

IT STILL LOOKS LIKE SPANISH TREACHERY

But the Wreck of the Maine Is Yet Enveloped in Mystery.

ACTIVITY SHOWN AT AMERICAN NAVY YARDS

The President and Secretaries of Navy and War in Conference Last Night.

FUNERAL OF DEAD SAILORS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

The New York to Take the Place of the Maine in Havana Harbor—Detroit and Two Other American Vessels Proceed to Key West—Captain of the Maine Warned Beforehand—President Recognizes the Necessity of Being Prepared and Should War Be Declared Today the United States Government Would Be Ready—All the News on this Engrossing Subject Up to 4 O'clock This Morning.

By Cable to The Morning Post.
Washington, Feb. 17.—Midnight—The explosion of the "Maine" at Havana.
The President and Secretaries of War and Navy were in conference last night, and it is believed that the President will be ready to declare war today.
The President yesterday directed that the Navy Department should be promptly made ready for any issue likely to arise as a result of the report of the Board of Inquiry.
The fact that Secretary Long was requested to come to the White House by the President this afternoon, in the present strained condition of public feeling was regarded as significant. But more significant was the visit paid by Acting Secretary of War Meiklejohn to Secretary of the Navy Long, and his subsequent call on the President.
The seemingly innocent piece of information that Acting Secretary Meiklejohn would leave Saturday night for Fort Monroe to see Secretary of War Alger, invites speculation in connection with the Acting Secretary's calls on the President and Secretary of the Navy.
The Board of Ordnance and Fortifications, which is holding its monthly meeting in Washington, has decided to prolong its sessions, and rumor has it that this action has been taken in order that the Board may be ready for business, if the Board of Inquiry reports against Spain.
The Board of Ordnance would have charge of allotments of arms and ammunition in case of war.
The conclusion is rapidly forcing itself on the Navy that the "Maine" is a total loss. Admiral Sigsbee has telegraphed:
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By Cable to The Morning Post.
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DUST TO DUST—ASHES TO ASHES.

Burial of the Dead Sailors of the Wrecked Maine's Crew.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Havana, Feb. 18.—3 a. m.—At 3 o'clock in the afternoon an immense crowd gathered in front of the City Hall, it having been announced that the funeral procession of the victims of the "Maine" disaster would start from this place.
The Plaza DeArmas and all the surroundings of the palace were crowded with spectators of all classes.
The New York Sun's correspondent visited the hall, in which 22 bodies lay in state. The hall was filled with wreaths and flowers, sent by private corporations, banking and mercantile houses, Cuban and American ladies, et al. There were also wreaths sent by the Spanish army and navy.
The public was allowed to pass through the hall, and the utmost decorum was observed.
Gen. Blanco was unable to participate in the ceremony, because the ancient law forbids.
When our correspondent left the City Hall, he received the information that 18 more bodies had been recovered by the divers. A few moments later he learned that 15 more had been recovered. They were all placed in the City Hall.
The burial of the dead sailors occurred at 5 o'clock.
The route of the funeral procession was thronged with a great mass of humanity and the spectacle was one never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it.
The ceremonies were conducted as heretofore announced would be the case—according to the Spanish rite, under the direction of the Bishop of Havana, who furnished the ground for the interment.

DON'T NEED THEM FOR THIS.

Gen. Lee Declines Offers of Spanish Divers in Matter of Maine Wreck.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Havana, Feb. 17.—Consul General Lee has refused to accept the services of Spanish divers as offered by Admiral Manterola, to assist in the work of recovering bodies of the American sailors who met their death here.
It is believed that many bodies will be found within the vessel's hull.
Gen. Lee will do nothing with the wreck pending the arrival of the American court of inquiry.

THE ALLEGED TORPEDO HOLE.

Some Naval Experts Laugh at Statement and Tell Why.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, Feb. 17.—Naval experts say it is ridiculous to assert that any diver has found a torpedo hole under the Maine.
Naval Constructor Taylor said it would be impossible to discover so small a hole.
"No diver could have gone down there yet," said Taylor, "but granting one did go down, I am confident he could have found no such hole. It would have been filled with mud, as the hull of the Maine has already settled in the mud at the bottom of the harbor."

THE NEW YORK TO HAVANA.

