

# The Morning Post.

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## THIS DISCOVERY MAY SETTLE IT

### Court of Enquiry Made a Great Find Yesterday.

## SEVEN SUBMARINE MINES DISCOVERED

### So the Correspondent of the New York Press Wired That Paper Late Last Night.

## OTHER CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE OF TREACHERY

### The Court Now Has in Its Possession the Shattered Section of a Submarine Cable Containing Seven Conductors—It is Fourteen Inches Long and an Accurate Description Follows—The "Find" the Most Important Piece of Evidence Yet Discovered, and Would Seem to Settle the Question of the Means Employed in Blowing Up the Maine, and the Matter of Spanish Official Complicity—Great Activity in Naval Circles Yesterday.

The United States flag will probably be flying over them tomorrow. Crews will be sent from the United States as soon as they can be made ready.

Washington, March 14.—As additional evidence that the administration anticipates hostilities in a very short time, the fact is noted that an order was issued by Secretary Long today forbidding officers on duty at the Navy Department to furnish any information to the press hereafter without first securing his consent. In explanation of this order, a prominent official said: "Matters are now so critical it would be unwise to let any of our plans be made public.

"We are afraid that the emergency cannot be avoided, and are determined that our preparations shall be kept as secret as possible, to prevent them becoming known among Spanish officials."

## CONTINUED NAVAL ACTIVITY.

The Special Auxiliary Cruisers Board Arrives at New York and Begins the Impression of Merchant Vessels for War Service—The Crack Steamer "St. Louis" Measured for Armor, Etc.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

New York, March 14.—The special board on auxiliary cruisers, appointed by Secretary Long to impress and equip the merchant marine vessels as warships, arrived in New York today, and conferred with the American Line officials.

That company offered the "St. Louis," the "St. Paul" and the "Paris" to the Government without reserve.

The board inspected and surveyed the "St. Louis," the crack ship of this line, that makes even 23 knots per hour. It will be settled tomorrow whether the "St. Louis" shall be impressed at once, or be allowed to make her regular trip to Europe on Wednesday.

The Ward Line boats will be examined next.

The board is after steel yachts and steel ocean tugs. Its labors here will last several weeks, at the end of which time it is expected to have a fleet of over 200 vessels, ready for service the instant called for.

## TO MOVE THE ARMY.

Conference to Perfect Arrangements Held With Leading Railroad Men.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 14.—For the movement of the government land forces to the east and south Atlantic seaboard, the government is rapidly perfecting its plans.

A conference was held yesterday with the proper authorities of the Southern Railway, Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard Air Line, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, in regard to the transportation of light artillerymen and their accoutrements.

Companies of artillerymen, numbering about 60 men each, will be transferred from Fort Monroe to the following named points: Fort Caswell, on the Cape Fear river, N. C.; Tybe, near Savannah, Ga.; Fort Morgan, near Mobile, Ala.; Sheridan's Point, on the Potomac river, Va. A company will also be sent from Fort McHenry, Baltimore, to a point on the Delaware river, near Philadelphia.

These arrangements the government informed the railroad officials, they desired perfected today or by Tuesday at the latest. These changes will undoubtedly take place at once.

## REORGANIZE PERSONNEL OF NAVY

Bill to be Reported Today—Urgent Need of More Officers for Foreign Warships Purchased and Auxiliary Cruisers—Course at Annapolis Shortened, By It.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 14.—President McKinley today requested the House Naval Committee to report and have passed tomorrow a bill reorganizing the personnel of the navy.

This action is taken because of the navy's urgent need for more officers, which need is further increased by the acquisition of foreign warships and the projected fleet of auxiliary cruisers.

The bill does away with the engineer corps, consolidating them with line officers, and provides for hiring a hundred expert machinists who will partly take the place of the engineers.

Besides largely increasing the number of officers, the bill decreases the Annapolis course from six to four years.

The Navy Department contemplated asking the passage of a separate bill adding to the engineers' force, but the committee objected.

The naval surgeon general also explained to the committee the need of more naval officers.

