

NOW THEY SAY IT WILL BE MONDAY

Before Any Report From the Naval Board Reaches Washington.

THE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR CONTINUE

In the Mean Time, and the President Emphatically Denies That He Contemplated Stopping Them.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF BOARD EXPECTED DAILY

Several Additional War Vessels, Most Formidable in the Navy, Ordered to Key West to Protect Southern Coast—Sub-Marine Mines Being Planted in the Savannah River—Troops Arrive at Tybee Island, Ga.—Ducking for Cots Ordered and Enquiries Made Looking to Purchase of Immense Quantities of Flour and Other Breadstuff—Big Orders for Meat Being Placed by the Government in Chicago—Evidence Piled Up That Uncle Sam is About to Fight Somebody, or at Least Thinks He Is, and Spain is the Only Enemy in Sight.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—All Washington today is the editorial published in the La Lucha denouncing the alleged plot in which several Americans, including Consul General Lee, are charged with being concerned to bring about the annexation of the island of Cuba to the United States.

According to La Lucha Lispenard, of New York, and Dudley G. Gautier, of Hempstead, L. I., are the representatives in this city just now of what is called the "Annexation Trust."

Last night these gentlemen gave a private dinner to Gen. Lee, Capt. Sigsbee, Capt. Cowles, of the "Fern," and some American newspaper correspondents.

It is asserted and generally believed by the Spaniards that the dinner had a political character.

Gen. Lee is severely criticised and his exclusion from the island is strongly demanded.

An article that has caused intense excitement here was printed this evening in the The El Correo, the conservative organ. The whole edition is about the war and full of "patriotic" items.

The article referred to is illustrated by a map in which is shown the position of the American navy in a threatening attitude toward Cuba.

Tomorrow religious services will be held at the cemetery here in honor of the "Maine's" dead sailors buried there.

WANTED TO REPEL IT.

The Spanish Ambassador at Vienna's Fool Remark Up in Congress.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—When the House opened Mr. Henry, of Mississippi, rising to a question of privilege, sent to the clerk's desk a despatch, in which the Spanish Ambassador at Vienna is reported to have said that "if during a war the United States should incite the Philippines to revolt against Spain, the latter could revenge herself by 'raising revolts' in the American Southern States," which the clerk began to read.

Mr. Dingley raised the point that that presented no question of privilege, and was sustained by the Speaker.

Mr. Henry said the despatch contained a reflection against the people of his section, and that he wanted to repel it. It was not read, however, and the routine of the House was continued.

"WAR IN FIFTEEN MINUTES."

What Secretary Gage Said If Report Shows Spanish Complicity in Wrecking the "Maine"—Not So Expected, However.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Pittsburg, March 19.—Secretary Gage, who spoke tonight at the dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview: "If the Board's report shows that the 'Maine' was blown up at the instigation of the Spanish government, war will follow in fifteen minutes."

"The report will arrive early next week. I believe that a majority of the American people are now convinced that the authorities in Havana had no hand in the loss of the 'Maine.'"

"Unless the report should prove to the contrary, it is not likely that war will result from that cause."

OUR COUSINS' TROUBLES

Across the Atlantic Sufficient to Interest Them at Home.

By Cable to The Morning Post. London, March 19.—The far Eastern crisis still overshadows the Spanish-American situation in European estimation and the latest steps toward the dismemberment of China has caused fresh dismay in England.

The sweeping demands made by France apparently constitute a more serious attack upon British interests than Russia's virtual annexation of Manchuria. If France has taken this step on the heels of the Russian demand, without any understanding with Great Britain, it would constitute an almost certain casus belli.

The British government, however, puts no such interpretation upon the action of France and the outcome will probably be a long diplomatic struggle, which may result in an amicable division of the spoils.

TROOPS ARRIVE IN GEORGIA.

And Fifty Sub-Marine Mines Are Being Placed in the Savannah River.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Savannah, Ga., March 19.—Orders have been received here directing the placing of submarine mines in the Savannah river channel, near Fort Pulaski, and the tug-boat "Atlas" is now planting them.

Fifty such mines were received here, several days ago, to be placed in the channel.

The battery of artillery from Fort Monroe arrived here last night and proceeded to Tybee Island, where it will take charge of the new fortifications. Light Battery F, Fifth Artillery, arrived this afternoon from Fort Riley, Kansas, and went at once to Tybee Island, where it will camp.

WARSHIPS—MORE WARSHIPS.

Those Uncle Sam Can Not Buy He Will Build as Far as Practicable—Three Foreigners in Sight.

By Cable to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—The scarcity of iron-ore in the international market has brought the government

A SCARED SET OF SPANIARDS

They Discover a "Plot" to Annex Cuba to United States.

