

NOT SETTLED BY ANY MEANS

So Remarked the President in a Grave Manner.

SPAIN'S CONTINUED PREPARATIONS

For war, Should It Come—Spanish Government has Raised Several Millions for the Purchase of War Vessels and Two Spanish Commissions Now in London Examining Purchasable Warships—Even if the Maine Incident is Amicably Settled the Cuban Question May precipitate War Before the Cuban Summer Begins—Latest Information Bearing on the Troubles With Our Swarthy Enemy at Heart.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
New York, March 4.—A Washington special to the Commercial-Advertiser, a conservative paper which only prints sensational news with great reserve, says that some prominent Western Republicans called on President McKinley yesterday, and one, in the course of the conversation, expressed his gratification at the prospect of complications with Spain passing away.

SPAIN'S CONTINUED PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
London, March 4.—There is full confirmation for the statement made in these dispatches last Tuesday that Spain had raised several millions for the purchase of warships.

CONCENTRATION OF ASIATIC SQUADRON AT PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, March 4.—The news feature of today is the concentration of the Asiatic squadron at Hong Kong, preparatory to a descent upon the Philippine Islands in case of war with Spain.

DIVERS STILL AT WORK.

Havana, March 4.—Warm, rainy weather prevailed this morning. Everything is quiet so far as observed. The divers are at work, working slowly but steadily during such hours as are possible in the turbid waters.

GENERAL LEE'S OPINION.

New York, March 4.—A local in the Sun says authoritative information comes from Washington that Lee communicated direct to the President his opinion that the Maine was blown up by exterior explosion. The marine board has not yet allowed any indication of the result of their researches to become public, neither has it made any communication to the authorities at Washington. Members on the board are still at Key West and will probably return to Havana today or tomorrow.

WARNING FROM MINISTER WOODFORD.

Washington, March 4.—Minister Woodford is said to have warned the State department by cable that in future the movements of Spanish war vessels should be closely watched.

THE LONDON MAIL'S APT REMARKS.

London, March 4.—The Daily Mail today refers to the United States as being "thrown into a sudden panic" by the report that Spain has bought cruisers, and adds that "they would have done better had they got ready for war before talking so much about it. Some day they may really have to fight."

BRADSTREET-DUN'S REPORTS

A Review of Business for the Past Week.

UNPRECEDENTED VOLUME BUSINESS

Being Done and Arranged For—Record Breaking Bank Clearances—Increased Railroad Earnings—Production of Pig Iron the Greatest Ever Known—Advance in Commercial Loans—Exports of Corn from Southern Ports a Favorable Feature—A Brighter Outlook Generally.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
New York, March 4.—Dun's report tomorrow will say:
"There is confidence that the authorities are doing what is proper to provide for the public defence, and business is moving on with the assurance that it will not be seriously disturbed."
"Failures in February were smaller than in any other month, except three, of the previous fifty-two months."
"The best evidence of general improvement is the fact that payments through the clearing house for the past week have been 28 per cent larger than in 1892."
"In spite of much reduction in rates, railroad earnings in February were 3.8 per cent larger than in 1892, nearly all important sections showing gains."
"The production of pig iron is the greatest ever known."
"The strike in the New England cotton mills does not spread, but helps to slightly better the demand for some goods."
"Money in commercial loans has advanced to 4 per cent, on the best paper, offerings and demand being restricted."
"Failures for the week were 251, against 246 last year."

NEW YORK, MARCH 4.—BRADSTREET'S REPORT TOMORROW WILL SAY:

"Nearly all the signs point to an unprecedented volume of business being done or arranging for at the present time. Aggressive strength of prices, record-breaking bank clearings and continued large exports; very heavy volume of business in iron, steel and kindred lines, and generally satisfactory reports as to the volume of the spring trade at the leading distributive centers are among the leading features of this trade development."
"Nearly all of the country's cereal products are higher in price this week."
"The strength of raw cotton has had an encouraging effect upon Southern trade, which is generally reported good, and better than usual at this season."
"The export of corn from Southern ports is an additionally favorable feature, while the practical agreement of Southern iron producers as to prices, with generally satisfactory collections at most points, has imparted a decidedly cheerful tone to advices from that section."

