

The Semi-Weekly Messenger.

VOL. XXXIX No 30.

WILMINGTON N. C., APRIL 17, 1906.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

SIX MEN MEET DEATH IN ACCIDENT ON THE BATTLESHIP KEARSARGE

Three Sections of Charge of Powder Ignited

CAUSE NOT DETERMINED

Court of Inquiry Will Investigate the Disaster

News of the Explosion Reached the Navy Department From Admiral Evans, at Caimanera.—The Accident Happened on Friday the 13th, Just Two Years to a Day From the Fatal Disaster on the Missouri.—Lieutenant Hudgins Was the Only Officer Who Lost His Life.—Cablegram of Sympathy Sent to the Commander of the Fleet From the Navy Department.—Surprise Expressed That the Loss of Life Was Not Much Greater.

Washington, April 14.—Two years to a day later than the fatal Missouri disaster, and as every sailor immediately recalled on a Friday and the 13th of the month, six men were done to death in the forward turret of the battleship Kearsarge by one of those accidents which acquire additional terror for sailors because of their obscure origin, and almost impossibility of prevention.

The Atlantic fleet, the strongest fighting fleet America has ever owned had been for weeks engaged in the most severe drills in the waters of the Caribbean sea, culminating in the quarterly target practice. This practice was just about concluded with most satisfactory results up to yesterday, and it was confidently expected at the department, upon the basis of preliminary reports received, that all records would be broken in the matter of rapidity of fire and efficiency of the gunners. But today just at the close of the week's work at the department, came a cablegram from Rear Admiral Evans, the commanding chief of the Atlantic fleet telling of a dreadful accident on one of his best ships, the Kearsarge. The news came from Caimanera, a little cable station at the mouth of Guantanamo bay, indicating that the Kearsarge itself had arrived at that place.

The message read as follows: "Secretary Navy, Washington, D. C. "On April 13th, about 3:15 p. m., shortly after completion target practice of Kearsarge, forward turret, while the powder was going below, three sections of a thirteen charge of powder were ignited. Charge of powder in other lifts just below and one section inside 13-inch remained intact. Cause not yet determined nor accident accountability. Matter is being investigated. Lieutenant Joseph W. Graeme, gun umpire, has been sent to the Maryland in a very critical state about 9 p. m. The following have since died: LIEUTENANT HUDGINS, turret officer. PETER NOBERG, gunner's mate. THEODORE NAELEY, seaman. ANTON O. THERSON, ordinary seaman. JULIUS A. KOESTER, turret captain, first class. ELLIS H. ATHEY, seaman.

The following was dangerously injured by accident, recovery doubtful: W. KING, ordinary seaman. Will bury dead at Guantanamo. Vessel uninjured."

The following message of condolence was telegraphed to the commander in chief of the fleet, Admiral Evans, by Acting Secretary Newberry: "Washington, April 14. "Evans, Maine, Naval Station, Caimanera."

"The department is grieved by the unfortunate accident aboard the battleship Kearsarge, which occasioned the death and injury in the performance of duty, brave officers and men in the navy and it extends its heartfelt sympathy to the injured and wishes for a speedy recovery from their wounds. Spare no effort to ease the sufferings of the injured in every possible manner and show every honor to the dead.

(Signed.) "NEWBERRY." Lieutenant John M. Hudgins, the only officer who lost his life by the explosion on the Kearsarge was a native of Virginia and was appointed to the naval academy from the state September 8, 1880. He was assigned to the engineer corps upon leaving the academy in 1884 because of his particular aptitude for engineering and his mechanical skill. He took an especial interest in the subject of wireless telegraphy and became expert in that line. He was personally identified with the development of the wireless system as now in use by the navy, having been attached to the bureau of equipment during the experiments and inauguration of the system. After a short service in 1895 he was sent to London for a special course of instruction and while in that city was attached to the American embassy. Since then he has served respectively on the New Orleans, Glacier, Manila and Petrel, and in October 1903 began his service on the Kearsarge. He reached the grade of lieutenant in September 1901. Lieutenant Hudgins' wife resides with her parents in this city.