## SPAIN ANTICIPATES WAR

Or That Government Would Not be Making Preparations of This Nature.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, March 14.—The Spanish government is arranging for communication with Cuba over neutral cables, in the event of a rupture with the United States. This is feasible by the way of Halifax, Bermuda and Jamaica, using the new British cable, but a French company, possessing an unaided cable, offers to connect Spain direct with Cuba within a few weeks. Negotiations with this company are now proceeding.

## WHAT A RUSSIAN PAPER SAYS.

If we Fight Spain—"All European Powers Will Side with Spain" to a Certain Extent.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

St. Petersburg, March 14.—The Novoye Vremya claims to know that if the United States declares war, all the European powers will side with Spain to the extent of a categorical protest. This is well known in Madrid, it says. Spain, the paper adds, has no serious grounds, so far, for declaring war. That measures ought to be immediately taken, so that she will have no grounds in the future. The paper further says that all the European powers agree that war between the United States and Spain would be undesirable.

That their representatives at Washington have given due intimation of this to President McKinley. That it is to be hoped the President will realize the disadvantage of such a general course, and will not allow himself to be egged on to war by speculators, etc.

## ADVISED TO ASK ARBITRATION.

Calvo Receives a Despatch From Washington Warning Spain That Is Only Course Left to Avoid War.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, March 14.—The Imparcial attaches importance to the despatch it has received from Havana announcing that Manuel Calvo, ex-chief of the Spanish party in Cuba, has received a confidential telegram from a person of high repute in the United States, who claims to be in personal contact with President McKinley, warning him that a grave crisis is imminent, and urging the Cuban Government, as the sole means of averting it, to immediately telegraph the Spanish Minister at Washington, authorizing him to submit the Cuban question to arbitration.

Calvo guarantees the authenticity of the despatch, which is generally attributed to a member of the Spanish Legation.

## THINKS WE HAVE TWOFOLD OBJECT

An English Paper Draws Conclusions From Our War Preparations That We Mean to Help Out England in Its Far East Troubles

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, March 14.—The Sheffield Telegraph today says: "Are we not rather hasty in assuming that the war preparations of the United States are directed solely against Spain? The American statesmen are very deep. They may be content to let it appear that their armaments, which are really intended for a much greater occasion, are designed against Spain.

"This much is certain, if the United States is determined to stand in line with England and Japan in defending China, it would have to make such preparations as are now on foot. England and Japan are ready; the United States is not.

"It is a fair assumption that there is at least a tacit understanding between Great Britain and the United States."

## Tug Right Arm at Norfolk.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Norfolk, Va., March 14.—The tug "Right-Arm," of the Merritt Wrecking Company's fleet, has arrived here from Havana via Key West. The "J. B. Jones" came in later in the day towing the wrecking schooner "Tomlinson," which she picked up at Key West. No information was to be gotten from either tonight, except that neither vessel would return to Havana.

## MR. PROCTOR'S CONCLUSIONS

### What the Ex-Secretary of War Discovered in Cuba.

## MAINE BLOWN UP FROM OUTSIDE

This Fact Clearly Demonstrated, But He Is Not Prepared to State That Spanish Government Controlled Actions of Guilty Persons—Autonomy a Complete Failure—The Awful Condition of the Reconcentrados, as Depicted in the Despatches Not at All Exaggerated—No Impending Crisis in Cuba—Availability of Island of Cuba as Residence for Americans Should It Pass Under Control of United States.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 14.—Ex-Secretary of War Proctor is again in Washington, having returned last night from a three-weeks' visit to Cuba, over two weeks of which he spent on the island investigating into the conditions which exist there.

Gen. Proctor, and his friend, Col. M. M. Parker, of Washington, who accompanied him, visited four of the six provinces in the island, and they made a most thorough investigation of affairs there.

This visit, though not an official mission, was of a semi-official character, and there is no question of the influence which the report Gen. Proctor will make will have on the President's future attitude in dealing with the Cuban question.

It is equally clear that what he has to say respecting the "Maine" disaster will have weight with the executive, and therefore the following outlined conclusions, made by Gen. Proctor himself to a Post correspondent, are interesting and valuable. They are:

GEN. PROCTOR'S CONCLUSIONS.

