The Morning Post.

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NOW THE WAR CLOUD LOWERS

Developments of Yesterday All Point to Hostilities.

MERCHANT MARINE CALLED UPON

As Auxiliary to the Navy Proper to Help Do Battle, According to Contract With the Government Whose Flag the Ships Carry—The "St. Louis" and "St. Paul" to Be Placed in Commission Within Two Weeks—Board of Naval Officers Appointed and Sent Out to Enlist 2,000 Additional Sailors at Once—A Quarter of a Million Tons of Coal Ordered Shipped to Fleet at Key West at Once.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 10.—President [illegible] International Navigation [illegible] here, having a consultation [illegible] the administration officers [illegible] placing the steamships "St. Louis" and "St. Paul" in commission [illegible]

It is expected that the "St. Louis" and "St. Paul" shall be placed in commission within the next two weeks, if the present conditions between this country and Spain continue.

The "St. Louis" has just had her annual cleaning at Newport News. The "St. Paul" will be prepared for [illegible] on the completion of her trip to England and return. The officers of the navy who will take [illegible] of the ships have been designated, but their names are withheld for the present.

[illegible] SAILORS AT ONCE.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 10.—At the direction [illegible] Secretary of the Navy, a board [illegible] officers has been appointed [illegible] at once on a tour of the [illegible] to secure the enlistment of [illegible] to man all the new ships [illegible] United States navy, including [illegible] cruisers, in order that all may be put into commission at once, if [illegible] The board will not return until they have enlisted at least 2,000 men.

[illegible] TONS COAL FOR KEY WEST.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 10.—Kirk Woods & Co., of this city, today sold 250,000 tons of coal to the Government. The contract stipulates that it shall be shipped to Key West, on a special freight train, with all possible speed.

CONGRESSIONAL ENQUIRY INTO MAINE DISASTER.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 10.—Senator [illegible] has presented to the Senate, and [illegible] reported to the Committee on Contingent Expenses, the following [illegible] which indicates that there [illegible] is to have a thorough inquiry [illegible] the hands of the Senate. The report of the Naval Board of Inquiry has been submitted:

"[illegible] the enquiry into the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor on the [illegible], under resolution of the [illegible] February 21, the Committee [illegible] is hereby authorized [illegible] persons and papers, to [illegible], and to make the [illegible] the full committee, or [illegible] thereof; the expenses [illegible] to be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate."

[illegible] GIVES SPAIN SIX WEEKS.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

March 10.—Despite the [illegible] of the tension between the United States and Spain, [illegible] in London take the view of the situation.

[illegible] prevalent, as gathered from [illegible] sources on both sides, [illegible] solution of the Cuban difficulty [illegible] within six weeks [illegible] inevitable.

[illegible] that Spain will effect [illegible] with the insurgents, [illegible] alternative is the absolute [illegible] the Madrid Government, [illegible] Spanish public will resist to the last.

[illegible] AS TO BOARD'S REPORT.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

March 10.—A Washington [illegible] Evening Brooklyn Eagle, [illegible] highly trustworthy and says that the Eagle's correspondent [illegible] informed by an ex-cabinet [illegible] as a result of private information he has received from [illegible] he believes the Court [illegible] report that the "Maine" was [illegible] by an external agency, [illegible] is unable to fix the responsibility.

[illegible] ON THE "MAINE" EXPLOSION.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

[illegible], Cuba, March 9.—Gen. [illegible] seen two days ago at a [illegible] west side of Jucaro Moron [illegible] messenger, who took him the first news of the catastrophe of the "Maine."

When the messenger gave him the letter giving a detailed account of the disaster and of the expected international complications between Spain and the United States the grim old veteran seemed astounded.

"I shall not venture an opinion yet," said Gomez, "as to the cause of the disaster. I can only express my deep horror in the face of so awful a calamity, and my profound sympathy for the victims and the American people. But I am not surprised at the general belief in Cuba that this new crime has been committed by Spanish officials. We know too well what Spain is capable of doing to destroy a foe. Our ranks have been deprived of great leaders and patriots, murdered in the most cowardly manner by the cruel hate of the Spaniards.

SPANIARDS GETTING SCARED?

This Cablegram Certainly Reads Very Much Like It.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Havana, March 9.—The American Board of Enquiry will remain in Havana until Saturday, and then go to Key West.