DEMAND GEN. LEE'S DEPORTATION

From the Island on Account of His Alleged Connection With the Imaginary Scheme—Two New Yorkers' Dinner to Gen. Lee, Capt. Sigsbee and American Newspaper Correspondents Sets the "Patriots" in Cuba by the Ears—They Denounce Lee and the Conservative Organ Publishes an Illustrated Edition Representing American Navy Threatening Cuba Etc

By Cable to The Morning Post. Havana, March 19.—All the talk of Havana today is the editorial published in the La Lucha denouncing the alleged plot in which several Americans, including Consul General Lee, are charged with being concerned to bring about the annexation of the island of Cuba to the United States.

According to La Lucha Lispenard, of New York, and Dudley G. Gautier, of Hempstead, L. I., are the representatives in this city just now of what is called the "Annexation Trust."

Last night these gentlemen gave a private dinner to Gen. Lee, Capt. Sigsbee, Capt. Cowles, of the "Fern," and some American newspaper correspondents.

It is asserted and generally believed by the Spaniards that the dinner had a political character.

Gen. Lee is severely criticised and his exclusion from the island is strongly demanded.

An article that has caused intense excitement here was printed this evening in the The El Correo, the conservative organ. The whole edition is about the war and full of "patriotic" items.

The article referred to is illustrated by a map in which is shown the position of the American navy in a threatening attitude toward Cuba.

Tomorrow religious services will be held at the cemetery here in honor of the "Maine's" dead sailors buried there.

WANTED TO REPEL IT.

The Spanish Ambassador at Vienna's Fool Remark Up in Congress.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—When the House opened Mr. Henry, of Mississippi, rising to a question of privilege, sent to the clerk's desk a despatch, in which the Spanish Ambassador at Vienna is reported to have said that "if during a war the United States should incite the Philippines to revolt against Spain, the latter could revenge herself by 'raising revolts' in the American Southern States," which the clerk began to read.

Mr. Dingley raised the point that that presented no question of privilege, and was sustained by the Speaker.

Mr. Henry said the despatch contained a reflection against the people of his section, and that he wanted to repel it. It was not read, however, and the routine of the House was continued.

"WAR IN FIFTEEN MINUTES."

What Secretary Gage Said If Report Shows Spanish Complicity in Wrecking the "Maine"—Not So Expected, However.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Pittsburg, March 19.—Secretary Gage, who spoke tonight at the dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview: "If the Board's report shows that the 'Maine' was blown up at the instigation of the Spanish government, war will follow in fifteen minutes."

"The report will arrive early next week. I believe that a majority of the American people are now convinced that the authorities in Havana had no hand in the loss of the 'Maine.'"

"Unless the report should prove to the contrary, it is not likely that war will result from that cause."

OUR COUSINS' TROUBLES

Across the Atlantic Sufficient to Interest Them at Home.

By Cable to The Morning Post. London, March 19.—The far Eastern crisis still overshadows the Spanish-American situation in European estimation and the latest steps toward the dismemberment of China has caused fresh dismay in England.

The sweeping demands made by France apparently constitute a more serious attack upon British interests than Russia's virtual annexation of Manchuria. If France has taken this step on the heels of the Russian demand, without any understanding with Great Britain, it would constitute an almost certain casus belli.

The British government, however, puts no such interpretation upon the action of France and the outcome will probably be a long diplomatic struggle, which may result in an amicable division of the spoils.

PRESIDENT HEARS THE STORY

Of the Explosion Which Destroyed the "Maine."

ASSURED IT WAS FROM THE OUTSIDE

Lieutenants Blow and Holden, the Officers of the Watch at the Time of the Wreck, and Lieut. Catlin, Commander of the Marine Guard, Refute Their Experience to President McKinley and Secretary Long—They Hold Firmly to the Outside Explosion Theory and Feel Sure the Naval Board's Report Will Do So When the Final Findings Have Been Formulated and Sent to Washington.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—The President and cabinet are trying to be patient, in the face of the prospect of an almost immediate ending of the uncertainty involving the destruction of the "Maine."

There was not a great deal of interest happening in Washington today, but the suspense is telling on everybody.

President McKinley, however, perturbed he may be inwardly, is certain preserving an outward calm. He doesn't indicate what will be his future course, although the character of questions he asks, in seeking advice, shows that he is contemplating a demand for both punitive and compensatory indemnity of Spain, if the board's report declares that the "Maine" disaster was due to design.

The arrival here of Lieut. Blow and Holden, the watch officers of the "Maine" at the time of the explosion, and Lieut. Catlin, who commanded the marine guard on that unfortunate vessel, is cited as of considerable interest, and their appearances at the Navy Department this morning was followed by the circulation of many interesting and sensational reports, none of which were true, however.

They had a pleasant interview with Secretary Long, and later went to the White House to narrate to the President their experience on the night of the catastrophe, which they did.

