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A CHANCE FOR AMERICAN CAPITAL.

The need of an American merchant marine is almost universally conceded, but the question is how to get it.

There may be and perhaps are other causes, such as insurance discriminations on cargoes carried out by American ships.

But is this country always to be dependent upon the ships of other nations to carry its products across the seas?

We are told that American capitalists do not seek investment in ships because ocean freights are so low that there is not profit enough in it to tempt investment in ships.

There would doubtless be competition but there is competition in all kinds of enterprises in which capital is largely invested.

Ex-Governor Northon, of Georgia, is making a commendable effort to have the resources of that State creditably represented at the coming Omaha, Neb., Exposition.

THE WEEKLY STAR

railroads through the wilderness can build ships and sail them, but to do it successfully will require an aggregation of capital as railroad building on a large scale does.

It is alleged that there are millions of idle money locked up in the bank vaults for which there is no demand, and yet Americans are paying foreign ship owners an estimated \$300,000,000 a year to do their ocean carrying for them.

In the event it be shown that the Maine was destroyed by external agencies (a conviction which seems to be growing stronger in Washington) the subject of the probable course this Government will pursue is beginning to be discussed.

Some of the friends of the Western hog complain that cotton seed is knocking him out and that the hog-raising industry has fallen off 33 per cent. within ten years in consequence of the large amount of cotton seed oil used as a substitute for lard.

They haven't entirely got through with the Dreyfus racket in Paris, we do not know who is going to be the outcome of making Mr. Makenfus president of that St. Louis baseball team, and now that Chicago News announces that Mr. Beilfuss will be returned to the city council.

There is an old centenary law in Pennsylvania which punishes swearing with a fine. This old law was resurrected the other day in one of the townships, against one of the school directors, and the school is \$4.03 richer, the amount assessed for six swears.

The author of "The Love Affairs of Some Famous Men," says: "Shakespeare, Milton, Dante and Byron are not easily to be surpassed as poets, but as husbands they didn't amount to much."

tion, and so should every other Southern State which desires the influx of immigration and capital, and they all do. This matter has not been much discussed in North Carolina, but it is not too late, for with the co-operation of our railroads and progressive citizens we could make a very creditable exhibit on short notice.

The Washington Post Almanac and Encyclopedia for 1898 is an exceedingly valuable publication, filled from cover to cover with over five hundred pages of useful information, concerning this and other countries, presented in condensed form, tabular and otherwise, conveniently arranged and indexed, so that anything wanted can be instantly found.

A Brooklyn, N. Y., jury has acquitted a Texas cowboy charged with killing his sister's husband. The killing was admitted and the defence was that the killed man was a brute who forfeited his life by his cruelty to his wife.

Amid the divers rumors of war on both hemispheres a soothing North Dakota prophet emerges from the sulphurous surroundings to declare that he sees "the dove of universal peace hovering in the air."

A written report was received from Messrs. J. A. and J. S. Westbrook and W. F. English, constituting the sub-committee on distribution, which last fall made a tour of the North and Western cities with the purpose of gathering facts that would be of service to truckers.

The names of the commission houses in the different cities which in the opinion of the committee the Association would do well to patronize were included in the report. It added that the key to the successful distribution of the crop lay in learning exactly how many cars of fruit each city could handle daily.

The meeting was in session from 10:30 A. M. to 1 P. M. and from 2 P. M. till 8.

The steam tug "Henry Christian" does not exist any longer, the name having been changed to Navassa. The change was under authority given by the Commissioner of Navigation of the United States and notice that would it be made was given thirty days in advance according to the law.

THE TRUCK-GROWERS

Meeting of Representatives of the Eastern Carolina Association.

Arrangements Considered for Speedy Movement and Distribution of the Strawberry Crop—Reports from Committees Received.

A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Eastern Carolina Truck and Fruit Growers' Association was held yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock at the Orton hotel.

It is argued that no reason exists, even if hostilities come, for the decline in stocks, but notwithstanding this, it is not out of the extra prudent and the speculators who are unloading.

To-night several of the most conservative members of Congress, who have heretofore abstained from any comment, ventured the opinion that trouble was coming.

Mr. H. T. Bauman, former shipping master, addressed the meeting on matters of importance relating to the distribution of the crop during the coming season.

