

# PREPARING FOR WAR

## Unwonted 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 unwonted 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 20 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, to New York," quotes an unnamed high personage who scouts the idea of an imminent rupture, and says: "The presence of warships at Hong Kong is only Washington's policy with a view to contenting 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.

## 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 capitals 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 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 stage 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 Borman act, a special order for next Friday.

## 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 Seward, 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 Seward 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."

Admiral Seward'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 from 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 Bonuses 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 bonuses 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, 23 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 is ready for launching, and her sister ship 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. There solution provides for the sale of both the reindeer and the supplies purchased for the expedition. There was a suggestion that the reindeer 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.

## IN A DEATH TRAP.

### Spaniards' Terrible Defeat in the Battle of Holguin.

New York, March 4.—Reports of the recent battle at Holguin, Santiago de Cuba, have been received in New York. Instead of the battle being a Spanish victory, as represented from Havana, it was a disastrous defeat, followed by retreat of the Spanish forces. This information comes from Cuban sources and is the cause of great rejoicing, because the guns and ammunition shipped from Long Island less than a month ago were used in the fight. Maj. Miranda, who landed the expedition reports the facts without many details, but from other letters which came in the same mail the story is told.

The Spanish forces were commanded by General Linares, who for some time has been at Holguin, making preparations to march to the city of Santiago. His army included cavalry and artillery. Previous to his starting to march he boasted that he would make the coast, a distance of 60 miles, in a direct line, in four days. His troops were the most valuable in the Spanish army, many of them having been on the island for three years. A week before the starting of the march the Long Island expedition had been landed. To protect it a force under General Garcia had been sent to the southern coast. Colonel Manuel Rodriguez was left with a vanguard of 900 men to worry Linares if he should try to leave Holguin.

While the expedition, one of the largest ever landed there, was being protected from attack, the Spanish general marched out from Holguin. Ten miles from Holguin the road became hilly, and the rocks afforded protection equal to any modern fortification. Rodriguez' men took their stand in this natural fortification near the town of San Francisco.

Owing to the character of the country, less than 200 of the Spanish troops could be brought into action when the Cubans opened fire. The road, a winding one, was a regular death trap. Linares used his artillery as much as possible, but the Cuban force of less than a thousand men could not be dislodged. Failing to make progress, Linares marched a portion of his command five miles out to move by the road which runs to Jiguana, expecting to follow the railroad leading to Santiago. His command was intercepted by a portion of the Cubans and harassed so that it was unable to reach the Cauro river. For two days it was held in check until General Garcia and his command could reach the place. Every day Spanish dead were buried and the wounded sent back to Holguin.

General Garcia's command did not reach its full strength until the fifth day after the fighting began. On this day the Spanish columns retreated in confusion, carrying the wounded to Holguin and leaving 200 dead on the field. The Cuban loss in the five days' fighting was less than 50 killed.

The real Spanish loss will never be known, as the dead and wounded were taken from the field at night. It is estimated that nearly 1,000 were killed and wounded. From word received from Holguin it was learned that there were several companies annihilated by the Cuban fire.

Other letters report the Cuban army in good condition, and one from ex-President Cisneros states that the whole eastern end of the island is safe in control of the Cuban government. The ex-president says he is to be appointed postmaster-general, and speaks of the republic's plans as though there was no war in the island.

Dr. Joaquin Castillo, of the junta, for his work in landing arms on the Cuban coast, has been appointed to the rank of brigadier-general.

### MAINE'S BACK WAS BROKEN.

#### Keel Said to Have Been Found in Two Pieces.

New York, March 4.—A Herald dispatch from Havana says: The Maine's back was broken. Later discoveries made by divers not only support the information printed by the Herald concerning the disclosures of paramount importance by Ensign Powellson, but convince those in charge of the submarine investigation that a mine rent the battle-ship asunder. The keel of the ship has been found in two pieces, the nearest ends of which are now separated by a distance of from 2½ to 3 feet. The sections are no longer lying in one straight line, but show the effect of a force executed from port to starboard.