One of the Finest Vessels in the Navy to Replace the Maine at Havana.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, Feb. 17.—It is officially stated at the Navy Department: "A cruiser will be sent to Havana as soon as available, which will be shortly."
This statement undoubtedly means that the "New York," the flagship of the North Atlantic squadron, will be the "Maine's" successor at Havana.
The "New York" is at Key West today, having arrived there with food, clothing and medicine for the sailors of the lost "Maine."

THE DETROIT ALSO?

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 17.—Commander Dayton, of the cruiser "Detroit," today received despatches from Washington, the contents of which he refuses to divulge.
It is rumored that the "Detroit" is to leave tomorrow for Key West.

A VERY GRAVE CHARGE

Which, Considering Its Source, Must Be Taken Cum Grano Sillis.
By Cable to The Morning Post.
Madrid, Feb. 17.—The Imparcial's (newspaper) Havana correspondent telegraphs: "In order to justify himself to his Government and to avoid the responsibility for carelessness and cowardice in the face of the catastrophe, and for abandoning his ship and handing over the work of rescue to our sailors, the captain of the 'Maine' telegraphed to New York that the explosion was caused intentionally."
Furthermore, Gen. Lee, after visiting the palace last night and stating that the disaster was due to carelessness in cleaning the torpedoes, has telegraphed to his Government today in very reticent terms.
"Nobody can doubt the gross negligence of the officers and crew of the 'Maine.' Her captain and a majority of her officers were on the 'City of Washington' at the moment of the explosion, but afterwards pretended that they had returned to the 'Maine' before the disaster occurred."

A CLEAR AND GRAPHIC STORY

Of the Horror as Witnessed by the New York Sun's Correspondent.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Havana, Feb. 17.—Via Key West.—At 9:45 o'clock last night a New York "Sun" reporter was sitting in Central Park, when the skies over the bay were brightly illuminated for about ten seconds.
Then a terrific explosion was heard which shook the whole city. Knowing that something unusual had occurred, the reporter hurriedly drove to the wharves, from which direction the detonation had come.
On arriving there he noticed that all the lights in the streets, as well as in the neighboring houses, had been extinguished, but the bay was brightly lit up by the flames of the burning ship, which was easily distinguished as the "Maine," by its well-known mast, although it had already fallen, due to the explosion.
Screams and cries were heard coming from the sinking ship, for she went partially down within ten minutes after the explosion.
Mingling with the echoes of the wails of the wounded and drowning sailors, were heard the shouts of "Viva Espana!" "Mueran los Americanos!" "Manana Tendremos Buena Pesca en La Bahia!" ["We shall have good fishing in the bay tomorrow,"] and such remarks, coming from the Spanish rabble, who were congregating in great numbers around the wharves, and seemed greatly delighted at the misfortune of the Americans.
It was then, for the first time, that a suspicion of foul play came to the reporter's mind.
Having induced a boatman to take him to the side of the burning vessel, the reporter succeeded in seeing the most horrible sight.
Near the ship were already two boats of the "Maine," with a few officers and men rescuing their shipmates.
The "Alfonso XII." was not far distant, and had also sent some of her boats, which were doing likewise. Some of the rescued sailors were taken to the "Alfonso," others to the "City of Washington" and to the wharf of Machina.
Of these it is marvelous how some could swim, as they were nearly all severely hurt.
One had both legs fractured; another had an ankle shattered, and the majority were severely burned. All these got the best possible attention, at which ever place they were taken.
The "Maine" immediately after the explosion began to burn fiercely. Every few minutes a shell would burst, scattering the burning debris all around.
Notwithstanding the imminent danger of being struck, a boat of the "Maine" was constantly encircling the ship, looking for any one who might be in the water.
Although more than 250 men were still on board, not the sound of a living being could be detected on the ship.
Just then an officer on one of the "Maine's" boats approached the ship, and with a voice that could be heard far away in the stillness of the night, called out:
"If there is any one living on board, for God's sake say so!"
All waited for the expected answer, but none came, save the echo from the shore.
Seeing it was useless to try to save any more near the vessel, which was already the iron coffin of nearly 300 men, the reporter went on board of the "City of Washington," where Captain Sigsbee was.
The face of the Captain showed the great mental suffering he was undergoing, and although he was burned about the head he never complained.
When asked about the cause, he said: "I cannot tell you. All was right on board. The keys of the magazine were all in my room."
A little while later Gen. Lee and Vice Consul Springer arrived, and after having a talk with them Sigsbee shut himself in one of the state rooms, refusing to see anyone.
On-board the "City of Washington" were several officers and men who were only underclothing, having had no time to dress. From the "Washington" the "Sun" reporter went to the Palace, where all the authorities, both civil and military, had congregated around Blanco.
As the reporter was going up the steps of the Palace he passed a group of officers, who were discussing the incident.
One of them said: "I guess this will bring the war; that is what we all wish."
At the Palace everybody said the cause of the explosion was the bursting of a torpedo that one of the "Maine's" men was cleaning. This was absurd. Everybody knew no torpedoes were ever cleaned at 10 o'clock at night.
There are as yet a great many rumors concerning the cause of the explosion. The one most prevalent is that a small torpedo was placed against the vessel, and that the concussion caused the explosion of the gun cotton in the magazine.
This theory is sustained by the fact that there were two distinct explosions. The sailors in the hospitals are bearing their sufferings with great courage. Not a complaint is heard. They talk fight, and firmly believe that the "Maine" was blown up purposely.

