

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Interesting Collection of Current Events In Condensed Form From Both Continents.

Representative King, of Utah, introduced Tuesday a joint resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba.

The submarine boat Holland has made another trip in New York. At a depth of 15 feet under water she showed good speed, and was handled with ease.

A dispatch to the Berlin Vossische Zeitung from Dar's Salaam, 25 miles south of Zanzibar, East Africa, says that last month a party of German forerunners was attacked, and three Germans and many of the native carriers were massacred.

The Vienna newspapers announce that Japan, between 1895 and 1905, will have devoted 194,000,000 yen to the building of warships. Forty-seven have already been ordered with short terms of delivery in England, France, Germany and the United States.

While returning home from church in Wellsville, O., Oliver Reed asked Sarah Walton to marry him, and upon her refusal he shot her through the heart. He then blew his brains out dying in a short time. Papers found on his body show the deed was premeditated.

The house committee on naval affairs has completed the naval appropriation bill. The bill is calculated as carrying between \$36,000,000 and \$37,000,000, of which about \$3,000,000 will be expended on this year's work on the three battle-ships, six torpedo boats and six torpedo-boat destroyers.

Replying to a resolution of inquiry, the attorney-general sent to the senate Tuesday a statement that the records of his department do not show that any writs of injunction or restraining orders have been issued by United States courts against labor organizations or their members engaged in strikes in 1897 and 1898.

A dispatch to the New York World from Madrid says: Instructions have been given since Friday night to the press censor to stop all foreign and domestic press telegrams—and even telephone messages—containing news unpalatable to the government. Unauthorized details of naval and military preparations of the movements of warships, particularly of the flying squadron, of the purchase of vessels of war and stores abroad are especially interdicted.

Roland Worthington, the veteran journalist, died at his home in Boston, aged 81 years. He entered the newspaper business as an employee of the counting-room of the Boston Advertiser. In 1846 he took charge of the Boston Traveler. When Daniel Webster made his famous speech at Marshfield in August, 1848, Mr. Worthington published a verbatim report and had it sold by the newsboys in the streets, an innovation which called down the severe criticism of the other Boston papers.

The British Columbia, Seattle & Pacific Coast Railroad Company has made application to the city council of Seattle for a franchise 30 feet wide over Railroad avenue. It was stated to the council that it was the purpose of the company to construct a railroad from Portland, Or., to Seattle, and thence to the British Columbia boundary. The company was willing that a condition be imposed in the franchise that the work of construction should begin in 30 days, and the line be finished within 18 months. The two incorporators of the company are Henry J. Brokaw and Austin J. Fletcher, well-known financiers of New York. The road will cost between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

The Republican leaders of the house are pressing for an early adjournment, and it is said that their course meets the full approval of the president. All save three of the appropriation bills have gone to the senate. The action of the appropriations committee in preparing the general deficiency bill at this time is the best evidence of the intention to secure early adjournment.

The construction of five modern dry-docks has been agreed on by the house committee on naval affairs. They are to be located at Portsmouth, N. H.; Boston, League island, near Philadelphia; Algiers, La., and Mare island, Cal. These docks are to be of wood, except those at Algiers and Portsmouth. The material of construction of these will not be determined upon until later.

General Superintendent McGuire has announced that large gangs of men are at work all along the line of the Astoria & Columbia River railroad, and only 11 miles of rails are yet to be laid. The last spike will be driven about April 1, with appropriate ceremonies. The man to drive it has been selected from the ranks of the men who have worked faithfully during the winter to push the line through.

Dr. Tomas Estrada Palma, of the Cuban junta in New York, is quoted as saying: "I consider Mr. Quesada's presence at Vice-President Hobart's reception to the Belgian prince in Washington Tuesday a matter of great importance. He was invited as the accredited representative of the Cuban republic, together with the Spanish minister and other members of the diplomatic corps. Mr. Quesada's presence as an honored guest is very significant. It is a semi-official recognition of Cuba."

ITS CONTENTS KNOWN.

Summary of the Court of Inquiry's Report Received.

Chicago, March 23.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Late last evening Secretary Long admitted that a telegraphic summary of the report of the court of inquiry had been received, and he also admitted that Admiral Sicard had received the report last evening and would forward it to Washington without delay. With the telegraphic summary received as a basis the state department has already proceeded to notify Minister Woodford officially of the character, and he in return by this time has probably communicated the news to the Spanish government with an intimation that it must be prepared to present a satisfactory reply within a few days.

