

WAR PREPARATIONS

CONTINUED BY WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS

He Old Monitors and Revenue Cutters to be Brought into Service—Contract for Ammunition—Report of the Court to Reach Washington Tonight—Outline of the Course to be Pursued by the Administration

Key West, Fla., March 22.—Lieutenant Commander Marix, judge-advocate of the United States naval court of inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine, left Key West this afternoon, on his way to Washington, by the City of Key West, bound for Miami, taking with him the report of the court of inquiry on the disaster. Commander Marix brought the report ashore from the Nashville today and Rear Admiral Seward, with Commander Marix, spent several hours in its further revision.

All the officers of the Maine now here, except Paymaster's Clerk McCarthy, have received orders to leave for their homes, there to await orders, as in the case of the other officers who left here last week. This is considered to be evidence that the court did not require corroboration of technical evidence as was thought a few days ago. The majority of the officers of the Maine left this afternoon for Miami, and the remainder of them leave to-morrow for Tampa.

Before leaving Key West, Commander Marix said nothing could be given out about the work of the court of inquiry or its findings. Personally, the commander said he was intensely relieved at completing his labors. The decision reached by the court is still a matter of surmise. Perhaps significant may be attached and conclusions drawn from a remark by Admiral Seward last night, when he said to a correspondent: "The case of the Maine is most peculiar, perhaps the most peculiar which has ever occurred in the history of the world." From the general tone of his remark it might be inferred that the court findings do not definitely establish the cause of the explosion. This is further born out by the admiral's statement that even after the report had been sent to Washington the department may require further investigation.

Lieutenants Jungen and Hood, Cadets Bronson and Bower, Passed Assistant Engineer Bowers, Assistant Engineer Morris and Carpenter Hilms, of the Maine, left here today on the City of Key West for Miami. Gunner Hale, of the lost battleship, will leave later. There are no commanding officers of the Maine here.

The report of the court of inquiry left here today in the custody of Lieutenant Commander Marix, judge-advocate. If the train connections be made, he will arrive in Washington with the documents Thursday night. Within the last five days a minority sentiment has been steadily growing that the court has been unable to determine definitely the cause of the explosion. Still, it is true that a majority hold to the conviction that the report will find and prove that the Maine was blown up intentionally.

The sending of the report today to Washington, was an undramatic climax to weeks of waiting. Lieutenant Commander Marix went aboard the Nashville early in the day and brought out the findings of a preliminary conference with Rear Admiral Seward certain alterations were made and then Admiral Seward affixed his signature of approval. After luncheon Lieutenant Commander Marix boarded the steamer City of Key West and sailed for Miami at 4:30 o'clock, with the report safely stowed away in state room No. 16. Lieutenant Commander Marix before leaving was in a non-committal mood. He confined himself to saying that he was intensely glad to be through with a tedious task and once more to be on the way north.

Despite the absence from Key West of the documents on which the eyes of the world are fixed, the court of inquiry continues in existence though inactive. Should the navy department report the findings of a preliminary conference with Rear Admiral Seward certain alterations were made and then Admiral Seward affixed his signature of approval. After luncheon Lieutenant Commander Marix boarded the steamer City of Key West and sailed for Miami at 4:30 o'clock, with the report safely stowed away in state room No. 16. Lieutenant Commander Marix before leaving was in a non-committal mood. He confined himself to saying that he was intensely glad to be through with a tedious task and once more to be on the way north.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S FIRM STAND.

Washington, March 22.—The cabinet meeting today lasted something over an hour and was a tedious work to the Spanish situation in general, and to the forthcoming report of the Maine court of inquiry in particular. The tone of the discussion was very firm and determined that there must come an end to the present state of affairs in Cuba. Secretary Long authorized the statement that the understanding before the cabinet was that the report would reach Washington Thursday or Friday; that it was very voluminous and that its publication and transmission to congress would not occur until next Monday or Tuesday, as the president would require that much time to give the document the mature consideration its momentous character required. Other cabinet officers stated that the general plan included the sending of a president's message along with the report, stating that Spain had been called upon to make suitable response to the case presented by the court of inquiry.

