

BOARD OF ENQUIRY LEAVES HAVANA

But Will Return and Put Divers to Work on New Clue of

PROBABLE SUBMARINE MINE DISCOVERY

Noted in The Post Yesterday—Flying Squadron to Be Organized to Threaten Spanish Coast.

FORTY MILLIONS FOR THE NAVY AGREED UPON

President Says He Will Make Public the Report of the Board of Enquiry As Soon As it is Received, By Submitting it to Congress With Such Recommendations As He Sees Fit to Make—Much Importance Attached to the Movements of the Spanish Torpedo Flotilla Now Headed for Cuba—Uncle Sam Evidently Doesn't Like It and Means to Make a Scare Maneuvre Also—Continued Naval Activity—All the Indications Point to Hostilities Which Can Now Be Averted Apparently Only By Spain Taking Meekly Such Medicine as Uncle Sam is Pleased to Administer.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—Information received from Havana tonight directly from a person thoroughly conversant with the present condition of the submerged hull of the battleship "Maine," states that the divers, after three weeks of work have discovered that the coal powder and shell carried by the ill-fated vessel, have been accounted for in full and found to be intact. With this information comes the positive indication that the Court of Enquiry has nearly finished its investigation.

Evidence is cited and considered as furnishing further proof that the "Maine" was wrecked by an outside explosion. Especially significant is the fact that the coal was without any evidence of ignition.

Key West, March 15.—It was learned this evening that the "Maine" Board of Enquiry will return here early tomorrow morning, probably leaving Havana tonight.

The "Maine" crew refuse to affirm or deny the report, but your correspondent has entire confidence in his authority.

It is said among the naval officers here that all the officers on the active list who are now on shore duty have been ordered to hold themselves ready for duty, and that their places aboard will be filled by retired officers.

Even those on duty at the Naval Academy are said to be under orders. Weapons and activity in the work of getting the fleet here ready for any emergency are unaltered. Work, which will give more room at the government dock sufficient to enable eight of the smaller ships and torpedo boats to coal at once, was begun today.

LATER—THE BOARD STARTS.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Havana, March 15.—The Board of Enquiry left Havana this evening for Key West, where they will be early in the morning.

As to what has been heard from the members of the board, which is also the belief of the Spanish authorities, the board will return in a few days to take further testimony of the divers who will make a more and more thorough examination of the hull of the "Maine." From this it is inferred that a new clue is to be fully investigated by the board before leaving Havana permanently.

FRIENDLY VISIT OF "VIZCAYA" TO KEY WEST.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Havana, March 15.—There is a persistent rumor current here that the Spanish warship "Vizcaya," recently in New York, but which has been in this harbor for the last two weeks, will soon leave here on a friendly visit to Key West.

SPANISH-ENGLISH ORDER FOR SPECIAL PROJECTILES.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, March 15.—The workshops of the Birmingham are busy with the manufacture of special projectiles for the Spanish Government. These projectiles are of a different type and length than the company has heretofore made.

They are four and one-half feet long, and it is supposed that they are incendiary. A portion of the order for these projectiles has already been despatched to Spain.

O'HIGGINS MAY BE OURS

Yet According to Advice Received at the Navy Department Last Night

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The negotiations for the purchase of foreign warships for the United States Navy have not ended with acquisition of the Brazilian cruisers "Amazonas" and "Admiral Azevedo." Absolute contradiction of the report came from London and elsewhere that the Spanish government had bought the Chilean armorclad "O'Higgins" was received at the Navy Department today from one of its agents in Europe.

It was learned tonight that negotiations are in progress for its purchase by this country, and that although the Chilean authorities are not making any promise and are believed to be unwilling to help the United States, they may be induced to part with the "O'Higgins" if sufficient inducements are offered.

FORTY MILLION FOR THE NAVY.

That Sum Agreed Upon Yesterday by House Committee on Naval Affairs—Five Dry Docks to be Constructed.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The House Committee on Naval Affairs today voted (7 to 3) to recommend in the Naval Appropriation bill the construction of five dry docks.