All of them stated that the destructive force which wrecked their vessel came from the outside of the battleship, and they are firm in the belief that the Court of Enquiry will support the outside explosion theory.

FIFTY MILLIONS FOR THE NAVY.

Naval Appropriation Bill Completed—Its Chief Features.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—The subcommittee of the House Committee on Naval Affairs this evening completed the draft of the appropriation bill, which the House may take up Tuesday. The bill carries \$40,000,000, and authorizes the ultimate expenditure of \$10,000,000 more.

The more important provisions include the building of three battleships, five dry docks, six torpedo-boats and six torpedo-boat destroyers, and an increase of 20,000 in the enlisted force of the army.

BASEBALL AT CHAPEL HILL.

University Defeats Oak Ridge by the Score of Eight to Two.

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 19.—The University of North Carolina baseball team today defeated the Oak Ridge club here by the score of eight to two. Rogers' home run for the University was the feature of the game. Batteries: University—Lawson and Graves; Oak Ridge, Barker and Brake. Struck out by Lawson, seven; by Barker three. Hits: Carolina, twelve; Oak Ridge, four.

WINSTON'S BIG TOBACCO SALES

Still Another Postponement of Railroad Bond Suit.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Winston, N. C., March 19.—This has been the biggest week in the history of the Winston tobacco market. Over one million pounds of leaf tobacco were sold for nearly one hundred thousand dollars in the last six days.

Judge McVey was too busy to hear the Stoneville railroad bond case at Lexington yesterday. It is to be heard before Judge Starbuck in Winston, the exact date to be yet fixed.

HERE'S ANOTHER EXPLANATION.

Maine Blown Up By "Torpedo Made in Newport"—The Basis for the Statement.

By Cable to The Morning Post. Havana, March 19, via Key West.—A fact which is said to be causing much concern to the Spanish authorities in Havana is that Wrecker Hickman and Diver Olson, working under the instructions of Ensign Powelson, have secured evidence to show that the "Maine" was blown up by a torpedo made in Newport. Your correspondent is certain that the Spanish Board of Enquiry has received information to this effect.

SPAIN PLAYS ANOTHER CARD

And Says it is the Last One of Autonomists for Peace.

TO CONFER WITH INSURGENT CHIEFS

And Make a Proposition Which "Will Practically Insure the Independence of Cuba"—But as it Includes "Nominal Sovereignty," by Spain It is Not Very Likely That the Cuban People Will Fall Over Each Other in an Effort to Accept It—The News Comes From Key West and is Confirmed by a Special From Havana—May Lead to Important Developments—Other "War News"

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. New York, March 19.—A special from Key West says that authoritative advice received there state that Gen. Pandos is to confer with Generals Gomez, Garcia and other insurgent chiefs upon the possibility of ending hostilities on a basis of practical independence for Cuba.

The proposition is said to include nominal sovereignty by Spain, the payment of two million yearly, amnesty to all rebels, and Cuba's commercial independence.

A special from Havana confirms the above, and says that this conference is the last card of the autonomist government to secure peace.

CUBANS CAPTURE PANDO.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Key West, March 19.—Cuban flags flying everywhere in Key West this morning over the report, which is confirmed from Spanish sources, that the Spanish General Pando has been captured by the Cubans under Gen. Garcia in Eastern Cuba.

Pando is the chief of staff under Gen. Blanco.

The despatch was received here from Havana this morning telling of the capture.

It is also said that the insurgents have landed a big force on the Island of Porto Rico, and that a general uprising has taken place there.

THE PROPOSED FEDERAL PRISON

Ex-Congressman Nichols Presents Raleigh's Claims, But Senator Pritchard Thinks We Should Unite on Asheville.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—Ex-Congressman John Nichols, of Raleigh, who arrived here last night, had a long talk with Senator Pritchard today regarding the securing of a permanent prison at Raleigh.

He was referred by the Senator to the Senate Appropriations Committee and he will see the committee on the subject.

Senator Pritchard, however, favors Asheville, and says that he fears that in the diversity of local interests North Carolina might lose the prison.

He has secured a favorable report for the \$100,000 appropriation amendment for a prison at Asheville and he thinks that if an attempt is made to divert this to the purchase of the penitentiary at Raleigh, which seems to be the plan, it will be confusing and Senator Pritchard announces he is opposed to it.

He also says that the climatic conditions at Asheville are more suitable for such a prison than at Raleigh.

DURHAM AND HENDERSON P. MS

Senator Pritchard Endorses Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Garrett Who Will be Appointed.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—Senator Pritchard today practically settled the matter of who will be the new postmasters at Durham and Henderson by endorsing Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Letitia Garrett, respectively. He will recommend these appointments to the President at once, and there is no doubt that they will be made by Mr. McKinley, and probably during the ensuing week.

