

NEWS OF THE WEEK

From all Parts of the New and Old World.

BRIEF AND INTERESTING ITEMS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Current Week.

General elections for the Ontario legislature took place throughout the province the early part of the week and resulted in a virtual defeat for the liberal government, which has held power for more than 25 years.

It is said in London that the Bank of France has advanced the price of gold, with a view of preventing further export of silver. The market is weak, on rumors that the Indian import duty on silver will be raised.

A special from Port Angeles, Wash., says: Charles Hendricks was shot and killed from ambush by Fred Edwards, who then committed suicide. The men were neighbors and quarreled over a trivial affair a few days ago.

The monthly treasury statement of the public debt shows that the debt, less cash in the treasury, at the close of business February 28, amounted to \$1,010,104,816, a decrease for the month of \$1,697,122. This decrease is accounted for by a corresponding increase in cash.

At a mass meeting held in Springfield, O., to raise funds for a monument to the victims of the Maine, Governor Bushnell, in a letter pledging \$10, said that if it were proved that Spanish treachery destroyed the Maine, he was in favor of building the monument on the ruins of Morro castle.

It now seems certain that the steamer Corona, which went ashore on Lewis Island, January 25, while on her way to Dyea and Skagway, will be saved. Captain Minar C. Goodall reports that under unfavorable weather conditions he will be able to float the vessel and have her on her way south very shortly.

According to a late issue of the Skagway News, the ill-fated Clara Nevada carried down to death 65 human beings on her fatal voyage. Among the passengers were several members of the O'Brien party on their way back from the upper Yukon gold fields, and carrying with them their joint fortunes, variously estimated at from \$90,000 to \$150,000.

Representative Bell, of Colorado, has introduced a bill in the house providing that no person interested in an association which issues government money shall be eligible to the office of secretary of the treasury. The ineligibility is not to be remedied by disposing of the interest in the association or bank for the purpose of taking the office of secretary.

In the United States supreme court an opinion was handed down in a case involving the constitutionality of the territorial law fixing a day's work in smelters and mines in the territory at eight hours. The court held that the law was an exercise of the state's police powers. The decision of the supreme court of Utah was affirmed.

The navy department has just completed the allotment among the states of the appropriation of \$50,000 made for the assistance of the naval militia organizations. The allotments are smaller this year than heretofore, owing to the fact that while the organization are increasing in number, hence the effort now being made to secure from congress an increase of \$60,000.

Senator Wilson, of Washington, says that the amendment of Representative Ellis, which has been proposed to his bill to settle the land claims and contests with the Northern Pacific, will result in defeating all legislation relative to the matter. Neither bill can go through, he declares, if they are to be amended. The senator hopes to get his provision made a part of the sundry civil bill.

According to a report placed before President McKinley there are now available for military duty in the United States 10,078,716 able-bodied men, and of these 113,083 are already in the militia, forming the nucleus of a tremendous fighting force. This is without considering the skeleton United States army, which could on short notice recruit up to 100,000 men.

Senator McBride of Oregon, has reported from the committee on commerce his amendment to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, providing for a consulate at Vladivostok, with a salary of \$2,500, and also for a consulate at Rosalind, B. C., at a salary of \$2,000. These amendments Senator McBride intends to urge before the senate when the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill is considered.

It can be stated positively no river and harbor bill will be reported at this session of congress. The house leaders are opposed to more river and harbor bills, and the friends of the bill on the committee believe it will be better to wait until the short session after the congressional elections next fall, when a complete and comprehensive bill can be reported, rather than attempt to pass an inadequate bill at this session.

Annie L. Edwards, of Jamestown, Pa., was found murdered in her bedroom Monday night. Her head was beaten against a jelly and the room bore evidence of a terrible struggle. There is no clue to the murderers.

Empress William has arrived at Wilhelmshaven to attend the ceremony of swearing in the naval recruits. Referring to the bars of the German flag, he said that black represented war, white rest and peace, and red blood, each of which was necessary to cement the others together.

A DUEL WITH SWORDS.

Cavalotti, the Italian Poet and Statesman, Killed.