The total amount appropriated by the bill will be about \$40,000,000.

The members of the committee tonight expressed the opinion that the bill would be ready for presentation to the House on Thursday or Friday. If it reaches the calendar by that time its consideration will be pressed early next week.

TORPEDOES TAKEN ABOARD

The Columbia and Minneapolis Yesterday and They are Extra Size Fellows, Too.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 15.—The government tug "Leyden," with twenty whitehead torpedoes from Newport, arrived at League Island today. Ten of the deadly missiles were put aboard the "Columbia" and the other ten stored in the hold of the "Minneapolis." The "Leyden" brought 3,600 hundred weight of gun cotton.

Cruisers of the size of the "Minneapolis" and "Columbia" usually carry only six torpedoes each. The extra ones now being taken on board today are regarded as significant. Two hundred sailors and marines for the cruisers arrived today.

REPORT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC

President Promises to Send it to Congress as Soon as Received, With Recommendations, Etc.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The President has decided to make public at once upon its early receipt the report of the "Maine" Board of Enquiry, and to do this by sending it to Congress, with a message explaining its importance and effect, and stating what his plans are for demanding reparation from Spain. Some of the President's friends and advisers think that to do this would be to invite Congress to take some action, but the President, on the contrary, believes that by taking Congress into his confidence he will forestall any action by that body.

BUSINESS WAR PREPARATIONS

Of the Navy Department—A Flying Squadron to be Formed to Threaten Spanish Coast and Teach Spanish Officials That We Mean Business.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—One of the most interesting propositions now under serious consideration by the naval authorities relates to the immediate formation of a flying squadron of fast cruisers, and perhaps some auxiliary ships, to threaten the coast of Spain, as an offset to the despatch of the Spanish torpedo boat "Flotilla" to Havana.

However war-like this plan may seem there is no doubt that the naval authorities are making preparations for putting it into execution.

They think, however, that it will be a week or more before the intentions of the Spanish government in regard to the torpedo Flotilla will be known. The sending of this Flotilla to our waters, navy officials claim, will be an offensive movement, and it will be followed by the United States sending a flying squadron (provided President McKinley consents), probably by the same route travelled by the Spanish torpedo craft, in the hope of letting the Spanish officers understand that the United States means business.

Its presence will, serve as a warning to Spain that this country has left nothing undone to make the struggle a short and sure one for the United States.

The present intentions of the naval authorities for the quick formation of the squadron, contemplate that it shall be composed of the armored cruisers "Brooklyn" and "New York," and the commerce destroyers "Columbia" and "Minneapolis," and perhaps the "St. Louis" and the "St. Paul" of the American Line merchant marine just impressed into service by the commission now at New York.

Madrid, March 15.—It is stated that the torpedo flotilla which sailed from Cadiz on Sunday will only stay at the Canary Islands and Porto Rico long enough to receive provisions, and will then proceed with all despatch to Cuba.

Another flotilla, to start shortly, will probably remain at Porto Rico.

SPAIN BECOMING CONVINCED

That the United States Means Business—What Became of Important Despatches to the Imparcial to That Effect.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, March 15.—The Imparcial says: "We received yesterday telegrams from New York which no one has seen, nor will they ever be published in our columns."

"We have sent them to the government, which has taken note of them."

"Both telegrams refer to the talk in the United States of preparations for war with Spain, and the invasion of Cuba, by the functionaries and persons connected with the government, which position seems to warrant the genuineness of the reports."

CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY.

The Cuban Question and Maine Disaster Considered But no Definite Action Yet Agreed On.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The Cuban question was discussed at today's cabinet meeting, to the exclusion of all other topics.

There was a general conversation about the condition of the island, and the possibilities involved in the "Maine" report of the Court of Enquiry on the "Maine" wreck, but no line of policy was decided on, or suggested, with a decision in view.

The purchase of new ships was also considered.