1. The wreck of the "Maine" was unquestionably due to an outside agency. In other words, the ship did not blow herself up, but she was blown up from the outside, and purposely. Gen. Proctor does not think, however, that, with the evidence in his possession, the destruction of the vessel and the loss of so many lives, was due to any overt act over which the Spanish government exercised control.
2. Autonomy, the form of government inaugurated under Gen. Blanco, has proved an utter failure.
3. The intense suffering and starvation among the reconcentrados which has been depicted in the despatches, have been by no means exaggerated. Their condition has been, and to a large extent still is, awful in the extreme degree, their utterly destitute condition under Weyler having improved but little under Gen. Blanco.
4. There appears to be no probability of a settlement of the Cuban question by the Spanish government. There is no impending crisis in Cuba. The conditions now existing are constantly growing worse, and there is no promise of an early settlement of the troubles of the distracted island except through the intervention of the United States.
5. The Spanish authority exercised in Cuba is purely military. The insurgents are still entrenched in two of the provinces—Puerto Principe and Santiago—and they roam over the island generally.
6. As a place of residence for Americans, should Cuba pass under the control of the United States government, there is no doubt of its availability.

## TALK WITH THE EX-SECRETARY.

A reporter of the Washington Post had an interview with the ex-Secretary, which is printed today, in the course of which Gen. Proctor says: "The condition of affairs in Cuba, I must say, are bad enough. Not any worse, perhaps, than I had been led to expect from what I had heard before going there. But the suffering among the reconcentrados was a frightful object lesson to me. From estimates given me by Spanish officials, I judge that about 200,000 of these people have died since Weyler put his reconcentration order into effect over a year ago. There are still about 200,000 in need of immediate relief. The suffering has undoubtedly been somewhat alleviated since the United States began sending relief supplies to the island, and since the new Blanco government took control of affairs. There has been no material change in the military situation in the island. Both sides are still claiming increased strength. As a matter of fact, both sides are decreasing in numbers, not through battles but by death, due to natural causes. There have been no recent military achievements on either side worthy of mention, and from the way the campaigns are being conducted, I do not expect anything in this direction. The existing conditions can continue indefinitely, the suffering growing, of course, gradually worse."

## BELIEVES IN AN OUTSIDE EXPLOSION.

"Concerning the cause of the 'Maine' disaster," continued the Senator, "I feel free to say that such information as I have obtained indicates that the explosion was from the outside. It does not show that the Spanish government or any of its officials in Havana were participants in the crime. In the first place, I do not think there were any mines in the harbor. I have not the slightest knowledge of what the decision of the Naval Court of Enquiry will be or when it will reach Washington. Appreciating the delicate position in which the members of the court were placed, I carefully refrained from asking any expression which would indicate that I wanted to know what the court had discovered. I had no better means of ascertaining the particulars concerning the cause of the disaster than your correspondent in Havana, and such information as I have is entirely of an unofficial character. As to the probable outcome of this matter and of the real Cuban question, I do not feel at liberty at this time to express an opinion. Perhaps in a few days, after I have talked with the authorities in Washington, I may be able to say something on these subjects."

## HOW MAINE WAS WRECKED

### Four Torpedoes Were Exploded Simultaneously.

## OPINION OF AN AMERICAN EXPERT

Who is a Graduate of the Torpedo School, and Whose Opinion is of the Most Valuable Character—He Tells Why the Testimony of the Spanish Divers is Worthless—They Have at No Time Been Inside the Hull of the Wreck and Have Had no Opportunity of Securing Knowledge Upon Which to Base Such an Opinion as the Spanish Board Will Make—Wetting Diving Suits and Sleeping Specially.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Havana, March 14.—The Spanish court or board which has been making an "investigation" into the cause or causes of the "Maine" explosion will make its report in a few days, and it is already known that it will join issue with the report of the American Board of Enquiry and contend that the explosion occurred inside the vessel.

In this connection, El Imparcial, one of the most sensational newspapers published in Spain, says: "Although the American commission may give another explanation, the government will energetically uphold the Spanish report." This, it will be noted, in advance of the submission of the report and in the absence of any knowledge of the character of evidence the Spanish board has to base such report on.