Rome, March 8.—Signor Felice Carlo Cavalotti, the poet, dramatist, publisher and well-known radical member of the chamber of deputies for Cortona, was killed here this afternoon in a duel with swords with Signor Macola, member of deputies and editor of the Gazzetta di Venezia. The encounter was the outcome of a press polemic in the columns of the Milan Secolo at an unfrequented spot outside the Porta Magora. Signor Macola's second were Deputato Signor Guido Fusiato, a professor at the university of Turin and member of the parliament, and Signor Bizzoni, the publisher, and Signor Tassi, member of the chamber of deputies.

Shortly before the meeting, Signor Cavalotti seemed in excellent spirits, and even joked with his seconds. When the word was given, he attacked his opponent vigorously. The first two engagements were without result, but in the third, Signor Cavalotti received a thrust in the throat that severed his jugular vein.

At first, it was thought he was only slightly injured, but the gravity of the wound was soon perceived on his putting his hand to his mouth. He withdrew it covered with blood and could not utter a word. The doctors and his seconds carried him to Zellino, and laid him in a bed in the residence of the Countess Celiro. There, tracheotomy was performed, but all efforts were useless. Signor Cavalotti expired in 10 minutes, without speaking again.

The news, on reaching the city, caused a great sensation. Numerous deputies and friends hurried to the scene, and there is universal regret over the death of Cavalotti.

CUSTOMS INSPECTORS.

Mounted Patrol for the Northern Part of Washington.

Port Townsend, Wash., March 8.—A feature heretofore unknown in the Puget sound customs district has been inaugurated. It consists of mounted inspectors, and the first man appointed to a position on horseback is Enoch F. Plummer, of this place. Collector Hennessy was recently authorized by the treasury department to establish a mounted inspectors' patrol on the boundary between Eastern Washington and British Columbia, with headquarters at Northport. A mounted inspector is allowed a salary of \$8.50 per day, with 50 cents extra per day for horse hire, and is expected to cover the boundary line for a distance of from 25 to 40 miles as often as possible.

FIERCE STREET BATTLE.

Texarkana, Ark., March 8.—A fierce street battle occurred here this afternoon in which one man was killed outright, another mortally wounded and a third seriously injured. Vinson Graviani is mortally wounded, shot through the breast, shoulder, arm and leg. Pete Darrigo is seriously wounded. The participants were barbers. S. A. Gindola and his son-in-law, Mike Cannella, were about to come to blows, when the Graviani boys and Darrigo attempted to intercede. Gindola and Cannella turned upon the Gravianis and both sides drawing revolvers, the battle was soon in progress. More than 30 shots were fired. Gindola and Cannella fled.

THE CORONA FLOATED.

Seattle, March 8.—The steam schooner Lakmo, which arrived this afternoon from Alaska, brings the news that the steamer Corona, which went on a rock at Lewis Island, was floated last Thursday evening. The Corona is considerably injured, the worst place being under the forward hatch, where she first struck the rock. At this point, her keel is turned over 30 feet. This can be temporarily fixed from the inside. After entering and clearing at Victoria, the Corona will be brought to Port Townsend, where her cargo will be unloaded. Captain Goodall then expects to take her to San Francisco without going into a drydock.

CRUISE OF AN EIGHT-TONNER.

Port Townsend, March 8.—The eight-ton schooner Anna Catharina put into this place last night en route from San Francisco to Alaska. When the schooner left the Golden Gate, nearly three months ago, she carried five persons, four men and one woman. On the way up the coast the little craft came near being wrecked, and was forced to put into Tillamook, where the woman deserted and returned to San Francisco. Fresh supplies were taken on her today, and the schooner headed for the north.

MOUNTING GUNS AT POINT LOMA.

San Diego, Cal., March 8.—Lieutenant Humphreys, commanding battery D, third artillery, stationed at this place, has received orders to send his company of artillery at once to Point Loma to mount the three 10-inch rifles recently delivered there by the United States government for the defense of this harbor.

RUSSIA TAKES A SILENCE.

London, March 8.—The Peking correspondent of the Times says: "Russia has demanded that China surrender to her all sovereignty over Port Arthur and Tientsin for the same period and on the same conditions as given Germany at Kiau Chou."

ONE ENGLISHMAN'S OPINION.

