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AN OBJECT LESSON.

The prospect of war with Spain and the consequent hurrying up to provide means of defence for our coast cities, the massing of our available warships at points from which they could act as emergencies might demand, the plans for converting steam merchantmen into war vessels, and the purchasing of ships from other nations have served as an object lesson, showing the necessity of a merchant marine from which in emergencies vessels might be drawn and converted into war vessels for the defence of our coasts and the protection of our coasting vessels.

MINOR MENTION.

Senator Hanna is not a Solomon and individually his opinions or utterances are not entitled to any more consideration or importance than the opinions or utterances of any other well informed person, but his known intimate relations with the President, before Mr. McKinley became President and since, gives more than ordinary importance to his utterances as to prospective policies that Mr. McKinley in his administration may pursue, or on which it may have a shaping influence.

These laws a century old, the intention in the enacting of which was good, and which worked well for a time, forbid American registry to any foreign built ship, and the consequence is that when an American buys a ship abroad, it is classed as a foreign ship and sails under a foreign flag, for the simple reason that it cannot sail under the American flag.

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THE WEEKLY STAR.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1898.

NO. 22

THE CALL TO ARMS.

Official Summons of the Executive Committee for the State Democratic Convention.

THE COLOR LINE IS DRAWN.

The Gauge of Battle Thrown Down to the Money Power and Trusts—County Conventions Should Be Held Early to Appoint Delegates.

To the Democratic Voters of North Carolina:

Pursuant to a resolution of the State Executive Committee adopted at its meeting held February 22nd, I hereby give notice that the Democratic State Convention will be held in the City of Raleigh, at 12 o'clock noon, on Thursday, May 29th, 1898.

The plan of organization, recently reported, is now in the hands of the chairman of the County Executive Committees, showing the regulations governing primaries and County Conventions.

The Convention will consider the nomination of the Judges for the several Districts to be held at the present incumbents expire January 1st, 1899; will announce the principles and policy of the party, and take such action as may be proper.

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GRAND JURY REPORT.

The Condition and Management of Court House and County Jail Condensed.

CITY HOSPITAL WELL KEPT.

Favorable Report as to County Home. Court Adjourned for the Term After Disposing of the Few Cases on the Docket.

The March term of New Hanover Circuit Criminal Court was formally adjourned yesterday at 1 P. M. after a forenoon session of unusual interest. The cases on the docket were not in excess; but the special feature of the session was the report of the grand jury, in which complaint was made as to the condition and management of several county institutions.

The report first set forth the fact that the jury had found forty-six true bills, six not true bills, and three returned for lack of witnesses.

The jury reported the Court House in an unsatisfactory condition as to cleanliness. They recommended that the floors be painted and that a carpet be placed in the sheriff's office; that the sidewalk along the county's property on Third street to Market be paved.

The report stated that the jury in a body had visited the County Jail and found it in a very bad condition. They urged that the interior be white-washed. The prisoners were reported in a filthy condition. The food—one and a half pounds of bread and three slices of salt meat for each prisoner per day—was declared insufficient and poorly prepared.

With reference to the City Hospital the grand jury reported that it was well kept, and recommended that water be put in the colored wards; that the dead house and stables be moved further from the main building, and that the colored wards be painted and the hospital whitewashed throughout.

The report closed with a favorable report as to the condition and management of the County Home and a recommendation that the full penalty of the law be meted out to persons convicted of carrying concealed weapons. The report was signed by Mr. D. H. Lippitt as foreman and Mr. Geo. P. Cotchet as secretary.

When the report had been read Jailer W. W. King addressed the court, saying that he had held the position of deputy sheriff and jailer for seven or eight years and had always striven to do all in his power for the comfort of his prisoners. Food was furnished, he said, by the sheriff and prisoners were given all they could eat. And that if at any time sufficient food had not been furnished, he would resign his position.

