from Paris, says: The Spanish commissioners were received by President Faure at the Elysee palace. The members of the commission were introduced by the Spanish ambassador, Senor Leon y Castillo, and Senor Rios expressed the gratification of the commission at meeting the President of France. Immediately following the reception of the Spaniards, the members of the American commission were received by President Faure, at the Elysee. General Porter met the commissioners on the steps of the court of honor, and they proceeded to the grand salon. President Faure, surrounded by a few members of his official household, receive General Porter, who presented Judge Day and the other members of the commission in turn, after which Judge Day presented President Faure with a message from President McKinley. It was dated September 23, and read as follows: "On this occasion, when the commissions of the United States and Spain are about to assemble at the capital of France to negotiate peace, and when the representatives of this government are receiving the hospitality and good will of the republic, I, beg to tender you my most friendly personal greeting and the assurances of my grateful appreciation of your kind courtesies to the American commissioners." President Faure in replying, courteously expressed his appreciation of the cordial sentiments uttered and heartily reciprocated them.

Work of the Storm.

A special from Savannah, Ga., says: Communication by courier has been established with points in Florida cut off by the recent storm. Reports show great loss of life. The property damage will amount to several millions of dollars. Fernandina and Brunswick have lost half a million dollars each. Both are cut off from communication by wire. The village of St. Mary's, Ga., was wiped out. At Fernandina the tide rose and covered several blocks in the city. The people were rescued from their homes in boats. The roofs of nearly all the buildings were either blown off or damaged. Four churches were destroyed. Cargo after cargo was completely blown away with the destruction of the docks. The quarantine station was destroyed. The employees escaped on rafts. A large hotel and twenty cottages at Fernandina Beach were destroyed. The inhabitants were floated ashore on rafts.

Gen. Merritt Before the Commission.

A special from Paris says: The American peace commissioners devoted Tuesday's session to a conference with Major General Merritt, who detailed his personal views and those of Rear Admiral Dewey, regarding the physical, geographical, moral and political conditions prevailing in the Philippine Islands.

Massachusetts Democrats.

The Massachusetts Democrats nominated Alexander B. Bruce for Governor, and adopted the Chicago platform.

In Defense of His Mother's Honor.

Francis O'Connor, 16 years old, a moulder apprentice, stabbed John Kitchen to the heart in defence of his mother's honor, at their home in Mobile, Ala. Kitchen, who died instantly, was an oyter opener and an all round tough character, having served two years in the penitentiary. O'Conner surrendered to the police immediately after the killing.

The transport Obdam, which left Santiago for New York recently, put back with her bunkers on fire.