While the cabinet associates of the president maintained their usual reserve as to the exact character of the deliberations, it was conceded that the discussion proceeded on the theory that the coming report would show that the Maine explosion was not the result of an accident, but was due to an external cause. This was not because of any positive information, however, as to the findings of the court. There is no doubt that substantial unanimity exists on the part of the president and all

his cabinet, both as to the Maine question and the general subject of Cuba.

The possibility of a recourse to intervention in case Spain declined to make suitable response to the representations we will make after receiving the Maine report has been fully discussed, although necessarily it has been an abstract discussion thus far, and no conclusion has been reached or is possible until the vital question as to the court's findings are before the president and cabinet. At the same time there is a very evident intention to consider all eventualities, including the recourse to intervention, the recognition of independence and other methods which appear to suitably meet the requirements of such a condition. It is believed to be the intention of the president, however, to bring about a very material and satisfactory condition in Cuba by what shall seem to be the best and most practicable method of obtaining this end. It is the hope of the administration that Spain herself will so far realize the situation as to see the necessity for such radical action on her part with respect to Cuba as shall command the approbation of this country and, thus, at once put an end to all differences.

Outside of the cabinet meeting the day was exceptionally quiet. Secretary Long was able to clear his desk at 3:30 o'clock for the first time since the Maine disaster occurred, and he left the department before office hours closed, to enjoy a walk.

THE HAMPTON ROADS SQUADRON

During the afternoon the bureau of navigation posted the notice that the battleship Massachusetts had sailed from the Hampton Roads, following the Texas, which left yesterday. About the same time Commodore Schley, who has been suggested as the probable commander of the "flying squadron," centered at Hampton Roads, and the department had a conference with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt. The cruiser Brooklyn is at Newport News and the monitor Puritan is under orders to proceed there, so that these vessels will be near the Hampton Roads rendezvous, said a naval officer today, and one of the vessels is to be stationed there. Orders for this move have not yet been made, however, nor has Commodore Schley received any information from officials that he would be placed in command of the squadron.

The navy department continues to keep informed as to the Spanish torpedo flotilla now stopping at the Canaries. It can be stated positively that President McKinley has protested against the coming of this flotilla as unwarranted. There has been no such protest.

A COALING STATION IN WEST INDIES.

Serious attention is being given by the navy department officials to the question of the acquisition of a suitable location for a coaling station somewhere in the West Indies. Steps have been taken already to establish such a station at the Dry Tortugas, but this, it is said, is the only deep water harbor available for big war vessels between Hampton Roads and the Rio Grande. Besides, it is practically unprotected at present and a fleet would have to be stationed there to protect the coal stored, which is unsatisfactory. There are a number of fine harbors among the West Indies, said a naval officer today, and one of these we ought to have for a coaling station. Secretary Long is considering the matter and it is probable that if the government can make the necessary arrangements a station will be secured.

POWDER BIDS OPENED.

At the war department bids were opened in the bureau of ordnance for the purchase of 2,000,000 pounds of prismatic powder for the seacoast fortifications. There were only two bidders, the California Powder Company and the Dupont Powder Company. The former concern offered to supply the powder at the rate of 32.175 cents per pound. Twenty-one days after receiving the contract they will begin delivering the powder at the rate of 25.000 pounds weight. The Dupont Company bid at 32.175 cents per pound for that to be delivered at the powder arsenal at Dover, N. J., and 34.175 cents per pound for that to be delivered at the Benicia arsenal, California.

TWO MILLION CARTRIDGES.

In a day or two the ordnance bureau will award the contract for supplying the department 2,000,000 smokeless powder rifle ball-cartridges of .30 calibre. Two concerns submitted bids for furnishing these cartridges, the Winchester Arms Company and the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, both of Connecticut. Their bids were substantially alike and the contract probably will be divided between the two companies.