THEORY WAS NOT TENABLE.

Spaniards Privately Admit the Maine Disaster Was Not an Accident.

New York, March 23.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says: The Spanish inquiry into the Maine disaster has gone to pieces in seeking to establish the accident theory. This admission is privately made in government circles. The nature of the board's report will not be charged to unknown causes, but the Spanish finding will be with a view of making a case to be passed on by a third party. The work of the Spanish divers has not been thorough. Apparently they have found no little evidence on which a theory of internal explosion can be based that the Spanish court is not willing to stand unequivocally on the theory of accident, which it set out to maintain. The facts have been known for three or four days. They may account for the statements from Madrid that the Maine incident will not be a cause of war between the two countries, and also hints at arbitrating the dispute on the question of facts.

This talk is semi-official. The Spaniards recognize the improbability of successfully controverting the case which will be presented when the report of Captain Sampson and his associates on the American board of inquiry is published. They have had an inkling that the evidence on which the external explosion due to foul play will be charged, is meant to satisfy, not simply the American people, but the judgment of experts throughout the world. How strongly the conclusion of the American board is fortified will soon be known. The one received from Madrid is to have a counter-case ready, so a suspension of the world's judgment can be asked until diplomacy can arrange a satisfactory settlement. The evident hope of Blanco's government is to keep the Maine incident entirely distinct from other Cuban questions. Notwithstanding this lack of confidence in their own theory of accident, it cannot be learned that the authorities are doing anything to uncover the conspirators who are responsible for the blowing up of the Maine.

RELIEF BILL PASSED.

A Substantial Tribute to the Maine's Heroic Crew.

Washington, March 23.—The house today unanimously passed the bill for the relief of the survivors and victims of the Maine disaster. The bill reimburses the survivors, officers and men for the losses they sustained to an amount not to exceed a year's pay, and directs the payment of a sum equal to a year's pay to the legal heirs of those who perished. There was quite a spirited debate over an amendment suggested by Cannon to give the survivors a year's pay out of hand instead of attempting to reimburse them for actual losses. Some old alleged scandals in connection with the reimbursement of the survivors of the Samoan disaster were raked up, but the debate in the end was saved from a rather sordid tone by a beautiful tribute paid to the gallant dead by Consins of Iowa, in a short but eloquent speech. He aroused the galleries to spontaneous applause. The remainder of the day was occupied in the consideration of the old claim of John Roach, the shipbuilder, for \$331,000. No action was taken upon the claim.

The senate, after passing some minor bills, to which there was no objection, adjourned at 1:55 o'clock until tomorrow.

Relief for Stricken Cuba.

Concord, N. H., March 23.—Senator Chandler, in an editorial in the Concord Monitor today says President McKinley is about to take action in the name of the United States to relieve famine and sickness in Cuba.

"Food and medicine and clothing," he says, "given by the generous people of the United States, will be sent with the approval of Spain, if she consents, or will be carried by American sailors and soldiers without her approval, if she does not consent. The end of starvation and torture is near at hand. Every humane person in this whole land should sustain and bless the president in his coming proclamation, which is to cause the name of William McKinley to be held in sacred reverence by Cuban generations as long as will be the revered name of Abraham Lincoln by the colored race in America."

Barcelona is now the most populous city of Spain, the result of a census just taken showing 520,000 inhabitants to Madrid's 507,000.

Insurgents Using Dynamite.

Havana, March 23.—Generals Pando and Saliado, it is announced today "continue advancing with considerable forces toward Puerto Principe." The insurgents on Saturday dynamited an iron railroad bridge near Madruga, province of Matanzas, partly destroying the structure, and last night they destroyed with dynamite a culvert between Robles and Madruga.

Long Beach, Cal., has a 70-foot whale staked out in the ocean near the town.

SPAIN'S LAST CARD

Pando Seeking a Conference With Cuban Leaders.

THE FINAL OFFER OF AUTONOMY

Masso and Gomez, It Is Believed, Will Reject the Offer, and March on Havana—Other News.