London, March 8.—The Daily Mail, discussing the "probability that the United States may goad Spain into declaring war as a late desperate move," says: "In America's unprepared condition Spain could inflict appalling damage. Neither could conquer the other, and the utmost America could gain would be the equivocal triumph of securing Cuban independence. If Spain takes the first step, America will have herself to thank."

ASKED LEE'S RECALL.

Government Refused to Comply With Spain's Request.

THE CUBAN RELIEF EXPEDITION

Spain's Desire That the Warships Be Replaced by Merchant Vessels Also Refused.

Madrid, March 8.—Senior Gullon, Spanish minister of foreign affairs, recently intimated to United States Minister Woodford that the Spanish government desired the recall of Consul-General Lee, and that the American warships which have been designated to carry supplies to the relief of the sufferers in Cuba should be replaced by merchant vessels, in order to deprive the assistance given to the reconcentrados of an official character.

Minister Woodford cabled the request to Washington, which replied refusing to recall General Lee in the present circumstances or to countermand the order of the dispatch of the war vessels, making the representation that the war vessels are not fighting ships.

Said Spain the Mines.

London, March 8.—According to the statement of a man whose cards describe him as an electrical engineer, whose name cannot be disclosed, but which has been forwarded to Washington, he said to Spanish officers in London several years ago a large number of mines, eight or ten of which were placed in Havana harbor. He says they were made in a special way, and had a specially and peculiarly constructed cable, which he contends he can positively identify, if the smallest piece is produced. Some of the mines, the man continues, were fixed so they could be fired from a fort, and two of them had bulbs arranged so that they would explode when a vessel came in contact with them. But the alleged electrical engineer adds that he does not believe that the bulbs would be used in water as shallow as that of Havana harbor. He exhibited the plans of one of these mines, which, he pointed out, was the most likely to produce the effect described in the wreck of the Maine. It was numbered "A," and was constructed to contain 500 pounds of gun cotton.

This is the story told by the man, who gives one the impression that he has been sergeant of engineers or has held some similar position. He was apparently thoroughly posted upon electrical matters and submarine mines. The man is an Englishman, and he says he is willing to go to the United States as a witness.

TAKING OF HAVANA.

Cuban City Would Be Easy Prey for Americans.

Havana, March 8.—As the conviction becomes settled that the court of inquiry will decide that there was a mine explosion under the Maine, discussion among American naval officers and civilians here is prevalent as to the warlike measures which it is believed the United States government will adopt in case the question of payment of indemnity by Spain is overruled. A majority believe that American troops will be landed at some port east of Havana and the insurgents communicated with; that the Spanish soldiers will be defeated or captured in detail and that, in the meantime, a fleet of United States vessels will blockade, if not bombard, Havana harbor.

No one seems to doubt that the reduction of this city would be comparatively easy. Four 12 inch guns, two west and two east of the city, are the only ones that are considered dangerous. They are not likely to be well served, while their emplacements are not modern.

That some Spaniards are of the opinion that an attack on Havana will be made is believed to be shown by the abnormal activity displayed on board the Vizcaya. The press correspondent has the best naval authority for the statement that the Vizcaya is in a constant state of readiness for emergencies, and that picket boats are on the alert day and night inside the harbor and outside the harbor at night. It is pointed out that the men-of-war Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo might be caught in a blockade and fall an easy prey to a United States fleet. The cruiser Alfonso XIII is without boilers and would be of no account. All this discussion of the probability of war among Americans and Spaniards proves nothing, and only shows the state of feeling here.

Now that the Almirante Oquendo and the Vizcaya are lying in the harbor, the Spaniards excitedly declare that their city is safe, and it is given out officially in the papers that the new arrival is of the same size, as to armament and complement, as the Vizcaya.

The conduct of the Spanish divers who are investigating the wreck of the Maine is a mystery. Thus far they have not been down five hours in the aggregate, and they show no disposition to make a thorough inquiry. It is impossible to learn the truth fully regarding the purpose of the Spanish court of inquiry, but it is generally believed that the divers went down for form's sake only and that their report will be made in accordance with instructions from Madrid. It may be that the Spanish divers have discovered that the whole port side of the Maine forward is gone, and, having so reported, further examination is deemed unnecessary.

