

The Morning Post.

VOL. 1.

LAST EDITION, 4:00 A. M.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1898.

No. 95

REPORT NOW ON ITS WAY TO WASHINGTON.

Official Despatch From Commander Sicard Received Last Night.

WILL REACH SEC'Y LONG TO-MORROW EVE

Or on Thursday Morning at the Latest and be Considered by the Cabinet on That Day.

PRYING EYES OF REPORTERS OR SPANISH SPY

To be Guarded Against, and Extraordinary Precautions Taken to Guard Against the Premature Divulgence of Any Portion of Its Contents—A Cordon of Ununiformed Guards to Accompany the Bearer of the Paper Not to be Lost Sight of for a Moment—A Cordon of Government Agents Stretching From Key West to Washington Provided for, and They Will Board the Train at Intervals to See That It is Being Safely Conveyed, Etc.

The report to the Morning Post, Washington, March 21.—The official, the one checked for report of the Naval Court of Enquiry, which for a month has been investigating into the cause of the explosion which wrecked the "Maine" will be in the hands of the administration at Washington either Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.

It is known, absolutely. There are no "ifs" or "ands" about it, further than this: The important document was given into the hands of Commander Sicard this evening at Key West, and he has turned it over to the bearer who is bringing it to Washington and deliver it into the hands of Secretary Long. If the bearer leaves Key West in time tonight he will reach Washington Wednesday evening. If he does not catch the Tampa steamers tonight, he will not arrive here until Thursday morning.

At the latest, the document will be in time to be considered by the cabinet at its meeting on Thursday.

There is no doubt that at this hour it is on its way to Washington. The most stringent and impenetrable arrangements have been ordered and perfected to guard against any possibility of its being leaked in advance of its consideration by the President and his cabinet advisers.

This has been done for several reasons, one of which may be mentioned here: The possibility of the many Spanish spies known to be in the country, the Spanish government in this country securing advance information to be transmitted to Madrid, and the possibility of some of the enterprising newspaper competitors in this country.

The report will be carried by a special messenger, and the administration after the consideration of the matter in the Navy Department.

Extraordinary precautions to guard against the possibility of a leak in any form, and the President and his cabinet advisers, have had an opportunity to read the report. Simultaneously with the inception of this important communication the despatch will be furnished an armed escort, and accompany him from Key West to the Florida coast until the report is delivered to the Secretary of the Navy.

The report will not be in uniform, but will carry rifles, but they will be concealed beneath their civilian attire, and will be given an account of the report should an emergency arise. Extraordinary precautions will be taken to guard against any possibility in the movements of the report's bearer and his escort, persons unacquainted with the report will appear as ordinary citizens. Even the train upon which the party will start will be guarded by soldiers, and they are ready to go to the journey to Washington. The report will be delivered every few hours, and the precious package will be under the sight of human eyes for the entire journey.

A cordon of government agents extending from Washington to Key West since Saturday, and their duty to board the train and accompany the despatch bearer with the report at certain stations designated in the instructions given these agents of

the investigation has been the main cause of the delay in the transmission of the court's report to the government at Washington, and that the outside explosion "theory" has long ceased to be a theory with the court, the evidence adduced having been sufficient to prove that to have been the fact some time ago.

THE REPORT STARTED.

Judge Advocate Marix, of the Court of Enquiry, Delivers a Package of Papers to the Admiral, Which Evidently Contains the Court's Report to the Secretary of the Navy.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Key West, Fla., March 21.—Judge Advocate Marix, of the Naval Court of Enquiry, came ashore this afternoon with an armed orderly behind him, and a large package of legal papers in his hand. The Admiral was then notified of the presence of the Judge Advocate, and the two officers at once went to the writing-room of the hotel Key West, and there, while an orderly stood guard at the door, the package was delivered to the Admiral.

Judge Advocate Marix declined to state whether or not the package contained the much-looked-for report.

He said, however, that the report had not previously been forwarded to Washington.

The orderly is authority for the statement that the package contained the report, but that he did not, of course, know what its contents were.

Two points of the report will be the entire exoneration of Captain Sigbee and the "Maine's" crew from any blame in the matter of the destruction of that vessel, and no Spanish officer, of any rank whatever, will be charged with complicity in causing the explosion.

LATEST—SICARD TELEGRAPHS

That Report Has Been Placed in His Hands and Would Be Sent to Washington—Cannot Reach There Before Wednesday, However.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 21.—Midnight.—Admiral Sicard has telegraphed from Key West to Secretary Long that the record of proceedings and findings of the Court of Enquiry has been formally placed in his hands and that he will forward it to the Navy Department.