Havana, March 23.—News has just reached this correspondent, from authentic sources, that the autonomist government at Madrid, is now playing its last card to secure peace in Cuba and prevent intervention by the United States.

Near Palo Prieto and Via Jacas Gordas, in the province of Santa Clara, on the west side of the Juncaro Moron trocha, are gathered several thousand insurgents, under command of Calixto Garcia and other prominent chiefs, accompanied by Senor Masso, president of the Cuban republic, with several members of his cabinet; also on the west side of the trocha, in the district of Sancti Spiritus, less than 10 miles distant from General Garcia's forces, are stationed 2,000 insurgents under Generals Pancho, Carrillo, Montenegro, Lanclise, Legon and Gonzales. The Spanish commander, General Pando, with General Ramirez, Charvez and other generals, is within a few miles of General Calixto Garcia. General Gomez is west of the Juncaro Moron trocha, within easy reach. All the insurgent generals, President Masso and the insurgent officials with General Garcia, got through General Pando's lines some time ago, and the latter gave up the campaign, which was to be a grand military coup-de-grace, in the province of Santiago de Cuba or the province of Puerto Principe. In addition to passing through the trocha, the insurgents turned General Pando's flank. It is just possible that this flank movement will be the means of General Pando's carrying out a long-contemplated conference. General Pando's purpose, to further which he has ordered a practical armistice in the eastern part of Cuba, is stated succinctly as follows:

To have a personal conference with General Calixto Garcia, President Masso and other insurgents, and even with General Gomez, if possible, and to make them a formal offer of autonomy, according to the programme drawn by the left or radical wing of the party.

As previously cabled, this offer includes, in return for the ending of the insurrection, the disarmament and disbanding of all volunteers, commercial treaties to be concluded without Spanish interference, a maximum sum of \$2,000,000 annually to be paid to Spain by Cuba, as the latter's nominal suzerain, no insurgents to be shot or imprisoned on account of the existing insurrection, and no insurgents to be sent as prisoners out of Cuba for future offenses.

The advices received here are in substance that General Pando felt confident of securing the conference, while, on the other hand, Captain-General Blanco, Secretary-General Congo and the Spanish staff officers of high rank, and many radical members of the autonomist government, felt sure that the proposition, being the best ever offered, and assuring practical independence, would be accepted, that the rebellion would be declared at an end, and that, consequently, all excuse for the intervention by the United States would be ended.

Such views, however, were not held when this dispatch was sent by those best acquainted with General Gomez and his chiefs, nor by the Spanish-Cuban merchants, bankers, editors or lawyers, nor the liberal class in Havana. The latter were sure that nothing but absolute independence for Cuba would ever be considered by General Gomez or any of his principal followers. In support of the latter view it is officially announced that after the efforts near Manzanillo only two privates of Salvador Ruiz' band surrendered.

It is known besides that General Pando, in order to advance his plans for the proposed campaign in Santiago de Cuba, greatly weakened all the trochas, taking from them several thousand men and much artillery.

It is regarded as certain in well-informed circles here that Generals Gomez and Garcia, after refusing to confer with General Pando, or if they do confer, after refusing the terms offered, will take sufficient cattle and provisions from their comparatively well-stocked plantations immediately west, and then inaugurate a raid upon the provinces of Matanzas, Havana and probably Pinar del Rio, appearing near here within 15 or 18 days, which is considered possible.

Letters received here from prominent autonomists in the provinces of Santa Clara and Puerto Principe have been shown to this correspondent. The writers are not favorable to the United States; they still cling to the theory of autonomy, and class as false the assertions that the Spanish soldiers are unpaid, unfed and living in towns, while their officers are conspiring against the autonomist government and refuse to take the field, either denying the presence of insurgents or saying "Let the troops who are in favor of autonomy fight its battles."

Other letters from the same sources insist that all the plans laid to secure the surrender of the insurgents have been badly conceived and poorly executed. These letters add that only in isolated instances have any of the insurgents laid down their arms, and the leader, Masso, who surrendered, is still further asserted, was proscribed by General Gomez and was liable to be tried by court-martial, while of the 100 insurgents who surrendered with him at Fomento, more than half were back with the insurgents within a fortnight.

DEATH IN THE FLAMES.

Many Killed and Injured in a Hotel Fire in Butte.