TO LEAVE IT TO THE EXECUTIVE

Branch of the Government Exclusively—Plan to Adjourn Congress and Let President and Cabinet Settle the Maine and Cuban Question.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The action of the Senate in adjourning daily at an early hour, and holding no session on Friday and Saturday, has drawn attention to the fact that there is a concerted effort among the leaders of both houses to end the session some time next month, so that President McKinley and his cabinet may be free to act in the Spanish crisis without Congressional interference.

It is evident that the report of the Board of Enquiry will be received before Congress adjourns, and they fear that the Cuban sympathizers may possibly bring in a resolution recognizing the belligerency, or declaring the independence of Cuba, especially if the board's verdict shall be that the "Maine" was wrecked by design, and this probability, it is stated, disturbs the President and the cabinet officers.

The Congressional programme, however, is as yet confined to a discussion of the best plan to be followed in making public the report of the Board of Enquiry, and preventing action without embarrassing the administration, and rendering impossible the success of diplomatic negotiations.

The President still hopes to avert war, but he recognizes the fact that if his plans are to succeed there must be unanimity of action on the part of the executive and legislative branches of the government.

EVIDENCE FRESH FROM WRECK

A Diver and Crew of "Right Arm" Talk

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

ABOUT HOW EXPLOSION OCCURRED

Not a Particle of Doubt Now That the "Maine" Was Blown Up From the Outside, and the Report of the Naval Board of Enquiry Will Not Only So State, But Will Also Definitely Point Out Means Employed in accomplishing the Explosion—Court Has the Evidence—What One of Divers Who Worked on the Wreck and was Down in the Hull, and Crew of the "Right Arm" Now in Norfolk. Just From Havana Say on the Subject Which is Now Causing So Much Interest.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Norfolk, Va., March 15.—Not since the day of the explosion which wrecked the "Maine" has more valuable and credible evidence been secured by any one outside of Havana harbor than that which has just been furnished The Morning Post's correspondent by some of the crew and officers of the wrecking tug "Right Arm," now in this port direct from Havana, including one of the divers who came here on the "Right Arm," all of whom have been in Havana harbor in close proximity to the wreck on which most of them have been personally at work.

COURT HAS CONVINCING EVIDENCE.

These men, from Capt. Magee down, all unhesitatingly and explicitly stated today that there was no longer any doubt, when they left Havana, in the minds of any disinterested persons aware of the discoveries which have been made by the Court of Enquiry and the divers, those officially employed by the court and others, that the disaster to the "Maine" was wholly due to an outside agency.

"Not only that," said one of the more intelligent of the crew who has been personally at work on the "Maine" as an employe of the wrecking company of Chapman and Merritt, "but the Court of Enquiry has been thoroughly convinced of that fact for some time, and for the last week or two, have secured such evidence as to convince them of just what that outside agency was."

THE REPORT WILL BE DEFINITE AND CONCLUSIVE.

The adverse criticism of the Court of Enquiry, indulged in by some of the newspapers in this country, on account of the apparent tardiness of the court in arriving at its conclusions and not sending in its report to the Navy Department with more expedition, is very unjust to the competent naval officers composing that court.

"They have not permitted any grass to grow under their feet since undertaking the very difficult task of ascertaining the cause of the wreck, and they have left no stone unturned to discover the precise modus operandi of the fiends who blew up our ship."

GOOD REASONS FOR DELAY.

"In my opinion," he added, "the court could and would have made its report last week, but for the fact that the administration at Washington instructed the court that the delay of its report for a specified length of time was desirable. Why that was so may be gathered from the fact that it takes time to carry out the preparations now making by the Washington government in concentrating the navy and mobilizing the land forces in the east and the south Atlantic seaboard."

It was very evident from the hesitating manner in which this information was given that the speaker knew more than he cared to tell, or at least more than he desired to be quoted as saying, and this appears to be so with all the wreckers who have been at work on the "Maine." This reserve is probably due to the caution they have received from the Court of Enquiry and their employers of the wrecking company.

ONE OF THE DIVERS TALKS.