This despatch makes it certain that the report will not be delivered to Secretary Long before Wednesday evening of Thursday morning, so those officially interested state tonight.

It is understood in official circles that Judge Advocate Marix will leave Key West tonight, or tomorrow morning, for Washington with the report.

If he should catch tonight's steamer to Tampa, he will be able to deliver the report to Secretary Long by Wednesday evening, but he may arrive here at such a late hour that the formal delivery of the document may not be made until Thursday morning.

Officials familiar with every move in the "Maine" affair continue to assert that the President and Secretary Long do not yet know what the official conclusion of the Court of Enquiry will be. Late this afternoon the cabinet officers were told as much when they inquired whether the official findings were known to the President.

There is no doubt, however, that President McKinley and Secretary Long understand that the court will sustain the general understanding that the explosion was external, and that preparations to meet the issue involved in such a verdict have been in progress for some days.

It is significant that preparations to put the country on a war footing have been redoubled.

All artillery batteries are being assigned to the new fortifications on the Atlantic coast and the Gulf, and arrangements were completed today for a quick concentration of the infantry and cavalry at Atlantic coast cities.

The army is now ready to move forward within two hours after the order is given.

It is understood that these orders will not be delayed much longer.

In the Navy Department the tightening of the cordon around Cuba is going on.

Today the cruiser "Cincinnati" and the gunboats "Wilmington" and "Castine" reached Port Antonio, Jamaica, the nearest point to the southeastern end of the island. They are under orders to take the station at Port Antonio, where they will be in a position to shut off the supplies for Spanish forces which may be sent to the ports on the Southern coast.

The battleships "Texas" and "Massachusetts" have sailed for Hampton Roads, from Key West, to join the fleet of cruisers forming there for the second fleet.

The cruiser "San Francisco" will sail from England this week, with the "Amazonas," while all the available monitors will be sent to Port Royal and Key West.

The government has purchased torpedo boats abroad today, but where and who from is a carefully guarded Department secret at present.

The report of the board makes a pile of typewritten foolscap copy six inches thick. After Admiral Sicard inspected it he returned it to Capt. Marix, who at once went aboard the cruiser "Nashville." She will leave for Tampa late tonight and the report will be in the President's hands, if no accident causes delay, by Thursday.

HUMAN BEINGS IN THE AIR

They Come Hurling From the Top Story of a Hotel.

SHOWER OF HUMAN BODIES AT BUTTE

Montana Miners Driven From Their Beds by Flames of Fire in Their Desperation Spring From the Hotel Windows and Are Mangled and Crushed on the Stone Pavements Below Fifteen Others Buried in the Ruins—A Horrible Story of Loss of Life in a Death Trap at Butte, Montana.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Butte, Mont., March 21.—Fire suddenly burst forth without warning early this morning from the ground floor of the Hale House, a flimsy three-story wooden structure on Broadway. The hotel was owned by a mining company and occupied by fully four hundred miners and a few women, mostly servants.

The alarm was quickly given, but the flames spread so quickly that many were caught by them and burned to death.

When the firemen and police arrived several men had already jumped from the third floor windows and been crushed on the frozen street below.

Ladders were secured and put up to some of the windows of the second story and many were rescued in that way, but there were not enough ladders to go around and every few minutes the body of a miner, who was unable to stand the heat any longer, would come hurling through the air and strike with a resounding thud on the ground.

Four of these were picked up, unconscious and bleeding, and hurried to the hospital.

There was a crush on the stairways to get to the street, and many were badly hurt in the mad rush down the stairway, as they came pouring out, shouting and fighting for freedom.

Few of the lodgers were dressed, except in their night clothes.

The exact number in the hotel is not known, as the register was burned, but the police believe there is at least fifteen bodies in the ruins.

The cause of the fire is not known. Of those in the hospital all are likely to recover, except John Dugan, whose head was crushed in by his jump from a third-story window.

Following is a partial list of injured: John L. Carter, burned about the head and neck, not seriously injured; Mike Judge, who worked in the Anaconda mine, right arm broken, jumped from third-story; Neal Gallagher, back sprained, jumping from second floor; Tim Ryan, miner, leg broken, fell from fire escape; Hugh Boyle, left leg broken; Patrick Gilligan, badly burned about body and hands. This list is only a partial one, as many of the injured were carried away and cared for by friends.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM

Has Not Definitely Decided Upon His Course, But Will Submit the Report to Congress With a Message.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 21.—Speaker Reed, Congressman Hitt, and Senator Hale, chairmen respectively of the House and Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, and Senator Davis, of the same committee, had a long conference with the President today and it was arranged that when the Board of Enquiry's report is submitted to Congress it shall be referred to the Foreign Relations Committee of each house.