Wilkesbarre, Pa. He is married and his wife, according to the department's information is with his father.

Immediately upon receiving the cablegram from Admiral Evans, Acting Secretary Newberry carried it to the president at the White house and was authorized to send the foregoing expression of sympathy. He also communicated the sad news to Secretary Bonaparte at his home in Baltimore over the long distance telephone.

The feeling of the officers at the navy department after reading the cablegram was one of surprise that the accident resulted in so little loss of life. The Kearsarge's forward turret, where it occurred, is of the superposed type, in other words an 8-inch gun turret set upon the top of the 13-inch gun turret, where the accident occurred. In the lower turret were twenty-four men and in the upper turret sixteen. An ammunition hoist connected the two and had the powder in the tower hoist exploded probably every man in the two turrets would have been killed. The full charge of powder for a thirteen inch gun is too large to be handled by any one man, so it is divided into sections in canvas bags and it was three of these, probably just enough to fill one compartment in the ammunition hoist which ignited. As the cablegram states the cause of the ignition was not known, but the first belief at the navy department is that in clearing up the turret and throwing open the breeches of the big guns after the last round had been fired some small bit of smouldering canvas bagging was blown out of one of the guns as the big breech block was swung around, only to fall upon the loaded ammunition hoist where the surplus powder was being returned to the magazines below.

Lieutenant Graeme, who was mentioned as being in a very critical state at the time the cablegram was sent, did not belong to the company of the Kearsarge. He was attached to the Maryland and was aboard the Kearsarge in the capacity of an umpire to check off and record the performance of the gunners, a very necessary function in view of the keen spirit of rivalry obtaining between the crews of the big battleships in the matter of efficiency at target practice.

Naval regulations prescribe exactly what is to be done in a case of this kind. The admiral-in-command orders immediately a court of inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident and ascertains the responsibility therefor, and a court martial will follow if any one is found at fault.

BASEBALL.

National League.
At Philadelphia—Philadelphia 1, New York 2.

At Brooklyn—Brooklyn 0, Boston 1.

At St. Louis vs. Pittsburg, rain.

American League.

At Washington—Washington 3, Philadelphia 4.

At New York—New York 2, Boston 1.

Other Games.

At Greensboro, N. C.—University of North Carolina, 19, University of South Carolina, 0.

Richmond, Va., April 14.—Trinity College of North Carolina sprang a surprise here this afternoon by defeating the Harvard University baseball team 8 to 5.

Norfolk, Va., April 14.—Virginia turned the tables on Yale today in a very cleanly played game, winning by a score of 2 to 2.

At Atlanta—Georgia Tech 2, Vanderbilt 1.

At Atlanta—Atlanta, Southern, 3, Montgomery 8.

At Birmingham—Birmingham 3, Nashville 2.

At Memphis—Memphis 4, Shreveport 8.

At New Orleans—New Orleans 1, Little Rock 4.

At Roanoke—St. John College 7, Roanoke 2.

At Lynchburg—Baltimore Yanigans 6, Lynchburg State, 3.

At Washington, D. C.—Georgetown 1, Princeton 4.

At Ithaca N. Y.—Cornell 3, LaFayette 0.

IN HONOR OF MRS. CRAIG

Mrs. C. B. Aycock Entertains at Luncheon—Silver Wedding of Rev. and Mrs. Meyerberg.

(Special to The Messenger.) Goldsboro, N. C., April 14.—Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Meyerberg celebrated their silver wedding on Thursday and as a token of high esteem, the Old Shalom congregation presented them with a very handsome chest of silver. Dr. Meyerberg has been Rabbi of this congregation for the past fifteen years and he and his estimable wife are held in the highest regard, and all wish for them a continued life of health and happiness.

