

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

Corbett's Claim to a Seat in the Senate Discussed—Senator Allen's Withdrawal from the Cuban Resolution—Government Preparing for Contingencies.

Washington, February 24.—A feature of the senate's session today was the speech of Senator Spooner of Wisconsin on the right of Henry W. Corbett to a seat in the senate from Oregon under appointment of the governor. Senator Spooner made a constructive argument in favor of seating Mr. Corbett, and had not concluded when the senate adjourned. An effective point was made by Senator Spooner when he cited the credentials of John Walker, of Virginia, who was appointed to the senate on March 3, 1790, by the governor of Virginia. This case, the first gubernatorial appointment of a senator to the senate under the constitution, Senator Spooner said, was a precedent similar to that now under consideration, as the legislature of Oregon had appointed Mr. Corbett to the senate under the constitution of that state.

IF TREACHERY IS PROVEN

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ACT VIGOROUSLY.

McKinley Waiting for Report of the Court of Inquiry—Evidence of an Outside Explosion Accumulating—Pittful Appeals for Assistance—Spanish Admits Subterranean Passage—No Official News to Be Had—Violence of Madrid Press.

Washington, February 24.—Rumors of a subterranean passage of the Spanish fleet from the harbor of Havana to the bay of Matanzas, which were enough to start the alarm today, were given a new impetus by the statement of the newspaper men as they left their offices. "Summing up the situation, I should say that the navy department knows today nothing more about the cause of the disaster than it did five minutes after the receipt of the first dispatch from Captain Sigsbee."

WILMINGTON SAFE FROM ATTACK.

Thanks to the promptness and efficiency of the chief of engineers and the chief of ordinance of the army, the city of Wilmington is now regarded as being well nigh safe and secure from attack by water.

The fortifications at Fort Mifflin, Fort Washington and Sheridan point, are being rapidly advanced to the point of being sufficient to repel an ordinary fleet of invaders, and in case of necessity they could be vastly improved. The chief of engineers, Mr. Sigsbee, has been ordered to keep all hostile vessels beyond the range of gunshot of the national batteries, and to prepare for the possibility of an attack by a fleet of ironclads and torpedoes at a point below the city. It is probable that some of the ships of an enemy would be blown out of the water by the guns of the forts.

THE DUTY OF THE NAVY.

The Evening Star has received the following cablegram from Charles M. McKenley, its Washington correspondent.

"At this writing divers are engaged in important results. From examination of the interior wreckage they have secured evidence which seems conclusive that the explosion came from underneath the ship. Some of the smaller magazines may have exploded. The main magazine did not explode. The condition of the interior of the ship shows further probability of wreckage having been due to outside force. The further investigation progresses the more untenable becomes the theory which the Spanish government has advanced to show accidental cause. It is evident the Spanish case will be based on the claim that a fire preceded the explosion. Captain Sampson and his colleagues of the naval board may have outside evidence offered regarding a torpedo boat producing the explosion. Said one diver who had been engaged in the work of getting bodies out from under the hatch: 'God may be thanked, but the men who were engaged in this work were not very poor fellows to eternity; the United States should not. This was before Long or Merritt was in the water. The explosion was not an accident. He had an expert's capacity, and opportunity for judging. The Havana public is not permitted to know the intensity of public sentiment in the United States should be made known to the United States. Congress is watched with excessive interest by the public officials, but the public knows nothing of what is liable to happen. Evidence of it is feeling in the tropics. The Cuban revolution over the Maine disaster does not lessen. The Maine inquiry dwells interest in Cuban politics, but recent developments for the southern Illinois district, returned from Washington today. The general who is a personal friend of the president, and who is now at the capital, he discussed the Maine disaster and its possible results, with the chief of the staff of the military department. He stated to me, 'that he was only waiting for a complete report of the naval board of inquiry, and that would be the time when he would meet the approval of every loyal American citizen.'"

ACTIVITY AT THE PORTS.

Troops at Fort Leavenworth Ordered to be in Readiness to Move—Soldiers at Fort Thomas Recalled From Rifle Range.