The war department has received information of the arrival at New York of the steamer Norfolk with 5,700 pounds of foreign smokeless powder also ordered. This powder is for testing purposes at the Sandy Hook proving grounds.

NO OVERTURES TO SPAIN.

Pending a decision on the government's final policy, no overtures or intimations have been conveyed to the Spanish government, and there is no official knowledge as to how Spain would regard recognition of Cuban independence, or intervention. The Spanish minister, Senor Polo, requested today that a statement be made that reports attributing to him expressions on the subject of independence were unwarranted and untrue. Senor Polo says he has not discussed this or any other of the pending questions.

THE KEARSARGE AND KENTUCKY

President Occult, of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company talked with Secretary Long today on the plans for the launching of the new battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky at Newport News next Thursday. Owing to the condition of affairs here, Mr. Long is not likely to attend the launching, as Thursday is the day on which the report of the court of inquiry may be received. For the same reason many of the naval chiefs who had hoped to see these fine ships glide into the water will be unable to attend the launching. A distinguished party is to leave here tomorrow night, however, including members of the senate and house committees and such naval officials as are not pressed by the present

emergency conditions. Mr. Occult stated that the Kearsarge would leave the ways at 10 o'clock a. m. Thursday morning and the Kentucky one hour later. Mrs. Herbert Winslow, wife of Lieutenant Commander Winslow, and Miss Christine Bradley, daughter of Governor Bradley, the two ladies who will accompany the Kearsarge and Kentucky, respectively, will reach Newport News tomorrow. Governor Bradley and a party of 300 Kentuckians will arrive at the same time to do fitting honor to the ship which bears the name of their state. After the launching an hour will be given to inspecting the shipyard, including the work on the big battleship Illinois, and later, a collation will be served. Mr. Occult speaks in the highest terms of the new battleships and says that on a plan they could be made ready for service within eight months and possibly less.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASING WARSHIPS.

The negotiations for the purchase of ships abroad is going steadily forward, and there was a respectable disassemblament in this connection today. The authorities had been exceedingly anxious to get the big torpedo cruiser Tupy built for Brazil. She is one of the most formidable torpedo craft afloat, near size placing her in the cruiser class while her torpedo armament gives her the effectiveness of torpedo boat and cruiser combined. It was learned positively today however, that the Brazilian government would not part with the Tupy, and this closes the efforts for one of the best ships under negotiation.

In a small measure this was offset by the success of the navy department in securing a trial little narrow-built launch, which, though very small, will serve as a harbor torpedo boat. She is of the same class of craft as the Moxto built for the Brazilian navy.

NEWS FROM OUR WARSHIPS.

The navy department was notified today of the arrival of the cruiser Cincinnati at the gunboats Castine and Wilmington at Port Antonio, Jamaica. This is about the same distance from the south shores of Cuba as Key West is from the north shore. The gunboat Marietta announced her arrival at Panama. The Marblehead has gone from Port Tampa to Dry Tortugas.

A SECRET MISSION TO KEY WEST.

Captain Barker, naval aide to the secretary of the navy, returned to his desk at the navy department today after a few days now stopping at Key West on a secret mission, the exact nature of which has not been disclosed. Inasmuch as he conferred at length with Rear Admiral Seward, commanding the North Atlantic squadron and with Captain Sampson, president of the navy court of inquiry, investigating the cause of the Maine disaster, there appears to be good reason for the inference that this business related to that affair and its possible consequences.

One of the most active branches of the navy department is the bureau engaged in the enlistment of recruits for various positions in the service. Yesterday notice was given by advertisement that recruiting stations would be opened at a number of cities, mostly on the coast. In response to these representations, that have come to hand, the enlistment bureau gave notice that a board of officers would be detailed to visit various cities in the vicinity of the great lakes where, it is said, there are a number of persons who would be willing to enter the service. Many of them are Scandinavians who have been at sea in their native country.