He brought up a number of the inmates of the jail and questioned them before the Court as to how they were being fed and all of them said that the fare and treatment was satisfactory. Jailer King has secured a statement signed by C. E. Jevins, in which he says he recently opened a sewer pipe leading from the cells in the jail to the sewer in the jail yard and that he found the pipe filled with bread and meat, put in there by the prisoners. This is evidence, he thinks, that they are well fed.

Business disposed of in the Court yesterday was as follows: New trial ordered for Alex. Roan, colored, the jury which heard the case Friday having "agreed to disagree." Roan gave a \$50 bond for his appearance at the next term of Court.

New trial was allowed for Ed. Willson, recently convicted of assault and battery. Mahaney and Minnie Holmes were found not guilty of perjury.

As forehanded on Thursday's STAR, Judge Sutton will spend this week with his family in Fayetteville and Solicitor Richardson will attend Court in Carteret county.

U. S. ARTILLERISTS.

Battery I, of the Second Regiment Arrived Here Yesterday via the S. A. L.

FINE LOOKING SET OF MEN.

Left on the Steamer Wilmington for Fort Caswell—Heartily Cheered by Crowds of People Along the River Front.

Battery I, of the Second Regiment U. S. Artillery, arrived at about 12.30 o'clock over the Seaboard Air Line yesterday. In spite of the fact that the depot is a good way off, by the time the train pulled in there were several hundred people on the ground to see what heavy artillery is like.

As the train approached and the campaign hats shading the sun-burned faces of the representatives of Uncle Sam's regular army were seen thrust out of the car windows, there was a thrill of enthusiasm that ran through the whole crowd.

Besides the artillerymen who were on the train, there were several gentlemen who went out to Navassa and returned with the soldiers. Among the number was Capt. Don MacRae, of the Wilmington Light Infantry, who repeated the invitation previously extended through Capt. W. E. Craighill, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., offering the full liberty of the W. L. I. armory. The previous arrangement, however, was adhered to and the W. L. I. courtesies could not be accepted.

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THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

Continues in Session at Key West—Movements of Battleships—Bodies from the Maine Wreck.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 19.—The United States Court of Inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine continues its session to-day on board the United States battleship Iowa.

The United States cruiser Montague sailed this morning for the Tortugas with twelve-inch shells for the fleet.

The battleship Massachusetts and Texas will leave the Tortugas islands to-day for Hampton Roads.

Justice Advocate Maris came ashore later in the day. The court apparently held a short session.

Two unidentified bodies from the wreck of the Maine were brought down to the Carolina Central wharf to wait for the Wilmington.

The men carry Krug-Jorgensen rifles and sword bayonets in sheaths at their sides. They have no other arms. They are well acquainted with the use of disappearing guns.

The troops left on the steamer Wilmington at about 4.30 o'clock. The plan was to spend the night at Southport on board the boat and go over to the fort early this morning.

The train which brought the troops was in charge of Mr. H. S. Leard, of Raleigh, soliciting freight and passenger fares. It left two companies of artillery at Hamlet en route to Mobile and Savannah. One of them is Battery F, of the First Regiment, of Tybee, and the other is Battery I, of the First, of Fort Morgan. Battery I, of the Second Regiment, were in two passenger cars.

There were in addition a coach for the 83 of the captain, and a car for baggage and provisions. A good part of the soldiers' effects came by freight.

Most of the soldiers are Tar Heels. One of them, Private Hopewell, was living in Wilmington about a year ago. Another, Private Bagby, is a son of the late Dr. Geo. K. Bagby, of Newbern. There were quite a number from Beaufort and Hertford counties.

Almost a member of the company is "Jack," a fine little dog which the soldiers to a man are very fond of. They call him their "Masoot," and the man who harms him would fare but ill.

The Guns at Caswell. In commenting on the arrival of the battery of artillery to man Fort Caswell, it is interesting to inquire something as to the workings of the big guns which would be trained on a hostile ship if it should venture anywhere near the mouth of the Cape Fear.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER.

THE FEELING IN ENGLAND.

Press and People Still Talking of an Anglo-American Alliance.