Your correspondent was informed today that two residents of Regla, across the bay, were examined this afternoon by the Board, and that their testimony is considered of the utmost importance. They witnessed the explosions which destroyed the "Maine."

IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF SAGASTA.

The La Union publishes a despatch from Madrid saying that the Prime Minister has declared that he is disposed, on the part of Spain, to remove all the obstacles that may threaten the preservation of peace between his country and the United States.

[Concluded on Page 4.]

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

Bill to Revive the Office of Lieutenant General, Once Held by Generals Grant and Sherman.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 10.—In the Senate a bill to revive the grade of Lieutenant-General in the army of the United States was reported from the Committee on Military Affairs and placed on the calendar. This is in the interest of General Miles.

Senator Chandler introduced a joint resolution for the temporary admission, free of duty, of naval supplies procured abroad.

A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, recommending the passage of the joint resolution was read, and the resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill, empowering the President to take the necessary measures to obtain indemnity from the Spanish Government for the wrongs sustained by two American citizens (August Bolter and Gustave Richileu), by reason of their wrongful arrest and imprisonment by Spanish authorities at Santiago, Cuba, in 1891, reported; but, on objection, went over.

At 1 p. m. the Senate went into executive session and at 3 p. m. adjourned until Monday.

Washington, March 10.—The Senate amendment to the Indian Appropriation bill, reviving the "free homestead" policy in relation to the lands at present under the control of Congress, was defeated in the House today, after a long and vigorous debate, by the vote of 136 to 99. It was warmly supported by ex-Speaker Grow, the father of the "free homestead law" of 1862, and Representative Morris, of Minnesota, and opposed by Messrs. Dalzell, Payne and Dingley, Republican leaders. All the other Senate amendments were rejected, and the bill sent to conference.

The principal speech was made by Morris, of Minnesota, who defeated Towne, the famous silver apostle. He based his argument upon that plank in the St. Louis platform advocating a return to the Republican policy of "free homestead." He said, in part:

"It is idle for our friends from the East to say 'Oh, that got into the platform like a great many other things. If we had known it was there we would not have adopted it,' etc. You were very particular to know what was in the platform to foster and protect your great manufacturing industries, and you held us to the strict letter of this part of the platform, and we gladly stood by the strict letter, because it was just and right.

"You were very particular to know what was in the platform guarding your vested interests and your accumulated wealth; and you held us to the strict letter of this part of the platform, too, and we gladly stood by the strict letter, because it was just and right and honorable.

"It will not do now, for you to tell these plain, truthful men of the frontier that you did not know this was in the platform. If you did not know it, you ought to have known it. It is the pride and boast of the Republican party that it keeps its pledges. We have kept ours to you; we expect you to keep yours to us."

Messrs. Payne, of New York, and Grosvenor, of Ohio, combatted the Senate amendment on the ground that the condition of the Treasury would not permit the revival of the "free homestead" system at this time.

SHORT STOP TO SHIP BUYING

British Government Decides on No More Options.

SAY ENGLISH FIRMS CAN'T SELL

To the United States Without Permission From the British Admiralty Office—The Decision Shuts Out Spain Also and Therefore Uncle Sam Is Not Disturbed Over the New Phase of Affairs—It Was Principally to Keep Spain From Getting Them That the Washington Government Decided to Obtain Options, and Now That Precaution Is No Longer Necessary—Great Britain May Soon Need All the Warships She Can Get.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 9.—What appears to be an effectual check to the efforts of the United States to obtain warships from English firms has been given by the unexpected action of the British government in notifying ship-builders that they must not give options to the United States on vessels under construction or make contracts with this country for building new ones, without permission from the admiralty office in London.

This is not to be taken as an act of unfriendliness, as it applies equally to the Spanish endeavors to buy ships. The action is generally regarded here as an indication that Great Britain has already decided to assert its neutrality between Spain and the United States, and does not intend to take any chances of becoming involved in another expensive international episode like that of the Alabama affair. But it is suggested that, in view of the complications in the East, Great Britain may have a desire to purchase warships herself.

IT DOESN'T WORRY UNCLE SAM.

