

## OESTREICHER & CO

28 SOUTH MAIN ST.

### Shirt Waists.

It is not often that you have the opportunity to make your selection from such a large and complete assortment of Shirt Waists as you find at our store. Every garment is this season's production; made and finished by the best makers, from the newest and nobbiest materials. French Gingham, Zephyrs and Madras cloth are most prevailing.

Prices 50c to \$2.

### Muslin Underwear

To be handled by us must be of good material, latest patterns, and well made at a clean, first-class factory!—Our large line of these goods fill the requirements—coupled with the very lowest prices, is it not to your interest to purchase them of us?

The whole store is teeming with the latest novelties in *Belts, Ribbons, Gloves, Ladies' Neckwear, Collars and Cuffs, Fancy and Black Cotton Lisle and Silk Hosiery, Fancy and Black Silks and Satins, Spring Jackets, Tailor-made Suits, Tailor-made Skirts.*

Exclusive styles in Novelty Dress Goods and Trimmings. Pleated Liberty Silks in solid colors and figured. We also offer you (not too early in this beautiful climate) the latest, most select and elaborate line of **PARASOLS!** It is treat to see them.

Since "brevity is the soul of wit" and tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes, I will be brief. Our **Banana Brand Hams** were awarded the Gold Medal at the Paris Exposition in 1889.

**G. A. GREER.**

## Just Arrived.....

A fresh lot of our famous loose roasted Coffee we sell for 20c. per lb. Have you tried it?

## BYARD'S

Pure Food Store,

Phone 49 19 Merrimon Ave.

A young lady formerly with Huxley, and experienced in dipping bun loaves, has taken position with the Candy Kitchen. Bonbons and candies are made fresh daily. Fresh strawberries and orange cream made daily.

GANDY KITCHEN, Phone 116.

## EXCITEMENT AT HIGH PITCH

### Most Radical Steps in Anticipation of War.

### Orders for Immediate Shipment to Seaboard

### Of Troops and War Material From all Ports East of Denver.

### Steam Yachts Purchased for Picket Duty to Guard Warships.

### The Maine Report Reached Washington Last Night.

### It Will be Delivered to Senator Long Today.

Statement that the Report by Inference Points to Spain's Responsibility for the Maine Being Placed Over the Submerged Mine—The President's Attitude—Anxious That a Way Will be Found to Avert the Horrors of War.

Washington, March 24.—The Maine report reached Washington tonight, and will remain in the possession of Lieutenant Commander Merix, the man who brought it, until tomorrow morning, when it will be delivered to Secretary Long.

### SITUATION THREATENING.

Washington, March 24.—Regarded from any view point the situation tonight is critical to the utmost degree. It is more threatening than at any time since the Maine was blown up. The coming of the board of inquiry's report, the announcement of new naval commanders, the ordering of troops eastward, orders to increase the navy, all kept excitement at the highest pitch. The growing feeling during the day found vent in Thurston's dramatic speech in the senate. At tomorrow's cabinet meeting the president will submit the Maine report, which was given to Secretary Long tonight.

There is authority for saying that the president and officials know now as fully as they will know tomorrow the findings of the court and the remarkable activity in the army and navy is undoubtedly due to that knowledge.

At a conference of administration officials and influential senators the momentous information was disclosed showing that the arrangements made to send the report to committee might miscarry, when the findings of the court would be known. It is now known the report will find the Maine was wrecked by an outside explosion and that, while the court does not directly implicate Spain, the language of the findings, however, is such in the part with regard to the testimony showing how the Maine happened to be anchored at the particular spot where the explosion occurred, as to make plain the inference that the ship was placed there by design.

The president's attitude on Cuba will depend on the report of correspondence with the Sagasta ministry, with the idea of securing practical, if not actual, independence for the Cuban people. It is understood no reply has yet been received from Spain that can be accepted as definite, but McKinley is still hopeful that Spain will bow to the inevitable and accept the chance of escaping a disastrous war by relinquishing control of Cuba, retaining only nominal sovereignty. It is said Judge Day is not so hopeful as the president of the acquiescence by Spain in this proposed policy, and that he is inclined to believe that direct intervention is the only course that can effectually free Cuba and meet the endorsement of the

people. The president, however, is of a more sanguine temperament and still thinks it well to make a last effort to avert the horrors of war.

### RADICAL MEASURES.

Washington, March 24.—The most radical step so far in anticipation of war was taken by the army administration this afternoon. Orders were issued to commanders of all ports east of Denver calling for immediate shipment to the Atlantic seaboard of all siege, field and rapid fire guns. This is the first step in the general plan to move all troops except those on the Pacific. Orders for completing the plan have been prepared in every detail, papers for their execution needing only the signatures. Contracts have been made with all the railroads so that troops can get to their new stations within forty-eight hours after the orders have been received.

By the president's personal direction, Captain Rodgers, of the auxiliary board, was ordered to purchase at once a dozen staunch steam yachts and tugs for picket duty with the squadron. Rodgers telegraphed the names of eight yachts and four tugs the purchase of which will be completed tomorrow. The boats will be used to ward off the Spanish torpedo craft from the big warships.