It is evident from the discovery of the present condition of the keel that the section of the bottom found 25 feet from its natural position was wrenched from its belt by the first explosion and driven upward. The keel itself was forced in the middle until it was broken in two and then collapsed in two sections and fell in the position the divers found it yesterday.

Reliable persons familiar with the effects of high explosives and with the wreck above and under water, say that the discovery of the manner in which the Maine's back was broken, taken together with earlier disclosures, has convinced the men working about the wreck that further investigation as to the manner in which the ship was blown up is perfectly useless, and they consider the question solved beyond a doubt.

San Francisco, March 4.—W. Takasaki, the newly appointed Japanese consul to Chicago, and S. Ito, an imperial naval constructor, en route to Philadelphia, who arrived here from the Orient Monday, had narrow escapes from death at the Occidental hotel last night. The Japanese blew out the gas upon retiring, and when the escaping gas attracted the attention of the hotel employees, some hours later, both were unconscious. Physicians were summoned, and the Japanese officials were resuscitated.

## DUNHAM'S STORY.

### Interesting Report of a Government Official on the Klondike.

Located in Circle City, 130 miles northwest of Dawson, which all the river traffic to and from the Klondike passes, is the man whom the United States government has sent out to gather information regarding the Klondike which the public may know is accurate—Samuel C. Dunham. Mr. Dunham is under the direct jurisdiction of the commissioner of labor at Washington. All the long winter months he has lived in a room in a \$20,000 house at Circle City, a house that is made of logs and boards, and whose real worth seems preposterous.

Mr. Dunham has sent some valuable information to Washington—or to the United States, as he puts it. While Alaska is a part of the United States you never would think so if you lived there and heard the people talk. They always refer to the rest of the nation as: "Back in the States."

It is safe to say that of the thousands already en route to the new Eldorado only a small percentage are actually aware of the real conditions that exist in the land of their destination. As gorgeous pictures of wealth have been painted for their edification as imagination could devise, and that is why the cold facts that have come to us by the aid of carrier, dog and sledge, and finally the United States mail, create something of a feeling of astonishment. Mr. Dunham tells us that there is not work for the people who are already in the Klondike, and that before the spring rush is half over the country will team with the destitute and homeless. However, the destitution is not now so great as it was imagined would be the case, and this because it has been found possible for the different camps to help one another.

When Mr. Dunham's report, which is now on its way, reaches Washington, it will be sent to congress at once, but owing to the fact that the report is not likely to reach the department before March, after the Klondike emigration has passed flood tide, Mr. Dunham has deemed it best to forward the more important facts here presented. In his latest letter to the Commissioner of Labor Mr. Dunham says:

"I am making fair progress on my report, and have reached a point where I can give an outline of its practical features. I have completed an introduction, giving a short sketch of the stamped as I saw it from the other side of the mountains; a chapter on the Klondike containing the first accurate account of the original discovery and the development of the mines, and what I hope will prove an approximately correct statement of the output (an exceedingly hard subject to handle); a chapter on Dawson and its surroundings, giving full information relative to wages, cost of living, opportunities for employment, etc., and ending up with an account of the food famine and the exodus, and a chapter on navigation of the Yukon.

"I have well under way a chapter on Circle City and the Birch Creek district, and have all necessary data for one on mining laws and local regulations, incidentally touching on the only form of government that has been known here previous to the present year—miners' meetings. In addition to these I shall give considerable space to the trails and the best means of getting here, expense, etc.; the best routes for railroads, which we assume are bound to come within a few years, although we do not know what is going on outside; the possibilities in agriculture, which are considerable in the Yukon valley, as wheat, oats, and vegetables of many kinds can be grown here successfully; the outlook from the commercial point of view, etc.

"A thousand pages could be written on the situation without exhausting the subject or the reader; but I shall stop short of 400 typewritten pages. It is exceedingly difficult to get information here, on account of the great distances and the unsettled condition of the public mind on the food question. It is hard to work when one hears constantly on every hand stories of starvation and death from exposure. I consider the situation grave, but not desperate. There is food at Fort Yukon for 600 more men than are wintering there, and this can be freighted to Dawson or part of Dawson can go to it. It may be that the transportation companies can feed the population next year, but it is doubted here.