Mrs. C. B. Aycock was hostess at a delightful luncheon in this evening at her home, on William street, complimentary to Mrs. Locke Craig, of Asheville. Covers were laid for seven, and the decorations were violet, with large bouquets of same decorating the cloth. Those who were fortunate to be with Mrs. Aycock on this occasion were Messdames Williams Spicer, Nathan O'berry, Locke Craig, J. L. Moust and Miss Rebecca Humphrey.

A NEW INDUSTRY FOR WINSTON
For the Manufacture of Parlor Suits, Lounges and Couches to Begin Operations in That City May 1st.

This city is to have a new industry. It is to be the L. B. Hood Co., manufacturers of parlor suits, lounges and couches. Mr. Hood has associated with him several prominent gentlemen of this city and a charter will be applied for at once. The authorized capital stock will be \$10,000.—Winston Journal.

CORNER STONE LAID

New Office Building for House

of Representatives

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

"The Man With the Muck-Rake" Was His Subject

Ceremonies Were Held Under Auspices of the Masonic Lodge of the District of Columbia—Speaker Cannon Introduced the President, Who Was Given A Hearty Greeting on His Appearance—His Address Frequently Interrupted With Applause.

Washington, April 14.—To the many memorable events which cluster about the making of the nation's capital, one other must be added, the laying of the corner stone of the office building for the house of representatives, with solemn Masonic ceremonies this afternoon.

The occasion was made memorable by the presence of the president of the United States, and many of his cabinet; by the supreme court; by the representatives of foreign governments; by senate and house of representatives, and a large proportion of Washington's population. The day was ideal for such an important ceremony, and without so much as even a trifling delay the immense stone which occupies the northeast corner of the building was placed in position with the ancient ceremonial of the Masonic faith.

President Roosevelt, accompanied by a number of his cabinet, and escorted by the office building commission, Speaker Joseph G. Cannon, Representative W. P. Hepburn, of Iowa, and ex-Representative James D. Richardson, of Tennessee, arrived comparatively early. When the president came into view of the immense audience, a roar of kindly welcome greeted him. Immediately after the arrival of the president, the senate of the United States, with Vice President Fairbanks at their head, entered the stand reserved for them, followed by a large membership of the house of representatives.

On the arrival of the grand lodge of Masons of the District of Columbia, with Walter A. Brown, grand master, at their head, the ceremony of laying the corner stone began, the United States Marine band, with a fanfare of trumpets, announcing the hour set for the exercises.

The grand chaplain of the grand lodge prayed for the American people and its present chief executive. A hermetically sealed copper box containing an inside copper box with glass top was then placed in position, so that the stone would completely envelop it.

As the stone was lowered on its foundation the marine band played the intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana. The corn, wine and oil were then in turn poured upon the stones by the grand master according to ancient custom.

Following these rites the grand master, Walter A. Brown, delivered an address.

An instrumental selection followed and the president and the speaker of the house of representatives entered the president's box. Speaker Cannon introduced the president briefly.

It seemed a minute or more before the president was permitted to speak. He was in splendid voice and throughout the address hearty and long continued applause punctuated the telling periods.

The president said:

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Over a century ago Washington laid the corner stone of the capitol in what was then a little more than a tract of wooded wilderness here beside the Potomac. We now find it necessary to provide by great additional buildings for the business of the government. This growth in the need for the housing of the government is but proof and example of the way in which the nation has grown and the sphere of action of the national government has grown. We now administer the affairs of a nation in which the extraordinary growth of population has been outstripped by the growth of wealth and the growth in complex interests. The material problems that face us today are not such as they were in Washington's time, but the underlying facts of human nature are the same now as they were then. Under altered external form we war with the same tendencies toward evil that were evident in Washington's time, and are helped by the same tendencies for good. It is about some of these that I wish to say a word today.

In Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress you may recall the description of the "Man with the Muck-rake," the man who could look no way but downward, with

the muck-rake in his hand; who was offered a celestial crown for his muck-rake, but who could neither look up nor regard the crown he was offered, but continued to rake to himself the filth of the floor.