### FROM BLANCO.

Madrid, March 24.—A semi-official note just issued says that at the cabinet meeting yesterday Premier Sagasta received a telegram from Blanco saying that the captain of the Maine had requested permission to blow up the wreck with dynamite and that permission to do so had been refused him.

The cabinet empowered the minister of foreign affairs, Gullon, to watch the situation with a view of seeing that justice is done in defending the rights of Spain.

The minister of finance declared that the resources were sufficient for all war expenses until the chamber meets. The note was silent in regard to the Spanish commissioners' report on the loss of the Maine.

The Spanish cabinet has decided to create treasury bonds to the amount of two hundred million pesetas upon the guarantee of the Bank of Spain.

### TALK IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, March 24.—Nothing could keep the Maine and Cuba out of the debate upon the naval appropriation bill, which began in the house today. Dayton, republican, of West Virginia, demanded that "this great, enlightened and Christian nation should put a stop to the tragedy of murder and starvation in Cuba," and that the administration intervene with war if necessary, and secure the freedom of the island. Arnold, of Pennsylvania, said the question of indemnity for the destruction of the Maine could not be submitted to arbitration. Tate, of Georgia, and Skinner and Kitchen, of North Carolina, also spoke, and it was agreed to limit the debate to seven hours, ending at 10 o'clock tomorrow.

### SICARD OUT OF ACTIVE SERVICE.

Washington, March 24.—The navy department today relieved Rear Admiral Sicard from command of the squadron at Key West, and appointed Captain Sampson in his place. Captain Robley D. Evans was ordered to command of the battleship Iowa.

It is expected that Commodore Schley will be assigned to the command of the squadron at Hampton Roads. Another high ranking officer will be assigned to the squadrons operating jointly. Sicard has been found incapable for active service and a leave of absence has been granted.

### TRYING TIME FOR M'KINLEY.

Washington, March 24.—The president, who was in conference with Secretaries Day and Long until 2 o'clock this morning, arose at 8 o'clock and was soon after visited by Senator Hanna.

The greatest possible influence is being brought to bear on the president by financial and other interests, and these are the most trying moments of his life.

### ARBITRATE BY SWORD.

Havana, March 24.—A dispatch from Madrid says that El Correo (newspaper), which receives direct inspiration from the government, declares that on all pending questions between the United States and Spain, Spain won't agree to arbitrate save by the sword.

## CLARA BARTON LEAVES CUBA

### Because of Obstacles Placed in her Way.

### Spanish Authorities Prevent Relief Work.

### Provisions sent to Suffering Cubans Stolen by Spaniards.

### Miss Barton Will Lay the Matter Before the President.

### Senator Thurston's Speech on the Situation in Cuba as He Saw it—Defenseless People Doomed to Slow Starvation.

Key West, Fla., March 24.—Clara Barton has left Havana because of obstacles put in the way of relief work by the Spanish authorities. It was shown that Spanish officers had stolen large quantities of provisions and much food had been spoiled by its wretched detention. Miss Barton is going to Washington to explain to the president the impossibility of relieving the reconcentrados if such things continue.

Washington, March 24.—Senator Thurston addressed the senate today on the condition of affairs in Cuba. He said that an overstatement of the horrors of the Cuban situation was impossible.

"Under the inhuman policy of Weyler," he said, "not less than 400,000 suffering, peaceful, defenseless people were driven from their homes in the agricultural provinces to the cities and imprisoned upon barren wastes outside of the residence portions of these cities and within lines of intrenchments established a little ways beyond. Most of these people were old men, women and children. Slow starvation is their inevitable fate.

"A conservative estimate indicates that 210,000 of these people have already perished from starvation. The government of Spain has never contributed one dollar to shelter, feed or provide medical attention for those citizens. There has been no amelioration of the situation except through the charity of the people of the United States. There is no relief and no hope, except through continued charity of the American people, until peace has been fully restored in the island.

"Spain cannot put an end to the existing conditions. She cannot conquer the insurgents. The situation, then, is not war, as we understand it, but chaos, devastation and depopulation of infinite duration, whose end no man can see.

"I do not believe that the entire Spanish army in Cuba could stand an engagement in open field against 20,000 American soldiers. The pictures in American newspapers of the starving reconcentrados are true. They can be duplicated by thousands. I never saw, and please God, I may never see again, so deplorable a sight as the reconcentrados in the suburbs of Matanzas."

### WATSON DECLINES.

Atlanta, Ga., March 24.—The populist nomination for governor was declined formally by Watson today in his paper. He says he has turned from politics, as his vice presidential candidacy in 1896 only ended in his own humiliation.

### LYONS NOMINATED.

Washington, March 24.—The president today nominated Judson W. Lyons, of Georgia, register of the treasury.