The work of our own divers heretofore has been to slow down, owing to the ponderous weights to be moved and the safety clamps, nuts and rivets that must be cut.

BUILD THE CANAL.

Object of a Newly Formed Syndicate of Eastern Capitalists.

Chicago, March 7.—The Tribune says: A syndicate to take the concessions granted the Maritime Company by the republics of Nicaragua and Costa Rica for the construction of the canal is in process of organization by E. F. Cramin, of this city, who is now in New York negotiating the contracts by which the new owners of the concessions granted by the Central American republics and for the work already accomplished will come into his possession. T. E. Cooley, who has been associated with Mr. Cramin in the enterprise, is also in New York, gathering material for the specifications, which will be within the next 10 days presented to contractors for bids on the different sections of the work.

The new syndicate for the construction of the Nicaragua canal will soon know within a few million dollars just how much it is going to cost, finished and ready for the passage of the first ship. A rough estimate from the data at hand on the return of Mr. Cramin and Mr. Cooley from their trip over the canal a few weeks ago, placed the cost within \$75,000,000. Mr. Cooley was of the opinion that as further data was collected regarding the nature of the excavation over a part of the route, the cost might be cut down to \$65,000,000. This is far inside the estimates which have been presented to congress in the appeals of the Maritime Company for government aid.

The preparation of the specifications of the contractors has been as thorough as the data in existence permitted. Mr. Cooley secured all the material collected by the engineers for the Maritime Company. He then took the reports of the commission from the United States engineer corps and to these he added all the material to be had during his thorough inspection of the canal at the capital of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Immediately upon his return from his trip of inspection a force of engineers was set to work under his direction, bringing into form this mass of material. Just prior to his departure from New York, he intimated that the specifications were so nearly completed that in a short time they would go into the hands of the contractors for bids. Bonds will be required with all bids, and when the figures have been added, for the first time in all the years that men have been trying to join the Atlantic and Pacific by ship canals it will be known somewhere near the actual figures just how much the work is going to cost.

"The Nicaragua canal," he said, "is being treated as a business proposition. Our people want to know where the thing is going when they begin putting in their money. We are going to tell them. There is no great mystery in canal-building that it should not be determined approximately what a canal is going to cost, if engineers are honest enough to estimate properly the work before them. The construction of the Illinois drainage canal has educated the contractors who did that work, and they know just what to expect on the Nicaragua canal. Their representatives have been over the ground, they have studied climatic conditions, learned what their labor would cost, can estimate closely the cost of transportation to the canal of their machinery and material. With the specifications in their hands they can bid as intelligently as if the work was in an American state."

The terms by which the control of the property and concessions of the Maritime Company has come into the hands of the new syndicate are not given out. Their arrangement was for the work of several months before the trip to Nicaragua was made.

Who are back of the syndicate is not given out by the promoters, but it is claimed that the contractors have been satisfied of its financial stability. How much government aid and in what shape will be asked are also matters which neither Mr. Cramin nor Mr. Cooley gives out for publication at the present juncture. Mr. Cramin and Mr. Cooley are expected to remain in New York about a week longer in the settlement of the transfer of the canal from the Maritime Company to the new syndicate.

ALASKA BILL PASSED.

Concessions Given Canada in Lieu of Certain Privileges.

Washington, March 7.—After a debate lasting several days, the senate late this afternoon passed the bill extending the homestead laws and providing for right of way for railroads in the district of Alaska. Comparatively little discussion of general interest was created by the bill. Section 13, providing for certain bonding concessions to Canada, in lieu of privileges to be extended by the Dominion government to this country, however, induced a rather lively debate, as it brought into the controversy the old fisheries question on the New England coast, which has been pending between the United States and Great Britain for 100 years. The statement was made on the floor of the senate that there was every reason to believe that by the passage of the bill the fisheries question could be settled without great effort, as assurances to that effect had been received from a large and influential element in Canada.

In the House.

Two more appropriation bills were sent to the president today, the pension bill and the consular and diplomatic bill, both of which went through their final stages in the house today. This was private bill day. The most important action taken was acquiescence in an agreement to make the bill appropriating about \$1,300,000 for war claims, approved by the court of claims, under the provisions of the Bowman act, a special order for next Friday.