"Cotton goods display much strength. The aggregate clearings of seventy-seven cities during the month just closed amounted to \$5,533,645,112, an increase over February of last year of 51 per cent; over February, 1896, of 35 per cent, and over February, 1894, of 73 per cent. Compared with February, 1892, the heaviest February on record, there is also a gain of more than 6 per cent."

THE LAKE CITY MURDER.

Postoffice Inspector's Report Before the Cabinet—The Records increased.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, March 4.—The report of the postoffice inspector who was sent to investigate the murder of the negro postmaster, Baker, at Lake City, S. C., was laid before the Cabinet at the meeting today.

The report was discussed at length by the Cabinet officers, and it was decided to increase the reward to \$1,500 for the first arrest and conviction of one of the murderers, and \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of each of the others.

This is the largest reward ever offered by the Government in any case of the kind, and it is believed will be sufficient to set many detectives at work, in addition to the regular postoffice inspectors.

Attorney General Griggs holds that the Government can take the case before a Federal judge, as the crime was committed in the United States postoffice, which is practically Government property, and all offenses committed on Government property must be tried in the Federal courts.

A Fortune for the Widow Baker.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, March 4.—If the widow of the negro postmaster who was recently murdered at Lake City, S. C., receives the appropriation which Congress has been called upon to make, she will receive quite a fortune, viz., \$11,000.

Congressman White has a resolution pending in the House appropriating \$1,000 for her benefit, while Senator Mason has introduced a resolution to pay \$10,000 to her and the surviving children.

SPARKS FROM A LOCOMOTIVE.

Damages Allowed for a Fire Thus Produced in Virginia.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Front Royal, Va., March 4.—In court here today, in the case of B. F. Borden versus the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the liability of a railroad for fires started by sparks emanating from their locomotives, was tested.

MILIONAIRE ROUSS' NEICE

Overcomes Opposition and Marries an Impetuous Virginian.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Hagerstown, Md., March 4.—Relatives here today received the news that Miss Annie Cora Clapp, daughter of the late C. C. Clapp, artist-merchant, of Hagerstown, was married a few days ago, after a romantic courtship, to High Hager, at the palatial home on Fifth avenue of Charles Broadway Rouss, the New York multi-millionaire, uncle of Miss Clapp. The groom is a cousin to Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee, his family now living at Culpepper Court House, Va. They met about a year ago. At that time Mr. Hager was so poor he was sleeping in a fruit store. It was a case of love at first sight. The poor man persisted in his attention to Miss Clapp, despite the protests of Rouss. The young man was forbidden to the house, but Miss Clapp showed her constancy by going to him at his place of business.

LEWIS AGAIN ARRESTED.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Washington, March 4.—A special to the Post from Norfolk, Va., says Robt. P. Lewis, alias A. M. Scates, who is wanted in Texas for forgery, has been captured in this State. Sheriff Hammond, of Lamar county, Tex., made the capture. He located his prisoner several days ago and came to Virginia and arrested him. Lewis was taken to Texas to stand trial for large forgeries committed in 1891. He was captured in Virginia two years ago and taken back to Texas for trial, but skipped his bail bond of \$2,800, and came back to Virginia, only to be recaptured.

IN THE HANDS OF A RECEIVER.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Front Royal, Va., March 4.—Circuit Court adjourned today, after transacting much important business. The appointment of a receiver to wind up the affairs of the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company marks the last act of another Virginia "boom" tragedy. The receiver, it is understood, will call for an assessment of the stock, so as to enable him to pay off the debts now due by the company. Much of this stock is held in Baltimore and Washington.

A Tarheel Justice Tied the Knot.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Suffolk, Va., March 4.—An eloping couple from Isle of Wight County, Va., drove more than 100 miles across the country to get married. They were Miss Annie Harrell and C. H. Crocker, who left home last night, and at 4 o'clock this morning arrived in Suffolk, where horses were changed. Justice Walton, of Gates county, N. C., tied the knot.