In Pilgrim's Progress the Man with the Muck-rake is set forth as the example of him whose vision is fixed on carnal instead of on spiritual things. Yet he also typifies the man who in his life consistently refuses to see aught that is lofty, and fixes his eyes with solemn intentness only on that which is vile and debasing. Now, it is very necessary that we should not flinch from seeing what is vile and debasing. There is filth on the floor, and it must be scraped up with the muck-rake, and there are times and places where this service is the most needed of all the services that can be performed. But the man who never does anything else, who never thinks or speaks or writes, save of his feats with the muck-rake, speedily becomes, not a help to society, not an incentive to good, but one of the most potent forces for evil.

There are, in the body politic, economic and social, many and grave evils, and there is urgent necessity for the sternest war upon them. There should be relentless exposure of and attack upon every evil man, whether politician or business man, every evil practice whether in politics in business or in social life. I hail as a benefactor every writer or speaker, every man who, on the platform, or in book, magazine, or newspaper, with merciless severity makes such attack, provided always that he in turn remembers that the attack is of use only if it is absolutely truthful. The liar is no whit better than the thief, and if him mendacity takes the form of slander, he may be worse than most thieves. It puts a premium upon knavery untruthfully to attack an honest man, or even with hysterical exaggeration to assail a bad man with untruth. An epidemic of indiscriminate assault upon character does not good but very great harm. The soul of every scoundrel is gladdened whenever an honest man is assailed, or even when a scoundrel is untruthfully assailed.

Now it is easy to twist out of shape what I have just said, easy to effect, to misunderstand it, and if it is slurred over in repetition, not difficult really to misunderstand it. Some persons are sincerely incapable of understanding that to denounce mud slinging does not mean the indorsement of whitewashing; and both the interested individuals who need whitewashing and those others who practice mud slinging, like to encourage such confusion of ideas.

One of the chief counts against those who make indiscriminate assault upon men in business or men in public life, is that they invite a reaction which is sure to tell powerfully in favor of the unscrupulous scoundrel who really ought to be attacked, who ought, if possible, to be put in the penitentiary. If Aristides is praised over much as just, people get tired of hearing it; and over censure of the unjust finally and from similar reasons results in their favor.

Any excess is almost sure to invite a reaction; and, unfortunately, the reaction, instead of taking the form of punishment of those guilty of the excess, is very apt to take the form either of punishment of the unoffending or of giving immunity, and even strength, to offenders. The effort to make financial or political profit out of the destruction of character can only result in public calamity. Gross and reckless assault on character, whether on the stump or in newspaper magazine, or book, create a morbid and vicious public sentiment, and at the same time act as a profound deterrent to able men of normal sensitiveness and tend to prevent them from entering the public service at any price. As an instance in point, I may mention that one serious difficulty encountered in getting the right type of men to dig the Panama Canal is the certainty that they will be exposed, both without and, I am sorry to say, sometimes within congress, to utterly reckless assaults on their character and capacity.

At the risk of the repetition let me say again that my plea is, not for immunity to but for the most unflinching exposure of the politician who betrays his trust, of the big business men who makes or spends his fortune in illegitimate or corrupt ways. There should be a resolute effort to hunt every such man out of the position he has disgraced. Expose the crime, and hunt down the criminal; but remember that even in the case of crime, if it is attacked in sensational, lurid, and untruthful fashion the attack may do more damage to the public mind than the crime itself. It is because I feel that there should be no rest in the endless war against the forces of evil that I ask that the war be conducted with sanity as well as with resolution.