DEATH OF FRANCES WILLARD

The President of the W. C. T. U. for the Whole Christian World.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
New York, Feb. 18.—4 a. m.—Miss Frances Willard, the universally known temperance worker, ex-president of the W. C. T. U. for the United States, and at the time of her death president of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, died shortly after midnight this (Friday) morning.

IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY

The Maine Disaster Received Attention—Money for Victims' Families.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, Feb. 17.—In the Senate today, Mr. Allen introduced the following:
"Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be directed to make an immediate and thorough inquiry into the cause of the destruction of the battleship 'Maine' and report the result of the same to the Senate."
The resolution went over on Senator Chandler's objection, until tomorrow.
Washington, Feb. 17.—In the House, Mr. McClellan, of New York, introduced a resolution appropriating a sum equal to a year's pay to each family of the "Maine's" victims.
SICARD APPOINTS A BOARD OF ENQUIRY.
Washington, Feb. 17.—Rear Admiral Sicard has appointed a Board of Enquiry to investigate the "Maine" disaster, as follows: Captain Sampson, president; Capt. Chadwick, Lieutenant Commander Schroeder and Lieutenant Commander Marix.
Sampson commands the battleship "Iowa." Marix will be the judge advocate.
The report is to be made to Sicard within two or three days, perhaps earlier.

DREYFUS IN A TIGHT PLACE.

Why His "Case" May Again Be Entirely Reopened.
By Cable to The Morning Post.
Paris, Feb. 17.—At last it seems possible that the light which Zola demanded to be shed upon the Dreyfus affair will be forthcoming.
The insistence of the defence today succeeded partially in breaking down the reticence of the army officials.
Generals Pellieux and Goussier declared that they had seen a secret piece of evidence which, it is said, constitutes absolute proof that Dreyfus is the guilty party.
When this dramatic crisis was reached the court adjourned.
The question of whether this secret evidence was submitted to the Dreyfus court-martial, without the defendant's knowledge, is the ground upon which the battle will rage again tomorrow.
If this is admitted officially, as it already is tacitly, nothing can prevent the acquittal of Zola, and the reopening of the Dreyfus case.

A BIG PIG-IRON WAR COMING

As a Result of Failure Southern Manufacturers to Form a Combine.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 17.—The efforts which have resulted in two conferences here of all the pig-iron producers in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia to bring about a combination for the maintenance of prices have failed.
The manufacturers were in conference until after midnight, and adjourned without reaching an agreement.
The small manufacturers refused to enter the combination.
As a result there may be expected one of the greatest wars in pig-iron prices ever seen in the South.

AND UP WILL GO COAL AGAIN.

Pennsylvania Miners' Convention Order Another Big Strike.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Altoona, Pa., Feb. 17.—The first official intimation of a bituminous coal miners' strike, to take place April 1st, in the Eastern competitive fields, including West Virginia, Maryland and the Hocking Valley, was made here today in the Pennsylvania Miners' Convention.
It came in the form of an appeal to the miners to organize and secure funds in order to enforce a demand for a 10 per cent. advance and an eight-hour day. It has the full sanction of the national president of the United Mine Workers.

DE LOME INCIDENT NOW ENDED.