ON AMERICAN SOIL

Canadians Raise British Flag on Summit of White Pass.

SLOWLY REACHING FOR COAST

Payment of Duty to Canadians at That Point Will Be Reinstated—No Martial Law at Skagway.

Seattle, March 7.—Five steamers arrived from Alaska today—the Utopia, Hueneme, Del Norte, Protection and Queen. The Queen left Skagway last Sunday. E. R. Knapp, of Boston, who came down on the Queen, authorized the statement that the Canadian authorities raised the British flag on the summit of White pass on Saturday, February 26. This has heretofore been considered American territory. Mr. Knapp's authority for the statement is the foreman of the Humbert Transportation Company's pack train. He reported the affair to Mr. Knapp, who is connected with the company, just before the latter left Skagway.

In reference to the report that martial law had been proclaimed at Skagway, Mr. Knapp said that when he left last Sunday no such action had been taken; neither was it anticipated. Mr. Knapp also said that the reports of deaths at Dyea, Skagway and on the trails had been very much exaggerated. He had made a personal examination, and ascertained that since November 1 there had been 19 deaths at Skagway, and 18 at Dyea. This is not at all large, considering the population of the two places.

The report that two men from Dawson had perished on White pass, with a large amount of gold dust on them, is said by Mr. Knapp to have no foundation.

The rivalry between the towns of Skagway and Dyea is characterized by Mr. Knapp as being "a white heat," and is the reason, he thinks, that so many exaggerated stories of death and hardship are sent out. Each town is doing all it can to throw discredit on the other.

It is feared that serious trouble will grow out of the Canadians' attempt to collect duty on the summit of White and Chilkoot passes, and the Americans will resist the payment of duties on what they consider American ground. Another complication will result from the various tramways which are being constructed to carry freight over the passes. The officials of these tramways are reported to have declared that any interruption with their construction work or any attempt to exercise any right of ownership will be resisted. It is thought at Dyea and Skagway that the next movement on the part of the Canadian authorities will be to claim sovereignty over those two places. Last Sunday the boundary line was at Lake Bennett, then at Lindemann, and now is at the summit of the mountains, which is only about 20 miles from salt water.

Two days before the Queen left Skagway, the wind, which had blown from the north continuously for seven weeks, shifted and began to blow from the southwest, causing a general thaw to set in. The changed weather caused hundreds of people who had been detained by the severe cold to start over the trails from both Skagway and Dyea, and when the steamer left, a general exodus from both towns was taking place. Both trails are reported in excellent condition.

Portland Man's Opinion.

Portland, Or., March 7.—Northwest territory officials have taken the initiative in the contest for possession of Summit lake, by raising the Canadian flag on its shores. This lake, according to Dr. Horace R. Littlefield, one of the best posted men regarding Alaskan affairs on the coast, is situated, as its name implies, at the summit of White pass, about 16 miles from Skagway. Both the United States and Canada claim it, and the dispute regarding it has engendered bitter feelings between Americans and Canadians in Alaska, which have rapidly increased in intensity of late. The American claim to the lake is generally considered to be quite as well founded as that of Canada, and the action of the Dominion officials is premature, if not wholly unjustified.

Suffering Is Terrible.

Portland, Or., March 7.—Following is an extract from a letter dated February 21, from Rev. W. W. Warner, at Fairbanks mission, Chilkat, Alaska, received by William Wadhams yesterday: "Winter set in four or five days ago and now we are experiencing all the rigors of some of the newcomers is terrible. The Perry Humbert expedition, stationed here, is going to lose 180 head of horses and oxen in a day or two more if they cannot get feed. I have loaned them all I had; now we are all out, except a few sacks of grain I kept for myself. "There is not a bale of hay to be had in the country, and all of the grain is gone. Mr. Smith is now feeding 1,000 sacks of flour to try and tide over the storm. They have a little rice they will feed next. They cannot keep the poor animals either tied or blanketed, as they chew everything up."