Judge Hughes Retires from the Bench.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Norfolk, Va., March 4.—Hon. Robert W. Hughes, judge of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, retired from the bench at noon today, the time when his resignation took effect. There was no demonstration or unusual formality, at his own request.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Routes and Dates Fixed for Field Worker Hamill—Delegates to International Convention.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.
Winston, N. C., March 4.—The executive committee of the State Sunday School Association makes the following route for Rev. H. M. Hamill, one of the four field workers sent out by the international committee during its visit to this State:
Asheville, March 25th; Salisbury, March 26th; Greensboro, March 27th; Durham, March 28th; Henderson, March 29th; Raleigh, March 30th; Goldsboro, March 31st; Wilmington, April 1st; Charleston, April 2nd.
The State committee also appointed Rev. James R. Jones, of Guilford, Col. Broughton, of Raleigh, and N. B. Broughton, of Raleigh, delegates to the international convention, which meets in London in July.

UNIVERSITY BOYS DEBATE

Should the United States Annex Hawaii?

NORTH CAROLINA AGAINST GEORGIA

The Clearcut Arguments of the North Carolina Boys Enable the Judges to Readily Award Them the Decision on That Score, But the Cracker State Lads Made the Most Flowery Speeches and Took the Palm on Oratory—At Chapel Hill Last Night.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE MORNING POST.

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 4.—The Georgia speakers on the affirmative side of the question of Hawaiian annexation, which was debated by the North Carolina and Georgia University men last night, delivered their arguments.

Mr. Roberts, the first Georgia speaker, showed the relations which have existed between the United States and Hawaii for fifty years, the consummation of our policy being annexation. American citizenship made Hawaii a modern civilized community. The strategic value of Hawaii makes it exceptionally valuable. Possessed by a hostile nation, these islands would be a menace to the Pacific coast. Other nations have made great naval and commercial progress. To cope with them the United States needs Hawaii as a coaling and supply station. Industrial and commercial advantages would inure to Hawaii. Christianity and education would be given to the islands.

The second Georgia speaker, Mr. Upshaw, said that the Hawaiian republican government is regularly recognized and has power to treat with nations. A benevolent neutrality has been our policy toward Hawaiian annexation. Neutrality is no longer possible. Annexation to the United States, Japan or England is inevitable. Annexation accords with the spirit and letter of our constitution. When Louisiana was annexed, our Western border was two weeks distant from Washington; California two months distant, Hawaii is now but ten days from our coast. The population of our first annexations were varied and more non-homogeneous than Hawaii's. Former ones were constitutional and profitable. Annexationists are responsible people. Annexation is essential to the proper development of Hawaii and a blessing to our poorer classes, giving them cheaper sugar. The world's commercial front will change to the Pacific. Honolulu will become the Pacific emporium. The United States must have Hawaii, for it is the only coaling station within a 2,100 mile radius.

In his rejoinder, Mr. Roberts mentioned that Hawaii is a strategic point, and that her reputation is not a conglomerate aggregation. Without annexation Hawaii would be an apple of discord among the nations.

Mr. Brogden declared that Alaska furnishes no precedent for annexation. That self government when the many are awed by the few is impossible.

Mr. Upshaw affirmed that annexation would benefit the United States. The Pearl harbor treaty can be abrogated, hence we must make it permanent. He strongly controverted the other opposing arguments.

Mr. Graham maintained that the Hawaiians are uneducated. Imperial possessions are not for a republican government. The Pearl harbor treaty is perpetual. He took his seat amid tumultuous applause.

HONORS DIVIDED.

After short consultation, the judges rendered an unanimous decision that in point of argument and close array of facts, clearly collected and presented, North Carolina had won, but in oratory Georgia was still pre-eminent.

WHOLESALE ROBBERIES IN S. C.

Prominent People Said to be Implicated in Looting Railroad Warehouses and Stores.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Columbia, S. C., March 4.—Detectives are uncovering a gang of outlaws in Newberry county which has been operating for several years.