The diver who came here on the "Right Arm" is named "Dick" Baumann. He brought with him one of the unexploded shells which he took from the "Maine" wreck and which he still has in his possession. He stated to The Morning Post's representative that the great weight of the wrecked vessel has caused it to sink very deep into the mud; that owing to that fact the alleged investigation which has been going on under the direction of a Spanish commission has not been able to secure any valuable information, through the evidence any of its divers has been able to obtain, their investigations having been entirely confined to work on the outside of the hull; that the American divers working on the inside of the vessel have pursued their work under the most trying difficulties and obstacles, etc., all of which will be obviously true to any thinking readers of this story.

Therefore he thinks any "report" from the Spanish investigating commission will be utterly worthless, as under the circumstances they have not had the opportunity to secure any evidence worth the name.

IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

Return Postal Card Bill Passes the Senate—Lighthouse Near Wilmington to be Established Etc.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The Senate today passed several minor bills, among them one authorizing the construction and operation of a railroad bridge across the Alabama river, in Wilcox county, Ala.

Another appropriates \$70,000 for a light-house at the Pith of the Cape Fear river, near Wilmington, N. C.; and another extends the uses of the mail service, by means of patented return postal cards with coupons attached.

The bill amending the quarantine act, making Federal laws supreme, and the accompanying report, which argued against the Department of Health and for an enlarged Marine Hospital service, provoked discussion. Mr. Vest (of Missouri) said there was danger, to commence with, in allowing cities the right to quarantine against other cities. The bill finally went over until tomorrow.

Washington, March 15.—In the House, because of the refusal of Mr. Loud, the chairman of the Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads, to permit the bill for the relief of the survivors and victims of the "Maine" disaster to in-Postoffice Appropriation bill, Mr. Bouterfere with its reconsideration of the title was unable to bring the former before the House today.

An agreement was reached, however, to take it up immediately after the Postoffice bill has been disposed of.

In the course of the debate on the Postoffice bill, Tawney answered the recent anti-annexation speech of Johnson (of Indiana) and won from Mr. Dingley the encomium that his argument was unanswerable.

The discussion will be continued tomorrow.

Mr. Griggs (of Georgia) delivered an hour's speech upon the industrial and economic conditions of the South, to which Mr. Walker (of Massachusetts) made a characteristic fifteen-minutes response.

NEGRO WITH WHITE WIFE

Whom He Married in Ohio Ordered Out of West Virginia County.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Charleston, W. Va., March 15.—A negro named Byron Barrett recently came here from Ohio and rented a small farm seven miles west of this city. Soon after he was joined by his wife and three children. It soon became

noised about that the wife was a white woman. She is a native of Ohio, where they were married, the marriage being legal in that State in the absence of any law to the contrary.

Last night he was visited by White Caps who informed him that he must return to Ohio or elsewhere than this community, as miscegenation would not be allowed in this county. He applied to the Sheriff for protection.

Three Pistol Shots—3 Worthless Lives Ended

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., March 15.—Albert Lathwell shot his wife, his mistress and himself here this morning. All will die.

Lathwell had been living with both women on apparently peaceable terms, but they left him a short time ago, and on returning today a quarrel arose, which Lathwell settled by freely using his revolver, with the result above stated.

Awful Condition of the Reconcentrados.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Havana, via Key West, Fla., March 15.—While the American government and people increase their efforts to relieve the awful famine among the reconcentrados, the Spanish government and people increase their cruelty.

According to the Weyerist newspaper, The El Correo, the reconcentrados are the enemies of Spain who deserve their fate.

"The men," El Correo says, "are loafers, the women prostitutes, and the children worthy offsprings of such people."

All the unfortunates who now are dying in the streets of Havana and every other Spanish city and island, were country laborers and farmers, whose homes were burned by the Spanish and whom the Spaniards herded in the towns at the point of the bayonet. In a majority of cases even American charity comes too late. The poor women and children have been deprived of food for so long that they are in such a state of weakness they cannot digest the food.