SYMPATHY FOR THE CUBANS.

Spain Vainly Seeking Assistance from Austria and Germany—Madrid's Newspapers Ridicule the United States.

By Cable to the Morning Star.

LONDON, March 19.—The remarkable unanimity of the approval of both classes and masses of the more suggestion of an Anglo-American alliance, compels belief in the sincere desire of the British public for an entente with the United States. The fact that most of the cabinet ministers from America have proclaimed their own views has been seriously discussed is heartily welcome here and is regarded as extremely important and gratifying, as evidencing a friendly spirit.

"There are," as a diplomatist put it, "inspiring hopes that the differences of the past will be buried and that Anglo-Saxons in the near future will be found issuing identical notes to each other for their common interests."

"It is not any stretch of imagination to say that such a union has been longed for by the British people in Great Britain for many years, not only because of the genuine wish for closer bonds of friendship, but because it is a known fact that the nations of Europe realize that a close alliance between America and Great Britain would constitute not only the surest guarantee of peace, but also a means by which the peace of the world, but would afford a more effective means of law and individual liberty to be extended for the benefit of mankind in spite of the efforts to extinguish it made by reactionary rulers and governments."

Discussing the subject, the Spectator remarks: "The Americans are quite right in assuming that they will have the support of a friendly and active continental alliance attempt to oppress them. If our people once realized the condition of Cuba, half of England would be calling the Americans hard names because they have not intervened earlier to stop the horrors perpetrated at their very doors."

The curious mixture of pacific assurances from the British with the preparations for war which are coming from the United States keeps the prophets guessing; but the opinion is gaining ground that the reign of law and individual liberty to be extended for the benefit of mankind in spite of the efforts to extinguish it made by reactionary rulers and governments."

Of the affairs in our beloved State no words should be needed to awaken the patriotism of her sons. A political campaign is just ahead of us in which the welfare of the whole people of the country will be thrown down the gauge of battle to the money power and the trusts. The increasing cost of the necessities of life in the few, by open violations of the law, and the enhancement of the purchasing power of money, with the ever decreasing value of property, mark the progress of the nation.

Respectfully,
W. H. HANLY,
Chairman Dem. State Ex. Com.
WINSTON, March 18th, 1898.

ACTIVITY AT NEWPORT.

Rush Orders at the Torpedo Station for Shells for the Cruiser Vesuvius and Other Ships.

NewPORT, March 19.—Great activity is displayed at the torpedo station here. Since the Maine disaster up to yesterday, the station has gone on as usual and there was no evidence of warlike preparations. This, however, was changed by the receipt of an order from the Navy Department with "rush" instructions to get in readiness for shipping torpedoes to the cruiser Vesuvius and to fill at once the war-heads of all torpedoes on the island and of those that would be shipped to the station daily until the outfit for all cruisers and battleships would be completed and a number of spare ones for whatever auxiliary cruisers may be purchased by the navy.

A Death Dealing Machine.

In addition to the torpedo outfits, the men at the torpedo station are working on a death-dealing engine in the shape of a buoyant mine. This is an organ shaped hollow affair. The mine is twenty-six feet long and one-half inch in diameter. In this frame, secured in squares, are four cans filled with gun-cotton, the whole discharge being equal to the whole torpedoes, of sufficient power to blow a hole in the hull of a ship. The upper half of the mine is then clamped and through the water-tight, rubber-packed hole in its top, run four wires connected with the gun-cotton. Two of the wires connect with the shore and two contact wires project above the mine a distance of two feet. The mine is to be moored a few feet below the surface of the water by means of a mushroom anchor.

As soon as the rush torpedo orders are completed, which will require ten days at least, the whole force at the station will be put upon the buoyant mines. The entrances to Narragansett bay, both east and west, have been plotted for mines by the United States engineer office.

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CONSUMPTION. TO THE GREAT AND ONLY ABSOLUTE CURE FOR CONSUMPTION AND ALL CONDITIONS OF WASTING AWAY. By Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.