Minister Woodford Yesterday Wired President McKinley Spain's Official Disavowal.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, Feb. 17.—The President received from Minister Woodford today Spain's formal disavowal of De Lome's letter.
Gen. Woodford cables the abstract of the Spanish note, handed him on last evening. On Monday Minister Woodford notified the President that the disavowal was forthcoming.
The administration is now entirely satisfied, and the controversy is ended, so far as the De Lome letter incident is concerned.

SENATOR DANIEL'S STRONG DEFENSE

Got the Best of New Commission Yesterday

THE JURISDICTION OF COMMISSION DENIED

The Commissioners Admit That They Reduced Telephone Rates Without Taking Evidence—Acted on Previous Information—Case is Now Closed, Says the Chairman.
The hearing of the exceptions of the Southern Bell Telephone Company to the order of the Railway Commission reducing telephone rates in this State was one of the most interesting and important matters that came before the Commission yesterday.
Senator John W. Daniel was the principal figure in the hearing, and the manner in which he conducted the case commanded for him the admiration of the large number of witnesses in attendance.
That Senator Daniel got the best of the majority of the new Commissioners in the contest was freely admitted. So embarrassing was their position that those present could not refrain from smiling.
In first addressing the Commission, Senator Daniel asked what "record" he was dealing with saying that the last time he appeared before the Commission it had held it was a court of judicature, so interpreting the supplementary act of 1893. Since then the Supreme Court has declared, in the Wilson case, that it is a court, but not a judicial court—a court of administration. In the old suit the proceedings were inter partes, and a case made up on pleadings in court was heard. In this matter there are no parties, but this body issues an edict passed upon nobody's petition. Yet another and vital change in this tribunal affects the status of the Commission. The Attorney General says telephone rates cannot be reduced. He is the board's legal adviser. Wishing to conform to the Supreme Court's decision the Bell Company asks that the Commission refer it to the record upon which it has made up its verdict. This is a court of record; made so that its proceedings may be recorded. This tribunal is not permitted to prescribe upon nobody's petition nor has any railway company, for instance, under charter power to charge what it pleases. The Commission must be bound by such testimony as would be introduced in a court of justice. The record is wanted; the evidence the Commission has considered, so the Bell Company can point out what is incompetent and what is erroneous.
Chairman Caldwell asked if Senator Daniel wished to raise a question of jurisdiction.
Senator Daniel replied that he wanted to argue that question. But above all things he wanted the record the testimony.
Chairman Caldwell to this said that two of the present Commission were not members when it held the former trial, but that from the evidence at that trial, he thought it proper to call the matter up again; that this Commission did not feel bound by the judgment of the former one, and that while it was true the Attorney General was the person to give advice, this Commission thought his former advice erroneous.
Senator Daniel asked if the Board was using the old pleadings.
Chairman Caldwell said it did not consider the old judgment binding, but had other and competent evidence.
Senator Daniel declared he could not, if he desired, intelligently introduce testimony unless he knew what was before the Commission in the way of evidence.
Chairman Caldwell said the Bell's rates gave cause for action, being in some places more than those the Commission has ordered.
Senator Daniel replied that he wanted tangible things; that the Legislature has not prescribed any rates for telephone rentals. He wanted to know if anyone had contended the Bell's rates were not reasonable or just. The lower rates could not be complained of, surely, could such be taken as a basis. A man may give away what he has. But the law does not give power to anyone to make him give his own away, or to order him to do so. If, under the provocation of rivals, the Bell Company gives away its own, that is not a matter for the Commission to record. It appears that this is the ground for the Commission's purpose.
Senator Daniel said the point which the Commission, under the Legislative act, must consider, is whether any rates are just and equitable, but that there must be testimony to show that rates are reasonable. The competition of rival lines is one of the things which the law requires the Commission to take as a basis. The Bell Company has no record, and comes here as a defendant. The Commission has reached a conclusion without argument and without giving the Bell a hearing. When the latter has the evidence it is ready to answer.
Commissioner Pearson said, as he understood, there was no evidence before the Commission; that his own action in favoring the order reducing rates was predicated on the idea that the reduced rates were just and reasonable, and that there were yet lower rates in other States; that the rate is arbitrary; that there had been no complaints filed, as far as he knew; no record. He said he could produce a witness as to the high rates of the Bell.
Senator Daniel said he did not want to consider his side of the case until he knew what he had to meet; that he did not know what unknown witness might have testified to unknown facts.
Chairman Caldwell said that it ap-
[Continued on Page 5.]