THE KILLING OF P. M. BAKER.

Coroner's Jury Report and Find That He Came to His Death at the Hands of Unknown Persons.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Columbia, S. C., March 19.—After five weeks of consideration the coroner's jury at Lake City today found that Postmaster Baker and child came to their deaths by gunshot wounds in the hands of persons unknown to the jury. The reward of \$1,500 for each conviction, offered by the government, is said to be the largest of the kind on record, and as the State also offered \$500, it is probable that detectives are holding their evidence until the coroner's jury had disposed of the case.

The reward of \$1,500 for each conviction, offered by the government, is said to be the largest of the kind on record, and as the State also offered \$500, it is probable that detectives are holding their evidence until the coroner's jury had disposed of the case.

Old Confeds Greet the Blue Coated Soldiers

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Staunton, Va., March 19.—Nearly 2,000 former Confederates and others, headed by Stonewall Jackson's favorite brass band, the "Stonewall Brigade Band," greeted Company F, Fourth Artillery, here today, while on the way from Fort Riley to Fort Monroe.

DAILY WASHINGTON BUDGET

North Carolina News From the National Capital.

RALEIGH POSTMASTERSHIP FIGHT

Congressman Stroud Says He Will Take no Part in the Selection of the Appointee, as a Republican is to be Appointed—Senator Pritchard Will Name the Man and He Will Probably be Nichols or Bailey—Mr. Stroud Also Says the Pop. Congressmen, With Exception of Skinner, Favor Fusion With Democrats, and that a Proposition to that Effect Will be Made to the Letter

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—The Raleigh postmastership and the selection of a candidate to be recommended to the President, was a matter which today engaged much of the time and attention of Senator Pritchard, upon whom seems to rest the privilege and responsibility of naming the candidate.

All three of the avowed candidates for the position are here—Nichols, Shaffer and Bailey—and it is probable that a selection will be made and named by the President in a few days.

Congressman Stroud said today that he had not been consulted as to the appointment, and that he had endorsed no candidate, as a Republican would be appointed. Either Nichols or Shaffer or Bailey would be agreeable to him, he added, with the additional comment that Senator Pritchard, he supposed, would name the appointee.

TO PROPOSE DEM.-POP. FUSION.
Congressman Stroud also stated to The Morning Post's representative that a proposition will be made by the Populists looking to Democratic-Populist fusion in the Congressional districts of North Carolina at the next election, in November.

He says that the Populist Congressmen from North Carolina, with the exception of Harry Skinner, all favor Democratic-Populist fusion in the election of Congressmen, this on account of the free silver question, and he had no doubt that a proposition to that effect would be made at the proper time by the proper Populist representatives.

He also added that the Populist conference at Raleigh, as reported in The Post, was eagerly read by the Congressional delegation. Some of the strongest men in the party in the State were present, he said, and the outcome of the consultation and the exchange of views could not be other than beneficial to party cohesion and unity.

During the consideration of the Post-office Appropriation bill in the House today, Mr. Shuford offered an amendment to use \$2,000,000 of the \$4,000,000 appropriated for rent of postal cars to the purchase by the government of the cars. It was ruled out of order.

Congressman Skinner made a vigorous speech in the House today on the section providing for the fast mail service in the South, while the rural districts received so little consideration in postal matters, he contended.

LATER ANENT POSTMASTERSHIP.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—10 p. m.—The Raleigh postoffice fight waged nearly all day this evening in Senator Pritchard's office in the Maltby building. Bailey, Nichols and Shaffer all had their innings, and each brought his papers.

Senator Pritchard went over the papers with each candidate, while the others waited in an ante-room. Bailey and Nichols ran the gauntlet today, but Shaffer did not get through, and he will have additional time accorded him Monday, when Senator Pritchard says he will announce who he will endorse.

EWART CASE RE-OPENED.

Numerous Witnesses Yesterday Summoned to Appear Before Senate Judiciary Committee Next Tuesday.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—The Ewart case has been practically reopened, and numerous witnesses have been summoned to Washington to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee next Tuesday at 2 p. m.

These have been, among others summoned: J. S. Edgerton and Dr. Allen, of Hendersonville; Joseph Lance (colored), Arden; Duff Merrick, Frank Carter, W. P. Pegram, William Aiken, Jno. B. Bostic and A. C. Durham, of Asheville.

Senator Pritchard is preparing a list of witnesses in Judge Ewart's behalf, who will be announced next week. The fight is getting extremely warm.

To Reorganize the Army Line.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Washington, March 19.—The bill providing for the reorganization of the line of the army was again considered by the House committee on military affairs today. Chairman Hull expressed the opinion that the committee would conclude its consideration by Monday, and that the bill would be reported to the House by a unanimous vote.