Butte, Mont., March 23.—The Hale house, a large three-story brick building on East Broadway, used as a lodging and boarding-house by miners in the employ of the Anaconda Company, was entirely destroyed by fire, which broke out shortly after 3 o'clock this morning. So far as known, two men are dead from injuries in jumping from windows, another is dying and 20 are missing, while a search of the ruins may disclose the fact that many transient lodgers lost their lives also. The casualties were as follows:

Dead—Matt Doyle, aged 45, miner at the Mountain Consolidated, jumped from third-story window, turned over in the air and struck on head. Frank Rhodey, aged 40, lately from Portland, Or., jumped from third-story window, turned over and struck on head and shoulders, fracturing his skull; dying.

Hugh Boyle, aged 30, miner at Anaconda mine, started to lower himself from third-story by means of improvised rope, which parted 50 feet from the ground. He was just recovering from the effects of a broken leg through an accident a month ago. Six men were severely injured.

There were 250 men and women in the building when the fire broke out. Of these, it is believed about 200 escaped without injury. The fire started in the bakery south of the center of the building, and had a good start before discovered. The blaze was first discovered by Billy White, Jake Yuch and Jack Dooley, who were awake at the time, and, smelling smoke, went down stairs to make an investigation. Two of the men immediately attached a small hose to a hydrant and began to throw water upon the fire.

After a few minutes' work, however, the men realized that the task was a hopeless one, and they retreated to give the alarm. They summoned the watchman and rushed to the upper portion of the building, shouting that the house was on fire. By this time, the fire had broken through the first floor, and smoke filled the hallways. Dooley and his companions realized that there was no time to lose, and they began kicking in the doors of the rooms. The men thoughtfully awakened the women help first. By this time, the alarm had been turned in, and the department responded promptly. When the firemen arrived, men in their underclothing and others half dressed were clambering down the fire escapes in the rear. Others, and the servant girls were at the windows in the front of the building, frantically calling for help. They were cut off from the rear of the building by the dense smoke. Ladders were run up, but not before many of the frightened people had jumped. Others, including all the female help, were gotten out by the firemen. On the side of the building, many had made ropes of their bedclothes and sought to escape in that way. Some of them succeeded, but in other cases the ropes broke and the men dropped many feet to the ground.

A SERIOUS BLAZE.

A Jersey City Railroad Depot Damaged to the Extent of \$100,000.

New York, March 23.—The Pennsylvania railroad depot in New Jersey City was damaged by fire early today to the extent of \$100,000. The mammoth train shed and large office building escaped. Much mail matter was destroyed.

Train and ferry traffic is seriously crippled. All of the frame portions of the depot, with the shed covering the approach to the several ferry slips and the waiting-room and restaurant, were destroyed. The rolling stock was promptly run out of the shed when the fire was discovered, and the ferry boats were simultaneously hurried out into the stream and over to this city.

There were several acres of glass on the roof of the big train shed, and, being melted and cracked by the intense heat, it fell upon the firemen and made their work more perilous. The Keystone restaurant, where the greatest damage was done, was one of the most spacious and handsomely fitted up restaurants in the country.

Railroad to the Yukon.

San Francisco, March 23.—At a meeting of capitalists interested in the construction of a railroad to the Yukon country, W. C. Alders presented a report based upon recent explorations and from observations made during an exhaustive surveying trip to Alaska, and showing that a route up Copper river was not only feasible, but practicable. It was decided to organize a party of surveyors who are to start as soon as the weather conditions will permit, probably by May 15. The programme is to start for Orea and proceed up Copper river to its head, and thence across to the Yukon to its junction with American boundary line.

From Copper River.

Seattle, March 23.—The schooner General Siglin arrived tonight from Copper river. Captain Johnson states that 300 people have crossed the Valdes glacier and are now making their way into the interior. The day the Siglin left Copper City, which is now of 600 inhabitants, the theft of a quantity of bacon had been discovered. Notices were being posted that the thief if caught would be hanged.

Would Affect France.

London, March 23.—St. James's Gazette, commenting on the mobilization of the French fleet, suggests that it may be connected with the Spanish question, and says: "If trouble between Spain and the United States should become acute, it would precipitate issues of great moment for France."

The common pond frog's natural life-time is 12 to 15 years.