As showing how utterly worthless the "evidence" which the Spanish commission has been able to secure, the following extract from a statement just made in Havana by an American officer, who is an expert in the matter of explosions, is given. He says: "I am a graduate of the torpedo school, and have studied the effects of torpedoes or mines from observation and experiments. A torpedo exploded at a depth of six feet would throw a column of water one hundred feet into the air, at twelve feet deep, ten feet in the air, and at thirty feet would hardly raise a small wave. A detonator of gun cotton in the open air makes a mark its own size in steel or blows stone to fragments. In the water a torpedo itself would not be felt at any great distance. It requires the resistance of a solid body, and would be dissipated in water or mud. This disposes of the wave theory, and the affecting of the shore or boats in the harbor."

## A HOLE IN THE MUD.

"As to the hole in the mud, the expert in question makes the most important statement that the 'Maine' drew twenty-eight to thirty feet at the time of the explosion and had ten feet of water below her bottom to the surface of the harbor mud. On the port side, where the United States divers are now at work, there is at present forty-seven feet of water. May not this be the hole which Capt. Peral says could not be found? If it is the hole was more than seven feet deep when the explosion took place, and has been greatly filled with mud since. As to the finding of dead fish, the United States Court of Enquiry has not seen a solitary fish since they began work on the wreck. The bodies recovered from the 'Maine' have not been touched by fishes. Some of the fishermen in Havana testified that there were no fish inside the harbor, the waters being too foul for them. Sometimes they come part way in during the day, but all go out at night.

"Further, as to the alleged discoveries of Spanish divers reported to Capt. Peral, five American divers have been working on the port side of the wreck an average of seven hours each per day for nearly three weeks in a space fifty feet long and twenty feet wide.

NEVER INSIDE THE WRECK.

"The Spanish divers have never been inside the wreck at all, neither have they ever been on the port side, devoting the short hours which they have spent under water to the starboard side forward and outside the hull. Recently, to their own surprise, they brought up two cans of ammunition for the six-inch guns, not exploded. They dropped them back when the light of the surface showed they were unexploded, and what their nature was.

"Further, the Spanish divers often go down only long enough to wet their suits and then come up and hide behind a blanket on the barge, where they sleep or rest for a couple of hours and then go ashore and report that they cannot see anything in the mud and water. They could not have found the ram of the 'Maine' since they have not been down in the locality of that part of the wreck. They have not located the turret with the ten-inch guns, though the spot has been pointed out by Capt. Sharp, in charge of the wreckers, where there is only sixteen feet and should be twenty-six feet.

"The spot is outside the hull on the starboard side. It is probable that the turret is there, partly buried in the mud. All of these facts are known by

## IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

Senate Naval Committee to Investigate Maine Explosion—Indemnity From Spain to be Exact for Wrongful Imprisonment of American Citizens, Etc.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 14.—The Senate today authorized the Committee on Naval Affairs to investigate fully the destruction of the battleship "Maine."

A joint resolution was passed empowering the President to exact from Spain, in any manner he saw fit, indemnity for the wrongful arrest and imprisonment of the American citizens, August Bolten and Gustave Richelieu, in Cuba.

The conference report on the Army Appropriation bill was agreed to.

The bill increasing the pension of Mrs. Letitia Tyler Semple, the daughter of President Tyler, from \$8 to \$50 per month, was passed.

The Senate then adjourned, 3:55 p. m.

Washington, March 14.—The session of the House today was taken up in the consideration of District of Columbia matters.

## AUSTRIA'S DISCORDANT NOTE.

The Emperor Said to be Endeavoring to Induce Other European Powers to Impress the U. S. With the Idea That It is "Dangerous" for Us to Interfere in Spanish Affairs.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, March 14.—The Paris correspondent of the Times says that the Emperor of Austria is making great efforts to induce the European powers to represent to the United States that there is danger to Europe of the United States pursuing a policy of interference in Cuba, whose affairs are regarded as European rather than American. His Majesty's efforts are warmly seconded by Emperor William. It is stated that the Washington Government is aware of the situation.

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