Washington, February 24.—Under instructions from Washington, Colonel Cochran, commander at Fort Thomas, Ky., today issued orders bringing the main rifle range at Culbertson, Ky., back to the fort. New bayonets that can also be used for trenching tools, were issued to all the troops. The men are daily undergoing fatigue drill and expect to go to Key West instead of Charleston, S. C., as reported. The first regiment of the Ohio national guard, located here, is filling up with recruits. An order was received today from headquarters suspending for the present the order sending the 10th Ohio to Florida. The 10th Ohio, first artillery, into the mountains on its annual thirty days' target practice. The battery, consisting of four pieces and 155 men under command of Captain Dillmore, were to have started for the rifle range in the mountains on March 15. The order suspending the order was received to keep the battery at Fort Sam Houston, until further orders.

At Auction Prices.

Beginning Monday, 21st Inst., we will sell off the balance of Stock in the Heinsberger Store at Auction Prices.

This Stock consists of Miscellaneous Books, Fancy Goods, Toys, Sheet Music, Musical Instruments, etc., etc. Also, one 30 foot Walnut Wall Case, with plate glass doors. Eleven Volumes "Wilmington Journal," 1802 to '73.

C. W. YATES & CO.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

Atlantic National Bank, WILMINGTON, N. C. CAPITAL \$125,000. SURPLUS AND PROFITS \$75,000. Average Deposits \$700,000. STATE AND CITY DEPOSITORY. We desire new accounts, both large and small, endeavoring at all times to please our customers. We extend every accommodation consistent with good business. Safety Deposit Boxes for rent at a nominal price.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The house devoted itself chiefly to business today, and disposed of thirty additional pages of the sundry civil bill.

The bill for the relief of the epidemic diseases act, which was passed on January 20, 1897, and which authorized the appropriation of \$200,000 for the purpose of establishing a national quarantine, was passed. The fact that the government is preparing for contingencies was recognized in the house today. The bill for the relief of the epidemic diseases act, which was passed on January 20, 1897, and which authorized the appropriation of \$200,000 for the purpose of establishing a national quarantine, was passed.

DEATHS IN FOREST FIRE.

Raleigh, N. C., February 23.—The state board of public examiners meets tomorrow. The state superintendent says that in addition to prescribing a course of study, it will also prepare a form of examination for applicants for life certificates, as teachers, which examination will be held in April.

The state charter the Smithfield (Va.) Warehouse Company, J. H. You and other stockholders. Two negro convicts from Harnet arrive at the penitentiary, one 17 years old gets fifteen years for murder in the second degree.

QUESTIONS OF RAISING THE MAINE.

In view of the many expressions of doubt concerning the possibility of raising the wreck of the Maine, the navy department yesterday to the navy department by Admiral Sigsbee.

The question of raising the wreck of the Maine is a subject of great interest to the public. The navy department has been asked to consider the possibility of raising the wreck of the Maine, and to report on the feasibility of doing so. The department has been asked to consider the possibility of raising the wreck of the Maine, and to report on the feasibility of doing so.

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WITNESSES BEFORE THE COURT.

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TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THE LAKE CITY

Washington, February 24.—The post-office department has directed Inspector Williams at Chattanooga, Tenn., to do all another inspector to proceed to Lake City, S. C., and assist Mr. Moxey, who arrived there last night, in conducting the investigation into the murder of Postmaster Baker and the burning of the post-office. A singular coincidence in the case of Baker is that on February 23, the day of the night which he was murdered, he wrote a letter to the post-office department saying that his life had been threatened and asking that the government extend some protection to him. This letter came to him yesterday afternoon.

WHY THE DEAD CANNOT BE BROUGHT HOME.

The statement in the Sigsbee dispatch that "friends of the dead should understand we are in the tropics" is understood by the navy department to refer to the urgent pleas of relatives of the dead that they be brought home. The department has been asked to consider the possibility of bringing the bodies of the dead home, and to report on the feasibility of doing so.

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NO VESSEL ORDERED TO HAVANA

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