"There have been several cases of freezing before this on the passes, and I expect when the storm is over and time elapses for people to get out and back, there will be a good many dead bodies brought in. So far as I have learned, no bodies have been recovered yet from the ill-fated Clara Nevada. Winter is a terrible thing up here. I don't see what passes people to come. My heart aches for their foolishness. They should at least wait until spring, when the trails are open and the weather not so severe."

CABINET IS ANXIOUS.

Wants to Know When the Report May Be Expected.

Washington, March 7.—It was developed this afternoon, through telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Long and Admiral Sicaud, that the court of inquiry is unable to fix even an approximate date for the conclusion of its investigation into the disaster to the Maine. Sharing in the general anxiety for information, Secretary Long today, at the instance of the cabinet, telegraphed Admiral Sicaud asking when it was probable that the report of the court would be made, and late tonight the following was received:

"Secretary of the Navy—I have talked with the president of the court of inquiry and agree with him that it is not yet possible to fix a date for the finding, as so much depends upon the progress of the divers and wreckers, and the results they obtain. Every effort is being made to advance the inquiry. The court intends to return to Havana this evening, having finished the investigation at Key West."

SICARD."

Admiral Sicaud's message is regarded as disposing of the reports that the court has obtained positive or conclusive information bearing on the subject of its investigation. It is taken to mean that upon the testimony or discoveries of the divers will depend the finding, the examination of the officers and crew having been insufficient to enable the court to even form an idea as to what lines may be opened up on the investigation of the wreck itself.

While the telegram was naturally somewhat of a disappointment, in leaving the termination of the inquiry as much in doubt as ever, it was welcomed as practically setting at rest the reports as to the results of the investigation up to date. It is stated that the board, in all probability, will not return to Key West, the department having intimated that it was its desire that the examination of the officers and men should be concluded at this sitting, as they are needed for reassignment to other ships.

THE SOUND'S DEFENSES.

Contractors Are Offered Bounties to Expedite the Work.

Port Townsend, Wash., March 7.—It is reported here today that both firms of contractors, now constructing fortifications for the government at Marrowstone point and Admiralty head, have been offered bounties to expedite the work. An additional gun pit, not previously provided on the estimates for this year's work on Admiralty head, at the entrance of the straits opposite this city, will be commenced in a short time. The pit will be about 50 feet square, sufficient to accommodate guns and the machinery for operating them. In addition to the pit proper, there will be underground rooms for storing ammunition.

The work of securing title to land to be used for the government fortifications at Point Wilson is being pushed as rapidly as possible, and the work of construction will be under way there early in the coming summer.

Spain Bought Two Cruisers.

London, March 7.—Spain has purchased two cruisers which the Armstrongs have been building for Brazil, the Amazonas and her sister ship, unnamed, of 4,000 tons each, 35 knots and 10 guns. Spain is also negotiating for and will probably secure two cruisers of a similar type which have been building in France for Brazil. The Amazonas will soon be ready.

The Spanish government is also endeavoring to secure guns and large supplies of ammunition in England and the Continent for immediate use.

The government of Spain seems to have funds, for it is understood to be paying a large part of the purchase money in cash, giving good security for the balance, these being the only terms upon which the Armstrongs would deal.

Will Be Authorized.

Washington, March 7.—The senate committee on military affairs today decided to recommend the passage of a joint resolution authorizing the abandonment of the expedition for the relief of the miners in the Klondike region, which was authorized last December. These resolutions provide for the sale of both the remainder and the supplies purchased for the expedition. There was a suggestion that the remainder brought here from Norway could be utilized by the interior department, but the committee took the view that the animals should be sold in preference to holding them for any department of the government.

Proctor Saw a Fight.

New York, March 7.—The Herald's Havana correspondent says that in his recent excursions Senator Proctor saw a lively engagement between a band of 250 insurgents and an equal number of Spanish infantry. This took place almost within sight of Matanzas, in the streets of which city the senator was later approached by a messenger from General Gomez, who openly proclaimed his identity and mission.

Marines Sent West.

Atlanta, Ga., March 7.—The navy department is transferring marines from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. For three days a party of two or three marines have passed through Atlanta each day on their way to the Pacific coast. The marines come from Norfolk and are all going to Vallejo, Cal.

Wants Cuban Correspondence.