Latest From Philippines.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Hong Kong, March 15.—The latest advices from the Philippines Islands are to the effect that General Monet has relieved the town of Boliango, after five engagements with the rebels. The rebel garrisons and priests in the neighboring villages had been previously dispersed or killed, and the garrison at Boliango were taken by surprise, forty being massacred.

Mr. T. C. Parker, manager of the Parker Railway News Company, was a Raleigh visitor yesterday.

ASHEVILLE FEDERAL PRISON

Senator Pritchard's Amendment to Sundry Civil Bill.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

APPROPRIATES \$100,000 THEREFOR

North Carolina News From National Capital

—Trying to Secure an Orator of National Reputation to Deliver the Mecklenburg Oration—Effort to Change Federal Court From Greensboro to Winston—Light-house for the Cape Fear Near Wilmington—Life-Saving Station at Ocracoke—President Invited to Attend Charlotte Mecklenburg Declaration Celebration Exercises—Progress of Ewart Judgeship Nomination Case, and Bob. Gienna's Good Word for the Judge.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—Senator Pritchard today succeeded in securing an amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, now under consideration, providing for the establishment of a Federal prison at Asheville, N. C., and appropriating \$100,000 for the erection of the buildings, etc.

Washington, March 15.—There were no witnesses ready today to appear before the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee in the Ewart case, Mr. Garrett being absent. R. B. Glenn, of Winston, however, talked with Senator Spooner in Ewart's behalf. A further hearing in the case will take place.

Washington, March 15.—Senator Pritchard has extended an invitation to the President to attend the celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence at Charlotte, May 20th. The President said he would attend if his duties permitted.

The Seaboard Air Line has been awarded the contract for transporting troops from Fort Monroe to Fort Caswell, N. C., Fort Ingram, Ga., and Tybee Island, Ala.

Andrew Jackson, of Halifax county, N. C., has been promoted from a \$900 to a \$1,000 position in the Pension Office.

Miss Florence Pritchard has been appointed to a clerkship in the Collector's of Internal Revenue Office at Asheville.

Congressman Skinner is preparing a bill to establish a life-saving station at Ocracoke Inlet. He has consulted Supt. Kimball, who endorses the proposition, and recognizes the need of it.

The bill establishing a light house at the pitch of the Cape Fear river, carrying an appropriation of \$70,000, passed the Senate today.

Representative Linney will introduce a bill tomorrow to change the place of holding the Federal Court from Greensboro to Winston. Messrs. Buxton and Holton, of Winston, are here urging the change.

Senator Pritchard is endeavoring to secure a speaker of national prominence to deliver the oration at the Mecklenburg Centennial at Charlotte on May 20th.

Representative Stokes, of South Carolina, today presented to the President the offer of Brigadier Gen. Stoppelbein, of the First Brigade, S. C. Cavalry, to immediately put his command in the field for service in the Cuban war. The President expressed his satisfaction at the tender.

TO USE THE \$50,000,000

National Defense Appropriation, War or no War—The Army and Coast Defense Need It.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 15.—The War Department is engaged in a generous rivalry with the Navy Department in its active preparations, for the national defense of competition will be determined largely by the division of the \$50,000,000 emergency appropriation.

It has been agreed that no arbitrary division of available funds should be made, but that the expenditures should be made in such places and for such purposes as immediate needs require. It is probable that if the danger of war becomes less imminent a large part of the emergency fund will be employed for increasing the efficiency of the army and for constructing new military coast defenses.

YES, WHY?

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

New York, March 15.—A Washington despatch to The Press says that the Spanish Minister called on Assistant Secretary Day today and asked him, "why the United States were buying warships."

Mrs. Dreyfus Asks to Join Her Husband as Convict.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Paris, March 15.—Madame Dreyfus, wife of ex-Captain Dreyfus, who is serving a life sentence on the Isle du Diabole off the coast of French Guiana for having betrayed secrets of the French defence to foreign Government, has petitioned M. Lebon, Minister of Colonies, for permission to share her husband's exile. She undertakes to submit to the same disciplinary regime.