Instead of finding a cause for complaint in this attitude of the British authorities, the Washington government is inclined to be gratified over the turn affairs have taken, for there was the greatest concern felt here on account of the reports that Spain had made arrangements for buying warships there, under construction at the English government yards.

IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

How the Rumor Yesterday Afternoon That England Had Offered Us Ships Originated.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, March 10.—In the House of Commons today, Mr. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Office, said, in reply to a question, that no communications had passed between the Government and President McKinley regarding Cuba.

Another question, of which notice was given by Duncombe (Conservative, of West Cumberland), appeared upon the printed list of today's notices, but which was not put, was whether, with the view of recognizing the identity of all English speaking people, the Government had considered the advisability of placing the services of the British fleet at the disposal of the United States, in the event of complications between that country and a foreign power.

The consensus of opinion in the lobby was that Duncombe's question was not only foolish, but impertinent, as the United States was not in need of any such assistance.

It transpires that the suppression of Duncombe's question was due to Wm. Gully, Speaker of the House, who took the unusual course of not putting it, as he regarded the question as impertinent.

Duncombe, who is a humorist, intended to be sarcastic at the expense of the defences of the United States, but the action of the Speaker effectually squelched him.

ENGLAND PREPARING FOR WAR.

Nearly $100,000,000 Required to Cover the Naval Estimates Alone.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, March 10.—The First Lord of the Amiralty tonight introduced in the House of Commons the government naval estimates, which provides for an appropriation of nearly 24,000,000 pounds sterling. In presenting the measure he said:

"New ships would be very costly and should be very powerful."

In concluding his statement, he said: "If the future holds peace (which God grant) then it will be peace with honor. If war (which God forbid!) then it will be a war of honor and of success." (Loud cheers.)

Vice Admiral Beresford thought every vacant slip should be used for building warships, and that every muzzle-loading gun should be abolished. Other members urged that the government provide more training ships.

One of Those Times.

Form the Peoria Transcript.

There are times— and the present is one of them—when patriotism is stronger than partyism, when principle is superior to policy, and when all the people, conscious of their rectitude and their duty, stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of the dignity and honor of the nation.

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S PLAN

Looking to the Freedom of the Island of Cuba.

DRASTIC MEASURES MAY BE USED

But Only as a Last Resort—The First Proposition Will be to Purchase, With U. S. Bonds as a Guarantee—Spain Bitterly Opposed to This and Would Probably Refuse to Sell—In That Case Either Recognition of Cuban Independence or American Intervention Will be the Plan Adopted—The Latter the Most Drastic Measure But Will be Adopted If the Board of Enquiry Finds the Maine Was Blown Up by External Causes.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, D. C., March 10.—President McKinley and his cabinet advisers have about completed the plans of the administration looking to the ultimate freedom of Cuba, so far as they can be completed in the absence of the official report of the naval board now investigating the causes which brought about the explosion of the "Maine."

I may go a step farther and say that it is very possible that the President and Secretary of the Navy Long may already be advised as to what the tenor of that report will be, and it has been the common belief here for several days that it will adopt, not only the theory that it was due to outside causes, but it will express the belief that the wreck was caused by the explosion of a submarine mine which was touched off from the shore.

That evidence has been produced to support this belief there is no question, and it may have been strong enough to warrant a definite report to that effect.

DETERMINED TO FREE CUBA.

However, this may be, Spain might as well make up its mind to submit gracefully as possible to the freedom of Cuba, for that the administration here has decided upon that ultimate result of present complications there can no longer be a doubt.

THREE PLANS IN VIEW.

It is said by a member of the Cabinet that the President hopes to have settled the Cuban problem before May 1, or else to have it in a certain way to settlement. Three plans are in contemplation, and one of them will be entered upon just as soon as the differences arising from the loss of the Maine shall have been adjusted. It will depend upon the manner of adjustment and upon the temper of Spain which of these plans shall be adopted.

The one which appeals most strongly to the President is that of assisting the Cubans to purchase the island with a guarantee of bonds of the United States, but it is becoming apparent that the Spanish government will never listen to a proposition of this kind, and it is not now considered with as much seriousness as a short time ago.

The other two plans are intervention and recognition of independence. Intervention is the most drastic measure which could be adopted, and it will be attempted only as a last resort.

HAVANA HARBOR A MENACE TO AMERICAN COMMERCE.