It is stated positively that the President has not yet definitely made up his mind what course he will pursue, though he will probably submit the whole matter to Congress, with a message of some sort.

His mouth-piece in Congress, Gen. Grosvenor, of Ohio, said today that this would be his program.

He did not think the report would go to Congress before the end of the week, as it would take a day or two to prepare the message after the report was received.

SUBMARINE TORPEDO DEVIL.

It Was Given Another Trial Yesterday and Worked Perfectly—Ran 300 Yards Under 13 Feet of Water.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

New York, March 21.—The Holland submarine torpedo boat was given another test in Staten Island Sound this afternoon. It was submerged to a depth of 13 feet, with her flagstaffs only sticking out of the water to indicate her course.

The cruiser craft ran 300 yards. This was the greatest depth she has sought in any of her trials so far.

Inventor Holland and four others went down with her today. The vessel worked perfectly.

The day was dark and gloomy, and owing to the failure of her electric lighting apparatus she ran aground when she appeared on the surface, but a tug easily pulled her off.

The next test will be made on Friday next, and in deeper water of the bay, when the torpedo tubes, as well as the diving apparatus, will be tested.

WILL RECOGNIZE CUBA.

Positively Asserted in Washington That President Has Decided to Recognize Cuban Independence—Plan Outlined to Cabinet and Endorsed.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 21.—It is positively declared, on high authority here tonight that the President has determined to recognize the independence of Cuba. The only question is as to the time set for such recognition. This will be determined upon as the situation develops.

The President will cable the findings of the Board of Enquiry to Minister Woodford, at Madrid, with instructions to ask the Sagasta ministry "what they propose to do about it."

If Spain suggests an international court of arbitration, the President will be strongly inclined to accept that proposition.

In the mean time the report will remain with the Foreign Relations committees of the two houses of Congress.

The President knows American people would not brook the long delay that would surely follow a submission of the case to an international court, hence his determination to recognize the belligerency of the Cubans.

Spain, it is believed, would immediately declare war, or commit some act that would compel the United States to declare war against Spain, and then we would seize Cuba.

The President submitted this plan at the conference at the White House today, and it was almost unanimously endorsed and applauded.

Unless Spain decided to voluntarily relinquish Cuba, which is now considered not at all probable, she will have to fight.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

Bill for Relief Maine Victims' Families—A String to Hawaiian Annexation Resolution.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 21.—The House today, without even the formality of division, passed a bill for the relief of the sufferers from the disaster to the battleship "Maine."

The discussion of the bill mainly related to the matter of precedent in the payment of losses to families of victims in the Samoan disaster in 1889. An eloquent tribute to the courage and fidelity of the crew of the "Maine" was paid by Mr. Cousins, of Iowa.

Messrs. Cannon and Bailey endeavored to secure changes in the bill, but failed, none but the committee amendments being accepted.

The report in the contested election case of Wise vs. Young, in the Second Virginia district, in favor of Wise, was presented, but action went over.

Washington, March 21.—In the Senate today, Mr. Bacon (of Georgia) gave notice of an amendment to the joint resolution for the annexation of Hawaii, which provides that the joint resolution shall not become operative until it has been consented to by a majority of the inhabitants at a general election.

A resolution was agreed to calling for information as to the number of widows and daughters of revolutionary soldiers now drawing pensions; also the number of survivors of the war of 1812, the Mexican and civil wars, and of the number of ex-soldiers and widows drawing pensions.

It was announced that next Thursday Senator Thurston who recently returned from a trip to Cuba, will address the Senate on the situation there as he observed it.

RACE WAR IN KANSAS.

Whites Murder a Negro and His White Wife and Negroes Revenge Themselves by Hanging One of the Mob—They Are Looking for the Others.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Wichita, Kas., March 21.—A race war has broken out at Wybark, I. T. Ed Chalmers, a negro, recently married a white woman named Alice Headley, at Waterloo, Kan. On account of public sentiment they moved to Wybark, a small negro settlement near Muskogee.

On the night Chalmers and wife arrived at Wybark a mob broke into their house and shot and killed them both. Chalmers returned the fire and slain one of the mob before he was slain.