GENERAL GRAHAM'S TOUR.

Atlanta, Ga., March 22.—General Graham, commander of the department of the gulf, will leave tomorrow morning for a tour of inspection. He will be accompanied by Lieutenants Barney Reber and Charles M. Helm, and then to Savannah, St. Augustine, Key West, Mobile, Pensacola, New Orleans and Galveston, in the order named. The works at Galveston, nearing completion, have not been approved but will probably be turned over to the governing authorities shortly after General Graham's visit. Lieutenant Reber, chief of signal service for the department will examine into the telegraph facilities at each point visited.

Chief Clerk Bass of the adjutant general's office, arrived today. The Austell building. There arrived also five other clerks and the entire office force of the signal corps.

Havana, March 22.—The rumors that General Pando has been recalled and is awaited here with 6,000 men are now pronounced to be without foundation. General Pando and Salcedo, it is given out, are continuing their operations in the province of Puerto Principe.

The Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII entered the new floating dock today, in order to have her bottom cleaned.

In the day the dock room dinged mishap. All the machinery is working nicely and her crew are busy cleaning the bottom of the vessel, but the dock will not be accepted until more fully tested by a heavier ship.

DIVERS' WORK ON THE WRECK.

The wrecking contract divers have been busy on the Maine today, raising two 6-inch guns from the after cabin with great difficulty, and getting ammunition from the magazine aft. In doing this the divers are compelled to shoot down through the turret lift in a narrow chute and then along the deck to the magazine opening. They are liable to be jammed, and great care is taken. It may be necessary to cut a hole through the decks direct into the magazine. Moreover, the divers are somewhat nervous about handling explosives.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CASUALTIES.

Chaplain Chidwick has completed his mortuary report, which shows that 257 men and two officers perished in the catastrophe, six succumbed to their injuries in the San Ambrosio hospital here, one died on the Spanish transport Colon, 171 bodies have been recovered from the wreck, of which sixty-one have been identified, 160 have been buried in Colon cemetery and eleven at Key West. This is the official report, made public after careful correction for the first time. It is probable that many more identifications will be established when the enlistment records

are compared with the notes in Chaplain Chidwick's possession of marks on the corpses.

The death of Henry Williams, one of the diving force of the American tug Chief, of the Merritt Wrecking Company, occurred at 8 o'clock last evening. According to the American physician who attended him, to chronic hemorrhage of the stomach. It was not unexpected. Mr. Williams will be buried here at the United States. The body will be sent to Key West.

The central relief station in this city, feeding 15,000 persons daily. It will be formally opened tomorrow, although partially in use already. The system is admirable, and food is plentiful. There are 1,055 tons of supplies now on hand or afloat. Advances from the country districts are satisfactory and show the same condition, as have been recently described.

La Discusion today criticized the editorial of La Lucha, referring contemptuously to the charitable work of Americans in the island, and says that the editorial was inspired by hatred of the Cuban people, from whom La Lucha has derived a large part of its income. The editor of La Lucha says La Discusion "knows that there are 300,000 victims of starvation, and would not care if there were as many dead. It is ignorant of the great charities maintained by the United States and also of the gifts of supplies from the United States to other countries than Cuba in time of need."

La Lucha and La Discusion are political opponents and their editors are personal enemies.

Up to the hour of closing the cable tonight the cable from the Main in Havana had not received orders to go north. All but Lieutenant Commander Wainwright may be ordered away at any time. He has been placed officially in charge of the wrecking in progress under the contract. Captain Sigbee and the other officers were supposed to remain only while the court of inquiry was in session here and they are confident they will be ordered away before April 1st, as, after that date, quarantine laws against yellow fever will be enforced more rigidly than ever, on account of the outbreak last year in New Orleans and elsewhere in the United States. Captain Sigbee is not very well. He is anxious to go north, but, of course, says nothing on the subject, being willing to wait patiently for orders.