Should it appear from the report of the Board of Inquiry that the explosion of the Maine was due to an external cause and that neither Capt. Sigsbee nor any of his men was responsible for it in any way, then the Administration could declare that the harbor of Havana was a menace to American commerce, that Spain had shown her incapacity in policing it, and that for the protection of its own interests the United States Government was compelled to secure the safety of vessels entering the harbor.

This would involve the presence of American warships, and it might well be regarded by the government at Madrid as a cause for war. Should the Administration enter on this policy warships would not leave the harbor of Havana until the freedom of Cuba had been proclaimed. The step is so radical that it will not be taken unless most extraordinary conditions prevail when the time for action arrives.

INDEPENDENCE FAVORITE PLAN.

At present the President is considering with especial care the plan of recognizing the independence of Cuba. To his mind this method of settling the difficulty has many advantages. Under existing conditions Cuba is barred from the American market for munitions of war, while Spain has untrammeled access. With independence recognized, the United States would adopt an attitude of strict neutrality, and the contending forces would be on equal terms so far as access to the American market was concerned. This would be a serious blow to Spain, which has been dependent in no small degree upon the United States for coal and for other supplies, and it is believed in Administration circles that it would speedily bring the close of the war. Spain it is true, might choose to consider the recognition of independence a provocation to hostile steps against the United States, but the provocation would not be so immediate and inevitable as in the case of an attempt to police Havana Harbor. Should independence be recognized, then Spain and Cuba would continue to fight it out without aid or comfort from the United States or any other nation.

ACTION BEFORE MAY 1ST.

During the rainy season, which begins on May 1, the insurgents, following the custom of former years, are sure to make advances and gain advantage, for in this period the unacclimated Spanish troops are cooped up in the towns and the insurgents can roam the island at will. It is believed by the administration that another summer's campaign would see Cuba free, but should October come with the war still on, then the necessity for armed intervention would become imperative.

There is no longer any idea of the recognition of belligerency. The time for that has long passed, and the President in his annual message expressly said that it was not advisable.

REPORT EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.

An official of the Navy Department announced today that the report of the Navy Board of Enquiry, whose labors at Havana are understood to be already practically completed and who expect to leave Havana for this country next Saturday, is expected to be presented to the Secretary of the Navy some time next week.

Lieutenant Commander Marix, the Judge Advocate of the Court, will not separate himself from the remainder of the court until the labors of that body are completed, this being the usual custom. He will therefore take part in the preparation of the official report to be made by the court.

This being so, the despatch received here last night from Key West to the effect that the officers of the "Maine" now in Havana would leave there Saturday and that, therefore, the Court of Enquiry might leave there tomorrow (Friday) is probably incorrect. They will doubtless all leave at the same time, and it is now believed that that will be on Saturday next.

SUBMARINE MINE AT HAVANA.

A Former Resident Tells What She Knows About It.

A North Carolina lady, who lived near this city before going to Texas has made an important revelation. The San Antonio, Texas, Express of March 4th says:

Evidence has just been brought to light in this city of the existence in 1854 of a tunnel extending from Morro Castle, in Havana, several miles out under the Havana harbor.

The evidence consists of a photograph of the entrance to the tunnel and the relation of detailed information on the subject by Mrs. Lucy G. Hunter, as it was told to her by her late husband, Dr. George L. Hunter, who himself penetrated the tunnel for several miles, and had the picture of the entrance made.

Mrs. Hunter has lived in this city for several years, and her home is at 220 San Pedro avenue. Dr. Hunter was devoted to scientific pursuits and the acquirement of knowledge, and as he possessed considerable wealth he spent much of his time in travel and study.

In 1854, before his marriage, he went to Cuba and remained in Havana several months. He contracted yellow fever there and his stay was prolonged by his sickness.

While in Havana Dr. Hunter became acquainted with many prominent citizens and army officers and formed a close friendship with several officers connected with Morro Castle. They extended him many courtesies, and finally became so intimate with him as to impart to him the secret of El Morro. They told him of the tunnel beneath the waters of Havana harbor and allowed him to explore it.

Dr. Hunter followed the tunnel for several miles, and found that it branched out into an extensive and intricate series of sub-passages, covering a large area of the bed of the bay. At some points the top of the passage was so close to the bottom of the bay that he could hear the waters booming above him.