This morning the body of a white man named Stanley Matthews, who was in the mob, was found at Gibson station so badly mangled that his features were hardly recognizable. Negroes threaten further revenge on the whites for the killing of Chalmers and wife.

Moonshiners Murder an "Informer."

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Sylacauga, Ala., March 21.—W. O. Thompson, a white farmer living near here, was found murdered today in the woods three miles from his home. A dozen slugs were found in his body.

He had testified against illicit distillers, and had in his pockets a number of subpoenas for them to appear in court in a few days and testify against moonshiners.

The murderers removed these from his pockets and placed them upon his breast, holding them in position with a stone, with the written intimation for informers to beware hereafter.

GOV. RUSSELL IS SUSTAINED

By the U. S. Supreme Court in R. R. Commission Matter.

STATE UPHELD IN FERTILIZER TAX

Caldwell and Pearson Hold on to the Office of Railroad Commissioners—Court of Last Resort Decides That no Federal Question is Involved and That Therefore It Has no Jurisdiction in the Case—Case of Patapsco Guano Co. Against Board Agriculture Also Dismissed Which Leaves Latter Free to Inspect and Levy Tax, Etc.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, March 21.—The Supreme Court of the United States today handed down its decision in the North Carolina Railroad Commission case. Justice Peckham delivering the opinion of the court, wherein J. W. Wilson and S. Otho Wilson sought reinstatement to the position of railroad commissioner from which office they were "suspended" by Governor Russell.

The court takes the position that it has no jurisdiction in the premises, no Federal question being involved. The question which the plaintiffs Wilson sought to have passed upon by this court was whether, by their alleged arbitrary removal from office by the Governor, they had been deprived of any rights guaranteed them by the Constitution of the United States. The court says they have not, and that being the case this court was without jurisdiction in the matter.

The contempt feature of that case against Caldwell and Pearson for proceeding to act as commissioners under the decision of the State court while an appeal was pending the Supreme Court of the United States, was also passed upon by Judge Peckham, who after reviewing that aspect of the case dismissed it, the court holding that Caldwell, et al, were ignorant of the fact that the court had taken cognizance of the contempt proceedings.

The effect of the court's action is a decision, by negation, that the Governor has the power to remove a railroad commissioner under the act of 1891, creating the commission, and so confirming the appointment of Caldwell and Pearson.

PATAPSCO GUANO CASE.

The Supreme Court has also decided the Patapsco Guano Company against the Board of Agriculture of North Carolina, holding that the court has no jurisdiction in this case, either, and dismissing the rule to show cause for contempt, etc. This leaves the State Board of Agriculture where the State Supreme Court has held it was, viz., in possession of power to enforce the inspection of fertilizers and fertilizing materials and charge for such service.

THE RALEIGH POSTMASTERSHIP.

Senator Pritchard Will Probably Endorse Bailey to the President for Appointment to the Position.

Special Despatch to The Morning Post.

Washington, D. C., March 21.—Senator Pritchard has concluded his audience with Shaffer, Bailey and Nichols, in reference to the Raleigh postmastership, and it is understood here today that he will endorse the candidacy of C. Thomas Bailey. Nichols was not a candidate, except in the event of Shaffer's withdrawal. The latter has not yet withdrawn, and today he had a hearing before the Postmaster General, as did also Bailey.

It is stated that Pritchard will recommend Bailey to the President tomorrow.

SPAIN MEANS TO FIGHT.

Will Not Surrender Cuba Otherwise, and Warlike Preparations Are Going on More Actively Than Ever.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, March 21.—Despite the admitted conviction of all, except bluffers, that war with the United States would eventually result in the loss, not only of Cuba but of Porto Rico and the Philippines, there is no wavering in the determination to fight rather than to sell or surrender Cuba.

Warlike preparations are now being pushed most vigorously. Transports leave almost weekly, conveying troops and munitions of war to Cuba. The arsenals at Ferrol, Cartagena and Cadix are working night and day. The conscription enlistments are actively going on.

Senor Moret, Minister of Colonies, shows no sign of abandoning his enthusiastic faith in autonomy as a means of restoring peace in Cuba, and he equally does not abandon the hope that the United States will postpone any action until autonomy has had what he regards as a "fair trial."

The supporters of Moret contend that Spain has yielded to every demand made by the United States so far, thereby acknowledging the justness of demands, and that there are no more discredited men in Spain than General Weyler and Senores De Lome and Robledo.