THE PRESIDENT CONSULTS SENATOR GORMAN.

Washington, March 22.—Senators Allison and Gorman saw the president today by appointment. The president desired to consult them regarding the present Cuban situation, as he has been consulted by other officials. Little was learned concerning the nature of the conference but it is known that the president desires the views of leading men of both parties at this time on the situation, which is considered very critical.

Havana, via Key West, Fla., March 22.—It is known positively that the negotiations between General Pando's delegates, Ramirez and Charvez, and General Calixto Garcia and other prominent insurgents, in which the radical republicans made what are said to be final offers of practical independence, have proved an absolute failure. No particulars have yet been received at the palace here as to the place or the particulars of the meeting, but that the negotiations have failed is shown by the resumption of hostilities.

Madrid, March 22.—The papers here publish full reports of the movements of the United States warships and of the defensive preparations being made by the government of the United States.

It is reported that the Spanish warship Albatros, which was ordered to the Canaries, has sailed from Carthagena for the Canary islands. It appears that the delay in the voyage of the torpedo boats is due to the fact that the Ariete, one of the Spanish torpedo boats, sustained some slight damage while on her way from Cadiz to the Canaries.

The Spanish newspapers advocate further strengthening of the naval squadron in Cuba, so as not to be caught at disadvantage in case of war. Senor Maret, the minister for the colonies, has telegraphed to the president that the report of the Spanish court of inquiry would not be known as soon as had been expected. He said he believed the American report would not be as favorable as Spain desired.

Couza de Villa Gonzalo, Spanish ambassador to Russia, has resigned. The Spanish government has received a dispatch from its minister at Washington, Senor Polo y Bernabe, saying that the report of the United States naval court appointed to inquire into the loss of the battleship Maine, held that the explosion was of external origin.

Miami, Fla., March 22.—Lieutenant Commander Marix, of the Maine court of inquiry, with the following party, arrived here this morning from Key West: Lieutenant John Hood, Lieutenant John F. Bower, Assistant Engineer F. W. Bower, Cadet Amos F. Boyd, Assistant Engineer J. R. Morris and Carpenter G. M. Helm. A few minutes later they left by the East Coast Railway for Washington.

Lieutenant Commander Marix was very reticent, but when your correspondent said: "It looks like war," he replied: "It surely does." Others of the party in answer to the same question were more emphatic in their replies, one saying: "I cannot see how it can be avoided." Another, in answer to the same question, said: "There will be no war." His face was as genial and bright as sunshine, but suddenly a change came over his countenance, his eyes flashed and, when asked when their report would be made, the reply was: "As soon as we reach Washington, there will be no delay."

The strong impression left here is that the board's report will be against the accident theory.

THE CRISIS NEAR AT HAND.

Washington, March 22.—The feeling was universal throughout official circles today that the culmination of the Spanish crisis was near at hand. With the report of the Maine court of inquiry only a little while off, with the White House the center of long and earnest conference between the president and the party leaders of congress, and with the exceptional activity toward emergency preparations in the

war and navy departments, there was abundant evidence that definite results regarding the Maine disaster and the Cuban question in general were about to be reached.

Among the president's callers were Senators Cockrell, Turpie and Foraker, General Dan Sickles, former United States minister to Madrid, and Representative William Alden Smith, of Michigan, who has recently returned from a trip to Cuba. The call of Senators Cockrell and Turpie was regarded as particularly significant, as they are representative democrats in the senate and their visit followed that of Senator Gorman yesterday. It was generally understood that in the present emergency the president desires patriotic unity without reference to party. Secretaries Long and Alger also conferred with the president during the day. Secretary Long said later that the Maine report would probably reach Washington tomorrow night. If however, it did not come before 8 o'clock Thursday evening, Mr. Long said he would probably not receive it until Friday morning, when it would be laid before the president immediately. The secretary did not think the president would give the document any consideration at a late hour tomorrow night. It was more probable, he thought, if Lieutenant Marix arrived at a late hour that he would take the report to a hotel for the night.