Washington, March 7.—Senator Morgan said today it was his purpose to introduce a resolution at an early date making a second call upon the president for consular correspondence bearing upon the condition of affairs in Cuba.

PREPARING FOR WAR

Unwanted Activity at the New York Arsenal.

AMMUNITION STORES INCREASED

Shipment of Shells and Other Projectiles to Harbor Fortifications—Twenty New Mortars.

New York, March 5.—There is a continuance of unwanted activity at the New York arsenal. The shipping of shells and other projectiles, to the fortifications about the harbor continues. At army headquarters there are no new developments, and no orders out of the customary routine are expected. It is said that a battery of 30 12-inch mortars will be soon received at Sandy Hook for testing before they are forwarded to the points for which they are destined. There are a number of unmounted guns at the proving-grounds awaiting the construction of carriages. The supply of ammunition has been increased in all the magazines, and is so arranged that it can be made immediately available.

The men at the posts seem much more pleased at the work they have to do than when the guns lay idle and in a condition unfit for active use. At Sandy Hook, however, there is a slight complaint among the men, who say that too much work is expected of too small a force.

A large consignment of ammunition, including powder and projectiles, is ready for shipment at the ordnance department in the Brooklyn navy-yard.

Commander Swift, who has charge of the department, superintended the work of packing. Commander Swift has received instructions from Washington to forward the supplies as soon as possible to Key West, whence they will be distributed among the United States war vessels now in that neighborhood. When asked if the consignment was not an unusually large one, Commander Swift replied that it is not, and that when it had been divided up between the several ships none of them will have more than the regular complement in her magazines. Many of the projectiles are for guns of large caliber.

As yet no information has been received as to what disposition is to be made of the guns which have recently been shipped to the yard from Washington. These guns are of different sizes, and as neither the Chicago nor the Atlanta, which are being overhauled at the yard, will be ready to receive the guns for at least six months, it is rumored that they are for auxiliary vessels.

PROCTOR FULLY POSTED.

Has Seen the Darkest Side of the Cuban Situation.

Havana, March 5.—A naval officer here today, in reply to a suggestion that it was a pity such an important decision as the verdict of the court of inquiry into the Maine explosion should rest solely upon the testimony of divers, who seemed men of only average intelligence, replied:

"The court of inquiry has not had to depend upon divers' testimony alone. Then, realizing that he had said more than he intended, the officer resumed his habitual reserve. It is believed that the testimony of Lieutenant Commander Wainwright was highly important as bearing on the question of the existence of submarine mines.

Senator Proctor has seen much in a short time, and there is good authority for saying that he will make the results of his observations known in a strong speech in the senate on his return to Washington. Senator Proctor, however, said to a correspondent:

"Certainly a peculiar state of affairs exists. Residents of Matanzas told me that if I wished to correspond with General Gomez they would send my letter to him and have an answer back in a short time."

The Fleet at Hong Kong.

Madrid, March 5.—The public is much exercised over the report of the presence of a squadron of United States warships at Hong Kong, as it is presumed the vessels intend to threaten Manila, the capital of Philippine island, in the event of war between the United States and Spain.

Impartial, in an article headed "To Manila, New York," quotes an unnamed high personage who scents the idea of an imminent rupture, and says: "The presence of warships at Hong Kong is only Washington's policy with a view to containing the jingoes."

The high personage is said to have added: "But America has not so many warships as to warrant such bold action. If the Yankees go to the Philippines, the Spaniards will go to New York."

El Globo remarks: "The government is still alive to the critical situation, and is silently preparing for the worst. But it is too diplomatic to disclose the procedure by which it is preparing for emergencies."

San Francisco, March 5.—The war department has issued orders for the immediate transfer of ammunition from the Benicia arsenal to this city. The object is to supply the needs of the mortar batteries and heavy ordnance at the Presidio and Black point.

Chicago, March 5.—A special to the Daily News from Washington says: Spain will have to reckon with Japan as well as with the United States in the event the responsibility of the Maine explosion is laid at the door of the don. The navy department has ascertained that on the Maine were several Japanese subjects employed as cooks or other servants, and that they were lost. The fact of their death has been made known to the Japanese government through the state department.