## COMPOUND EXTRACT SARSAPARILLA

With Iodides is the best Spring Medicine known. Now is the best time to take it. The Asheville Drug Co's store, East Court Square and College Street is the best place to get it. 50c per bottle.

DAVID WAY, Manager.

## ACTIVITY OF INSURGENTS

Havana, March 24.—The activity of the insurgents around Havana is again very great. Every night Spanish forts on the outskirts of the capital are fired upon. Colonel Arango has returned to Havana, again taking command of the forces.

The sudden increase of Cuban bands in Havana province is causing great concern to Blanco.

Among the Spaniards here it is believed that the insurgents, hopeful of war between the United States and Spain, are preparing to attack Havana by land.

It is reported that over 2,000 Cubans in arms have arrived in Havana province from Santa Clara.

### SENATOR HARRIS EULOGIZED.

Washington, March 24.—Resolutions expressive of sorrow for the death of the late Senator Harris, of Tennessee, were offered by Senator Bate, of Tennessee, in the senate this afternoon and adopted. Eulogies were pronounced by Senators Bate, Morrill, Morgan, Hoar, Waltham, Hawley, Cockrell, Stewart, Chilton and Turley, and then as a further mark of respect the senate adjourned till Monday next.

### BANK FAILURE.

St. Paul, March 24.—The Bank of Merriam Park failed to open today on account of the time check fraud. The bank's capital was \$50,000, and it is reported the bank invested in the Southall government time checks to the amount of \$30,000.

## GLADSTONE DYING

### OF CANCER AT THE BACK OF THE NASAL PASSAGE.

### An Operation Impossible—The Melancholy Truth Admitted by his Family.

London, March 24.—Mr. Gladstone is dying of cancerous growth involving the tissues at the back of the nasal passages. The melancholy truth is now admitted privately by his son and other members of his family. An operation has been declared impossible. The only relief is that afforded by opiates and other palliatives. Pain



WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

has continued for six months and although it is somewhat less acute than a few weeks ago, the strength and vitality of the patient's wonderful constitution is sadly drained. The end, when it comes, will be from failure of the heart's action, rather than from direct ravages of malady. It is hardly probable that it will be long delayed.

## THE TORPEDO BOAT FLOTILLA

### Departure of the Fleet From Canary Islands.

### First Act of Agression on Spain's Part.

### Discussion of Cuban Question Breaks out in the House.

### Sigsbee Refused Permission to Destroy the Maine Wreck.

### Sampson Succeeds Sicard in Command of the Squadron at Key West—Arrival of Troops and War Material at That Place.

Washington, March 24.—In sending the torpedo flotilla to waters near the United States coast Spain has gone beyond the cautious policy which has characterized the Sagasta ministry. There is every reason to believe that the government took steps today to learn the meaning of the flotilla business. Spanish Minister Bernabe had a conference with Assistant Secretary Day this afternoon at which the subject was discussed, with what result is unknown. Spain has, by allowing the flotilla to start, committed the first act of aggression. The news of the flotilla's sailing today startled Washington but McKinley is inclined to be conservative and is not inclined to regard the act as *casus belli*. Therefore he would not sanction a counter movement of hostile meaning by the United States, but the defiance thus expressed by Spain led him to order additional war preparations.

The news was communicated to the president this morning that the Spanish flotilla had left the Canary Islands for Porto Rico.

## COTTON MILL TROUBLES

### A GREAT SHUT-DOWN DISCUSSED AT PROVIDENCE.

### No Improvement in prices or Demand for the Product of the New England Mills.

Providence, March 24.—Notwithstanding the curtailment of the product of the cotton mills, owing to strikes in several centres, there has been no improvement, agents say, in the prices or demand for cotton manufactures. In the Providence offices another curtailment is considered inevitable. It is known that the subject of a general shutdown is being discussed, and, unless there is improvement within the next few months, operatives will have another summer vacation.

## NORTH CAROLINA GEMS.

The rare beauties of nature, as well represented in Western North Carolina, are becoming better known every day as people who are better educated in the formation and utility of minerals have from time to time shown their appreciation of these gems by using them in all kinds of adornment.

We have decided to close out some of these gems and offer them at prices that should make them all sell in a very few days.

### WE OFFER:

- One lot of 41 gems at 50 cents each.
- One lot of 40 gems at 60 cents each.
- One lot of 169 gems at 75 cents each.
- One lot of 40 gems at \$1.00 each.
- One lot of 32 gems at \$1.25 each.—Sold
- One lot of 5 gems at \$1.50 each.
- One lot of 3 gems at \$2.00 each.
- One lot of 5 gems at \$2.50 each.—Sold
- One lot of 3 gems at \$4.00 each.
- One gem for \$5.00.

ARTHUR M. FIELD, LEADING JEWELER, Church street and Patton avenue, Asheville, N. C.

## ALL KINDS

Garden Field and Flower

## SEEDS

By experience we know it pays to buy only the best seeds. You will not make a mistake in trying ours.

## SNIDER'S

6 Court Sq.

Arch Front.