The men with the muck-rakes are often indispensable to the well-being of society, but only if they know when to stop raking the muck, and to look upward to the celestial crown above them, to the crown of worthy endeavor. There are beautiful things above and round about them; and if they gradually grow to feel that the whole world is nothing but muck, their power of usefulness is gone. If the whole picture is painted black there remains no hue whereby to single out the rascals for distinction from their fellows. Such painting finally induces a kind of moral color-blindness; and people effected by it come to the conclusion that no man is really black, and no man really white, but they are all gray. In other words, they neither believe in the truth of the attack, nor in the honesty of the man who is attacked; they grow suspicious

of the accusation as of the offense; it becomes well-nigh hopeless to stir them either to wrath against wrong-doing or to enthusiasm for what is right; and such a mental attitude in the public gives hope to every knave, and is the despair of honest men.

To assail the great and admitted evils of our political and industrial life with such crude and sweeping generalizations as to include decent men in the general condemnation means the scarring of the public conscience. There results a general attitude either of cynical belief in and indifference to public corruption or else of a distrustful inability to discriminate between the good and the bad. Either attitude is fraught with untold damage to the country as a whole. The fool who has not sense to discriminate between what is good and what is bad is well-nigh as dangerous as the man who does discriminate and yet chooses the bad; there is nothing more distressing to every good patriot, to every good American, than the hard, scoffing spirit which treats the allegation of dishonesty in a public man as a cause for laughter. Such laughter is worse than the cracking of thorns under a pot, for it denotes not merely the vacant mind but the heart in which right emotions have been choked before they could grow to fruition.

There is any amount of good in the world, and there never was a time when doifter and more disinterested work for the betterment of mankind was being done than now. The forces that tend for evil are great and terrible, but the forces of truth and love and courage and honesty and generosity and sympathy are also stronger than ever before. It is a foolish and timid, no less than a wicked thing, to blink the fact that the forces of evil are strong, but it is even worse to fail to take into account the strength of the forces that tell for good. Hysterical sensationalism is the very poorest weapon wherewith to fight for lasting righteousness. The men who with stern sobriety and truth assail the many evils of our time, whether in the public press, or in magazines, or in books, are life leaders and allies of all engaged in the work for social and political betterment. But if they give good reason for distrust of what they say, if they chill the ardor of those who demand truth as a primary virtue, they thereby betray the good cause, and play into the hands of the very men against whom they are nominally at war.

In his Ecclesiastical Polity that fine old Elizabethan divine, Bishop Hooker wrote:

This truth should be kept constantly in mind by every free people desiring to preserve the sanity and poise indispensable to the permanent success of self-government. Yet, on the other hand, it is vital not to permit this spirit of sanity and self-command to degenerate into mere mental stagnation. Bad though a state of hysterical excitement is, and evil though the results are which come from the violent oscillations such excitement invariably produces, yet a sullen acquiescence in evil is even worse. At this moment we are passing through a period of great unrest—social, political, and industrial unrest. It is of the utmost importance for our future that this should prove to be not the unrest of mere rebelliousness against life, of mere dissipation of conditions, but the unrest of a resolute and eager ambition to secure the betterment of the individual and the nation. So far as this movement of agitation throughout the country takes the form of a fierce discontent with evil, of a determination to punish the authors of evil, whether in industry or politics, the feeling is to be heartily welcomed as a sign of healthy life.

If, on the other hand, it turns into a mere crusade of appetite against the brutal greed of the "have-nots" and the brutal greed of the "haves", then it has no significance for good, but only for evil. If it seeks to establish a line of cleavage, not along the line which divides good men from bad, but along that other line, running at right angles thereto, which divides those who are well off from those who are less well off, then it will be fraught with immeasurable harm to the body politic.

We can no more afford to condone evil in the man of capital than evil in the man of no capital. The wealthy man who exults because there is a failure of justice in the effort to bring some trust magnate to an account for his misdeeds is as bad as, and no worse than, the so-called labor leader who clamorously strives to excite a foul class feeling on behalf of some other leader who is implicated in murder. One attitude is as bad as the other, and no worse; in each case the accused is entitled to exact justice; and in neither case is there need of action by others which can be construed into an expression of sympathy for crime.