There has been no change in the plan of sending the report to congress early next week, probably Monday, accompanied by a message from the president. It is definitely settled, however, that the message and the papers accompanying it will relate exclusively to the Maine disaster. It will not take up the fearful condition of affairs in Cuba, as shown by the reports of United States consuls, these being reserved for subsequent action and a later message to congress.

PLACING THE MONITORS.

Secretary Long determined today to order the double-turreted monitors Puritan and Terror to Key West, where they will reinforce the squadron in those waters. He also determined to bring into service the eight single-turreted monitors at League Island navy yard, Philadelphia, two of which will be sent to Boston, two to New York and four held in reserve at Philadelphia. The Puritan and Terror take the place of the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, recently withdrawn from the squadron at Key West. It is stated at the navy department that this move was in accordance with a programme previously agreed upon, although this programme has not been announced heretofore. The Puritan by many experts is regarded as the most formidable fighting machine in the navy.

TO ADD REVENUE CUTTERS TO THE FLEET.

In addition to its other preparations for possible trouble, the navy department today took steps toward utilizing ten of the seagoing revenue cutters for use along the Atlantic coast. Captain Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, conferred with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt during the day on the plans for turning over these cutters to the navy. They will be first sent to Norfolk where additional guns will be mounted, and then will proceed to Key West and become a part of the squadron there. Their main service, however, will be in forming a chain of these fleet cutters, being maintained outside of the cruisers and battleships. The revenue cutter service now has ready for instant and active service 124 line officers, 74 engineers, 900 enlisted men and 19 vessels, of which fourteen are on the Atlantic coast. Two others are in construction at Cleveland and with "rush" work can be completed and ready for sea in from thirty to forty five days. The Manning, the Gresham, the Algonquin, the Onondaga and the Windom are all new, fast and efficient vessels. The Manning is considered an eighteen knot boat. All of them, it is said, could be quickly converted into torpedo boats or dynamite cutters. Whether this last move will be made is not definitely decided. Secretary Long said today it had become evident that the torpedo boats could be built soon abroad and could not be built soon enough in this country, so that we might have to equip other craft with torpedoes.

The navy department opened bids today for extensive improvements at Dry Tortugas and Key West, the former having been effected, as regards Tortugas, which passes from the treasury to the war department. These consist of two solid steel piers to be constructed at Dry Tortugas, with two extensive coal sheds and an elaborate mechanical equipment for loading down the line of the contract. The improvements consist of a steel pier and two coal sheds, with similar machinery for loading warships with coal. The bids ranged from \$1,151,000 for the entire work down to about \$400,000. Among the bidders for the Dry Tortugas piers and coal sheds was the S. S. Leonard Company, Jacksonville \$274,700. On the Key West work the S. S. Leonard Company's bid was \$188,000. Two bids were made for the entire work at Tortugas and Key West, as follows: R. G. Packard \$1,151,000, and Grattan & Jennings, New York, \$757,000. Other bids were made for the machinery, tracks, coal cars etc., ranging from \$150,000 down. The award will be made within the next day or two.

NAVAL OFFICERS AT HAVANA TO BE RECALLED.

The navy department has arranged for the practical withdrawal of all its naval officers at Havana and the abandonment of the wreck of the ill-fated battleship Maine. Captain C. D. Sigbee, Lieutenant Commander Richard Wainwright, Surgeon L. G. Heneberger, Paymaster Ray, Chaplain John P. Chadwick, Chief Engineer Charles F. Howell, and Naval Cadets J. A. Holden and W. T. Cluverius, who have been at Havana with the wreck, will return very soon.

Although it is not finally settled, it is more than probable that the Fern also will return to the United States as soon as it is determined that nothing more is to be gained by her presence there. In the event of the abandonment of the wreck it is more than likely that the navy department will arrange for its complete destruction by the use of dynamite or torpedoes. In

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its present condition it is a dangerous obstruction to navigation and it is believed that any opposition will be offered to its removal.