The applications for membership in the association from local organizations at Fayetteville and Currie were favorably received, and these associations were admitted.

Mr. Edgar Bear will leave to-morrow afternoon for the Klondike region. He will go first to New Orleans, from there to San Francisco, and thence to Seattle.

The records of Dr. McKimlin, as Superintendent of Health, show seven deaths during the past week; four white and three colored.

THE SITUATION

IS VERY GRAVE.

Conservative Congressmen Fear That There May Be War With Spain.

Business Men Are Anxious. Denial of Reports of Shipments of Ordnance to New York—Speculations as to Report of the Court of Inquiry—The Terror Sails for New York.

WASHINGTON, February 25.—In the last few days more than the usual number of prominent men in business circles have come to Washington, anxious to discover for themselves the exact condition of affairs, and if necessary to set their houses in order.

It is believed at the department that there is probably in the neighborhood of fifty bodies remaining to be discovered and extricated from the wreck.

The double-barrelled monitor Terror started for New York this evening from Hampton Roads under orders issued to-day. She will be most powerfully reinforced to the defenses of the city in Cuba.

There were a number of alarming stories as to the heavy shipments of guns from the West to the arsenal at New York for the arming of the auxiliary navy.

With the proceedings of the court of inquiry drawing to a close, attention is now directed to the form and nature of the report.

Florida and North Carolina vegetables sold Friday in Philadelphia as follows: Florida cucumbers, per crate, \$2.00; do. string beans, per crate, \$4.00; do. squash, per crate, \$2.25; do. tomatoes, per carrier crate, \$1.50; do. egg plant, per barrel, \$7.10; do. cauliflower, per barrel, \$10.00; do. cauliflower, per barrel, \$10.00; do. cauliflower, per barrel, \$10.00.

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NO INFORMATION

AT WASHINGTON.

Officials Still Awaiting Report of the Naval Inquiry Into the Maine Disaster.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, February 25.—In the absence of news from Havana on any subject connected with the explosion of the Maine, the official mind turned to-day to an analysis of the Spanish statements made with more or less degree of official sanction, respecting the total absence of submarine mines from Havana harbor, and it was regarded by the Navy Department as negating the mine theory or an internal cause for the explosion, just as recent letters put an end to an exploding boiler theory as an internal cause for the disaster.

Nothing was heard to-day from the Court of Inquiry and the department is still ignorant of its plans. In fact, the only news coming direct from Havana to the Navy Department during the day was contained in the following: "Dispatch from Captain Sigbee."

"HAVANA, February 25.—Have succeeded in making arrangements by which bodies may be sent to Key West in hermetically sealed zinc cans. Refer to Forsyth for burial in Key West. Probable that bodies hereafter cannot be recognized. Probe bodies will not remain intact. Condition of bodies requires immediate action. Jenkins and Merritt may be recognized by uniform. Can secure health permit for Key West to inspect bodies there. Divers cannot get down after bodies this morning. Much debris. Will clear it away. Wainwright placed in charge of wrecking matters. (Signed) J. M. McKimlin."

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Spanish government to the effect that there were no mines or torpedoes of any kind in Havana harbor. It can be said that this statement exactly agrees with the inquiries that have been under way for many months by agents of our government, for so far it is said they have been unable to find the slightest evidence of the existence of any plan of defence in the harbor by means of mines or torpedoes, much less to locate them as has been reported in some quarters.

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ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure

DIVERS FIND ABSOLUTE PROOF. The Forward Big Magazine of the Maine is Surely Unexploded.

SO MANY DIVERS TESTIFY. Secretary Sherman Says Indemnity Will be Demanded—The Administration Can Depend Upon All the Money Support Necessary.

WILL NOT BE JINGED INTO WAR OR ACT IN ANTICIPATION OF EVENTS. President McKinley is giving thoughtful and earnest consideration to every phase of the Cuban situation.

THE MONITOR TERROR. Left Old Point For New York—A Draft of Men For the Amphitrite.

EIGHT MEN KILLED AND TEN OTHERS INJURED at Kalamazoo, Mich.

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION. Eight Men Killed and Ten Others Injured at Kalamazoo, Mich.

ARRIVALS FROM HAVANA. Say They Were Advised to Leave by Consul General Lee.