The entrance to the tunnel was a large cave extending partly under El Morro and partly out beneath the bay. Dr. Hunter secured a photograph of the entrance which had been taken from inside the tunnel. Stalactites hanging from the top of the cave are shown in the picture. According to a label on the photograph it was made by the firm of Friedrich y co., who were probably the official photographers.

When he married, Dr. Hunter told his wife all he had learned of this remarkable submarine passage and when he died he left his photographic proof of its existence in her possession.

It will be remembered that shortly after the battleship Maine was blown up the statement was made that the Spaniards had submarine passages under Havana harbor. The Spanish authorities promptly denied this, and stated that if a tunnel had ever existed beneath the harbor the entrance to it had long since been closed up and all traces of it lost. It was on account of this denial that Mrs. Hunter gave out the important information she possesses on the point.

TWO MURDERS-TWO SUICIDES

With the Usual Accompaniament of Two Women.

ONE WAS A PRETTY YOUNG STUDENT

And the Innocent Cause of the Sacrifice of Two Lives—Wm. B. Davis Son of a Well Known Coal Operator Shoots Roy Gehrig for Love of Her—The Other Woman in the Case Not so Innocent and She Gets Her Throat Cut by a Man as Guilty as Himself—He Then Kills Himself in the Same Manner.

By Telegraph to The Morning Postt.

Lancaster, Pa., March 9.—Wm. B. Davis, the son of a well known coal operator, lies mortally wounded and dying here, and the person who shot him, a 19-year-old boy, named Roy Gehrig, is dead by his own hand, all for the love of a pretty young woman student.

Gehrig, after having tried desperately to murder his young friend, placed his revolver beside his own ear and sent a bullet into his brain, dying within a few minutes.

Gehrig and Davis were students at a business college in Philadelphia.

ANOTHER ONE NOT SO INNOCENT.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Louisville, Ky., March 9.—Lee Van Arsdale, a machinist, this afternoon cut the throat of Mary Harris with a razor and before being arrested killed himself in the same way.

The two had been living together, but the woman deserted him last week and went to live in a disorderly house, where Van Arsdale killed her today.

BRITISH-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

The Talk In Washington Over the Queen's Visit to the President

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 10.—As was announcedin the despatches printed in The Morning Post last Tuesday, the possibilities of a very desirable understanding, or "alliance," between the United States and the mother country are very encouraging, the advances in that direction emanating, too, with the British Government.

The message of Queen Victoria to President McKinley, conveyed to the latter through the British Ambassador yesterday, has been an engrossing subject of conversation with all Washington since.

The purport of the Queen's message was, that she desired to express to the President her gratification at the wise and conservative course of the Government in dealing with the Cuban question and the Spanish affair, and to tender to him her thorough sympathy with the efforts which the American Government is making to relieve suffering in Cuba, adding that she hoped that the negotiations in that direction might be concluded and brought to a successful termination without war resulting.

These expressions were not conveyed in an official form, however, and but for the absence of Ambassador Hay from London would have been communicated through him. This is why Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador to this Government, communicated them in person to the President. Consequently there will be no record of the Queen's sentiments, there having been no correspondence on the subject.

IMPORTANCE OF THE ALLIANCE.

In the matter of preserving peace, the importance of the probable alliance between the United States and Great Britain cannot be overestimated.

As a warning to Spain that she cannot count on entering upon a war, aided by France or other powers, against the United States single-handed and alone, it would be most significant and effective. Besides, Spain will hardly be likely to be able to receive much effective aid from France, for that country is likely to have its hands full in protecting and preserving its own interests in China.

It may be further stated that both the United States and England have arrived at a determination not to allow the Yukon boundary question and minor matters to interfere with the friendly relations of the United States and Great Britain. The boundary question is now under discussion, but it is progressing toward a satisfactory settlement, and there is every reason to believe that it will be concluded without an unpleasant incident. It is, however, a secondary consideration in the great questions which are being discussed.

AGAINST ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Kentucky Legislature Passes Over Governor's Veto Bill Requiring It to Sell News to All Papers Alike.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Frankfort, Ky., March 10.—The House today passed, over the Governor's veto, the bill requiring the Associated Press to sell despatches to papers not members of the Association on the same terms as its members.