TO USE THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Representative Marsh, chairman of the house committee on the militia, called upon Secretary Alger today and urged that in event of hostilities, the recourse of the government for soldiers be the state militia, who should be invited to voters for the country's defense. Secretary Alger was very much interested in the argument made by Mr. Marsh and while not committing himself on that subject, seemed to regard the suggestion made by him as practicable. Afterwards, Mr. Marsh called on President McKinley and repeated the statement he had made to the secretary.

During the morning Secretary Alger was also in conference with General Miles, commanding the army, respecting the military occupation of Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas island. The determination to garrison this fort has been reached by the secretary and the question now to be met are those of what improvements in the fortifications now there may be necessary.

Havana, March 22.—Bishop Manuel Santander y Trujillo, the bishop of Havana, has consecrated the central relief station and also the orphanage. He paid high tributes to Louis Kloppsch, the special commissioner, for his system of relief work, and seemed greatly pleased with all the arrangements made to help the poor, as well as the orphans.

La Lucha in an editorial under the caption of "expectation in the world" maintains the American court of inquiry, owing to the short time it was here, could not give a scientific report on the Maine disaster. "American officers," says La Lucha, "are not likely to decide against brother officers. The divers could not give expert testimony, owing to the fact that the machinery was imbedded four feet in the mud. It is greatly to be regretted that more time and care was given to the preparation of a report for which the whole world waits and which is likely to change the entire feeling of a part of the American people toward Spain and Cuba." La Lucha publishes also an interview with General Lee which quotes him as saying that he knows nothing of the nature of the report, but is satisfied that General Blanco never conceived the disaster until he heard the shock in the harbor.

DIVERS LEAVE HAVANA.

Gunner Morgan left for the fleet at Key West today. With him went the naval divers Fisher, Rundquist and Schluter, and Hanz, the helper. They leave two navy divers and five civilians on the contract work at Tortugas. The body of a white man was found in the forward part of the wreck today. It will probably be identified by marks on the clothing when the latter has been disinfected. The body was sent to Key West on the Olivette.

BEARING THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS TO WASHINGTON.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 22.—Judge-Advocate Marix left Miami at 7:30 o'clock this morning on the East Coast railway, reached Jacksonville at 7:00 o'clock p. m. on time, and left at 8 o'clock via the Florida, Central and Pensacola and Savannah and will pass through Savannah, Columbia, Charlotte, Greensboro, Danville, Lynchburg and Charlottesville, reaching Washington at 9:25 o'clock p. m. eastern time, Thursday night. The railroad wires have carried the message down the line and all departed. This practically makes a special of the Marix train and without unforeseen accident, Washington will be reached on the dot and the portentous document in the White House by 9:30 o'clock. The run from Jacksonville is 772 miles, the schedule time being a little over twenty-four hours.

Lieutenant Commander Marix passed through this city this evening, having in custody the report of the court of inquiry in the Maine case, on which will depend so much of the happenings of the next few weeks of the world's history.

During the short time of the stay in this city, an Associated Press reporter secured the attention of Lieutenant Marix and showed him a dispatch from Miami that appeared in the afternoon papers in which he was quoted as saying: "It looks like war; it certainly does." Before the words had been read to him, he exclaimed: "It is utterly false. I have said nothing of the kind. I don't talk about this matter." All efforts to get him to make any expression of opinion were equally futile as far as the present crisis or his relations to it are concerned. Other members of the party were equally non-committal.

During the transfer from one train to the other, Lieutenant Marix was closely guarded by the members of his party. He walked between two of his friends, carrying a mysterious box or package, covered with black cloth. Behind him the officers of his party walked closely and the effort was apparently to allow no possible chance for any outsider to come between them. They walked rapidly and did not stop to

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