Fully forty farmers, some of them the wealthiest in that region, are implicated. Seven arrests have been made. The plunder was stolen from stores and depots. One item was forty kegs of giant powder. For a long time the stores, railroad stations and cotton houses have been robbed and railroad stations and gin houses burned. But no great efforts were made to capture the criminals.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

The Alaskan Homestead Extension Bill Passed by the Senate—Other Business Transacted.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 4.—The Senate today passed the Alaska homestead extension bill after considerable debate.

An amendment giving the Government the right to purchase, by condemnation proceedings, any railroad in Alaska, was voted down.

The bill gives rights-of-way to railroads through public lands, and extends the homestead laws, except for mining lands, along the banks of rivers, where forty rods constitute a claim.

The most important provision is Section 13, which is designed to defeat Canada's attempt to control the output of the Klondike mining section with the "All Canadian" route. It permits the transportation of Canadian goods in bond through Alaska duty free, only on condition that no exclusive privilege of carrying goods or passengers through Canadian territory is granted, and that American mining outfits and provisions are allowed entry into Canadian territory duty free. In addition, Canada must grant equal privileges to American miners with those granted its own citizens.

Washington, March 4.—The House spent the most of the day under the rule setting aside Friday for the consideration of bills on the private calendar. Little progress was made.

The conference report on the Pension Appropriation bill was agreed to, and the Senate amendments to the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill were concurred in. The evening session was held for the consideration of private pension bills.

The House, at the night session, passed the bill granting a pension of \$30 a month to James Rawlins, the son of Gen. Grant's chief of staff, who is an invalid and destitute.

HARRISON ACQUITTED.

Killing of Paul Stockton at Winston Was Done in Self Defense.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.
Winston, N. C., March 4.—The case of J. W. Harrison, charged with the killing of Paul Stockton last December, was given to the jury at 6 o'clock this evening.

Judge Coble's charge occupied two hours. Three speeches were made for the State and three for the defendant. They were the strongest speeches ever heard in any case tried in this county.

The jury reached an agreement of "not guilty" at 7:10 o'clock, and fifteen minutes later the judge, clerk of the court, sheriff, and several others walked into the court room, whereupon the verdict was rendered.

It is understood that on the first ballot the jury stood eleven for acquittal, with the twelfth man not exactly clear on one point of the evidence. After discussing this for a few minutes, he went over to the eleven.

THE PANGS OF HUNGER

Already Felt in Spanish Provinces Produced by the Corn in Wheat.

By Cable to The Morning Post.
Madrid, March 4.—There is a fierce and growing feeling of indignation in Spain over the discovery of the big wheat corner engineered by prominent operators, and especially in Barcelona the provincial authorities are clamoring for a rebate of the import duties.

Senator Puigcerver, the Minister of Finance, is desirous of postponing action in the matter until the reassembling of the Cortes, on April 25th, but he has been told that the people already feel the pangs of hunger and cannot wait.

Returns sent to the Department of Agriculture show that the crop of wheat in 1897 was 20,000,000 bushels in excess of that of 1896.

BOX-CAR TRAMPS A-PHYXIATED.

Four of Them Found Dead Last Night at Fort Worth.

Special Cor. of The Morning Post.
Dallas, Texas, March 4.—Four dead men were found in a refrigerator car tonight in the Houston and Texas Central Railroad yards at Fort Worth.

These and two others entered the car last night, closed the doors and built a fire, in a lard can, with coal.

It is supposed they were asphyxiated by the gas from the coal fire.

Chas. F. Ryan, of Boston, and James Taylor, of San Francisco, escaped death by crawling out of the car. One of the dead men is believed, from letters found in his possession, to be from Danbury, Conn. Henry Howell had a letter in his pocket dated Mason Creek, Texas, November 21, 1897, from an uncle. The others are unidentified.

Britain's Eyes on Wei-Hai-Wei.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Shanghai, March 4.—The China Gazette says Great Britain will occupy Wei-Hai-Wei in the event of Japan withdrawing from that port.

Fifty Deaths From "Black Blister."

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Bombay, March 4.—An epidemic of "black blister" has broken out in the state of Hyderabad. Fifty deaths are occurring daily.