"I have secured an accurate statement of the amount of freight landed in Dawson by the steamers during the season, made up from the manifests of the boats and from information obtained from the agents of the companies.

—How 2,700 tons reached there, and

A resolution providing for a congressional investigation into the murder of the postmaster at Lake City, S. C., and his family and the burning of his home was laid before the senate. McLaurin (Dem. S. C.) said he hoped the resolution would go to the committee without discussion. The state authorities were exceedingly active in investigation of the crime, and he was assured that every effort was being made to bring the perpetrators of the outrage to justice. He then had read clippings from the Columbia, S. C. State to show that the people of South Carolina were not in sympathy with those who committed the crime, but strongly repudiated it.

Hawley (Rep. Conn.) said the crime was clearly within federal jurisdiction by the fact that it was a federal official who was murdered, and that government property had been destroyed. He expressed the opinion that the federal authorities ought to maintain a close watch upon the proceedings.

The resolution was then referred to the committee on contingent expenses.

Bills were passed as follows: Granting free entry to a set of bells presented by the czar of Russia to the orthodox Russian church at Bridgeport, Conn.; to provide for the transfer of the Sidney military post reservation to the state of Nebraska for educational purposes, and to establish an assay office at Seattle, Wash.

### NEW SUPPLIES LANDED.

#### Futile Attempt Made by Molina to Intercept Them.

New York, March 5.—A Herald dispatch from Havana says: A report has been received of the landing of a very large expedition almost in Matanzas harbor. It is believed to be that taken on the Dauntless by "Dynamite Jack" O'Brien. The supplies were taken charge of by rebel cavalry numbering 400. They were attacked by 800 of General Molina's soldiers. It is reported that the rebels refused battle, and escaped with the supplies without loss.

Reports of insurgent activity continue to come to Havana and greatly exasperate the public, although every attempt is made to suppress the facts. The rebels are especially active in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Puerto Principe and Santa Clara.

### The Antarctic Expedition.

New York, March 5.—The Brooklyn Standard Union publishes a letter from Dr. Frederick A. Cook, surgeon of the Belgian Antarctic expedition, dated Ushuala, Terra del Fuego, December 27. He wrote:

"We have come in here to take our last supply of coal. Tomorrow, we will start south under steam, passing out west of Cape Horn to the South Shetlands, thence to Cape Seymour, along the eastern border of Graham's land, in Larsen's track, then east and out of the ice again, perhaps in the neighborhood of Enderby land. After visiting some of the sub-Antarctic islands, Bonnets, Prince Edwards and Kerguelen, the Belgian will put into Melbourne to winter. There will be no wintering party left south until next year, unless the ship is held in the pack."

### Caught in a Squall.

Key West, March 5.—The schooner Speedwell, from Marco, for Key West, was struck by a squall today while off Marquez, 18 miles from here, and capsized. Nine persons were drowned out of 13 on board. Among the victims were three children of Captain Collier, George, Thomas and William, aged 4, 6 and 8 years, and Bradley Nichols and his wife, their son and the latter's wife and two grandchildren. The family was from Bridgeport, Conn. Those saved are Captain Collier, Samuel Cates, deckhand; Jesse Green, deck hand; R. W. Bates, of Myers, Fla., passenger.

### Found in the Ruins.

Olympia, Wash., March 5.—The residence of O. King, seven miles from Yelm, was burned last night. In the ruins was found a charred body, which is thought to be that of Mr. King.

### One of the Maine's Victims.

Omaha, March 5.—A letter just received from Havana shows that among the seamen on board the Maine at the time of the disaster in Havana harbor was young Pat Ford, who escaped from his jailer in Omaha in January, 1896 with a sentence of eight years for highway robbery over him.

### Rich Strike at Canyon City.

Heppner, Or., March 5.—Wor reached here this evening of a rich find at Canyon City. It is said that a nugget worth \$700 was taken out today and another as large, if not larger, partly uncovered. This undoubtedly the richest strike ever made in Grant county.

### Spanish Duties Reduced.

Madrid, March 5.—The queen regent has signed a decree reducing the duties on wheat and flour.