It is a prime necessity that if the present unrest is to result in permanent good the emotion shall be translated into action, and that the action shall be marked by honesty, sanity, and self-restraint. There is mighty little good in a mere spasmodic reform. The reform that counts is that which comes through steady, continuous growth; violent, emotionalism leads to exhaustion.

It is important to this people to grapple with the problems connected with the amassing of enormous fortunes, and the use of those fortunes, both corporate and individual, in business. We should discriminate in the sharpest way between fortune well-won and fortunes ill-won; between those gained as an incident to

TWO KILLED BY MOB

Negroes Taken From Jail and Roasted Alive.

IN SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI

The Men Were Charged With Assaulting Young White Girl

The Jail Was Torn to Pieces and the Negroes Taken to the Public Square in the Center of Town and Hanged to An Electric Tower—A Fire Was Built Under the Hanging Men and 3,000 Persons Watched Their Death Agony.

Springfield, Missouri, April 14.—A mob of 5,000 persons tonight tore down the jail and took Horace Duncan and James Copeland, negroes, hanged them to an electric tower in the center of the public square, and built a fire under the suspended men. The negroes, both under 21 years of age, were in jail charged with assaulting Mabel Edmondson, a white girl, last night.

The mob used telephone poles and sledge hammers to tear the jail to pieces. It is a mile from the jail to the square, and the mob marched down one of the principal streets, shouting and firing pistols. Circuit Attorney Arthur Sager, of St. Louis, was a witness to the tragedy. He slipped into the cellar of the jail and cut off the gas, hoping to confuse the mob but he was too late. Last night while Miss Edmondson and a young man named Cooper were out riding in a buggy they were stopped by two negroes who beat Cooper into unconsciousness and dragged Miss Edmondson into the woods. Duncan and Copeland were arrested on suspicion, but there was no evidence against them.

One thousand men gathered at the city hall tonight and on learning that the negroes were not there, hastened to the county jail, where the prisoners were confined. Instead of attacking the jail at first the mob stormed the residence of the county sheriff, breaking down doors, smashing windows, destroying furniture in the lower part of the house, and rendering the sheriff's wife unconscious from fright and violence. Overcoming the resistance of the sheriff, and a posse of deputies, the mob secured the key to the jail and gained entrance thereto. The mob had no trouble in finding the cells of Duncan and Copeland. When the committee who entered the jail came out with the two negroes the mob began to clamor for summary execution, shouting "Hang them!" "Burn them!" The negroes were taken to the public square and hanged, and a fire kindled under them in which they were roasted, 3,000 persons watching their agony.

performing great services to the community as a whole, and those gained in evil fashion by keeping just within the limits of mere law-honesty. Of course no amount of charity in spending such fortunes in any way compensates for misconduct in making them. As a matter of personal conviction, and without pretending to discuss the details or formulate the system, I feel that we shall ultimately have to consider the adoption of some such scheme as that of a progressive tax on all fortunes, beyond a certain amount, either given in life or devised or bequeathed upon death to any individual—a tax so framed as to put it out of the power of the owner of one of these enormous fortunes to hand on more than a certain amount to any one individual; the tax, of course, to be imposed by the national and not the state government. Such taxation should, of course, be aimed merely at the inheritance or transmission in their entirety of those fortunes swollen beyond all healthy limits.

Again, the national government must in some form exercise supervision over corporations engaged in interstate business—and all large corporations are engaged in interstate business—whether by license or other wise, so as to permit us to deal with the far reaching evils of over-capitalization. This year we are making a beginning in the direction of serious effort to settle some of these economic problems by the railway rate legislation. Such legislation, if so framed, as I am sure it will be, as to secure definite and tangible results, will amount to something of its self; and it will amount to a great deal more in so far as it is taken as a first step in the direction of a policy of superintendence and control over corporate wealth engaged in interstate commerce, this superintendence and control not to be exercised in a spirit of malevolence toward the men who have created the wealth, but with the firm purpose both to do justice to them and to see that they in turn do justice to the public at large.