SUPPLY IS SUFFICIENT

Food Enough in Dawson to Last Two Years.

FROM THE MINOOK COUNTRY

Skagway Gambling Houses Closed Down—But Few Cases of Scoury at Dawson Now.

Skagway, Alaska, March 16.—(Via Port Townsend, March 21.)—Ben Atwater arrived here last night from Circle City and Dawson, N. W. T., bringing 100 pounds of mail from the above places. Atwater's former home was in Morrison, Ill. He went to the Yukon country in 1886, and has resided there ever since. Atwater, accompanied by H. C. Pettit, of Snohomish, Wash., left Circle City January 10 and Dawson February 8, with dog teams. The trip up the river and lakes was a hard one, the weather being bitterly cold.

Atwater says that there is food enough in the Klondike country to last the present population two years. As a consequence of the food scare the output of the mines will be curtailed. He estimates it at about \$3,000,000.

Atwater says that many claims which were considered to be only wild-out properties on various creeks are turning out well. Dominion is paying finely, and will have a big cleanup next spring. Sulphur and Hunker are also good, and so is Indian. Quartz ledges have been found on the latter creek which look well. There is quite a settlement at the mouth of Stewart river, but no reports have as yet been received from the prospectors who went up the river early in the winter.

On Walsh creek, five miles below Big Salmon, dirt has been found which yields 75 cents to the pan. A stampede occurred from Circle City about January 10 to American creek, about 300 men leaving for that section. Atwater met 300 or 400 men from Dawson making their way to American creek. American creek is 50 miles below the international boundary on the Alaska side.

The reports from the Minook country are very encouraging. A courier from Minook arrived at Circle City just before Atwater left that place, with about 50 pounds of mail. This Atwater brought out. The courier had with him a quantity of gold from Minook, and he stated that the prospectors had struck it rich in that section.

Atwater says there are but few cases of scurvy in Dawson. The hospital contains but 45 inmates, and these have either met with accidents or are suffering from chronic diseases. The general health of the people is good.

As a result of the agitation here against the "sure-thing" men led by "Soapy" Smith, United States Commissioner Smith and Deputy United States Marshal McInnes closed all the gambling-houses on Wednesday night. It is said that an arrangement was made whereby the gambling will be restricted to so-called legitimate games, and all sure-thing or bunco games will be prohibited. The sure-thing men are leaving the town in twos and threes.

The weather here for the past week has been mild and spring like, and the warm south wind and the sun are playing havoc with the winter trail, which follows the river for a distance of eight miles. Hundreds of people are making their way over the divide, however, undeterred by wind or weather. The snow has entirely disappeared from the streets, which are now muddy beyond conception.

The strike of the longshoremen for 75 cents an hour has been declared off by a vote of the local union. The rate now paid is 50 cents an hour, the steamship companies agreeing not to employ Indians in hauling freight on the docks.

Lived on Dog Diet.

Seattle, March 21.—H. C. Pettit, who arrived here from Dawson City this morning on the City of Seattle, says that a large party left Circle City in January, with supplies for the Tanana Indians on the headwaters of Tanana river. The Indians number about 300. Every winter they depend on a run of moose and caribou for food. The run did not materialize this winter, and, after they had exhausted their supplies of salmon, they were forced to eat their dogs, the supply of which was small.

A trapper passing through the district became acquainted with their situation. He immediately carried the news to Circle City, and a relief expedition was at once sent out.

Down From Copper River.

Seattle, March 21.—The steam schooner Rival arrived today from Copper river. The Rival encountered a terrible storm on the way down and was forced to put into Yakutat bay for three days. Of the 1,000 prospectors that have landed at Valdes, 600 have started into the interior. The remainder are camped on the ice at Valdes.

The Rival reports having spoken the schooner Moonlight, northbound, with all well on board. The schooner General Siglin arrived out safely, discharged and is now returning. Nothing was seen of the brigantine Blakely or her consort, which left here some weeks ago for Copper river ports.

Scheme Is Impossible.

Madrid, March 21.—A semi-official agency today publishes the following announcement: "It is useless to talk of the sale of Cuba. The sale could not be arranged, except by parliament, and it is impossible that any Spanish chamber would agree to sell the island at any price."

FOR THE OMAHA FAIR.

Thirty-Five States Making Preparations to Participate.

Omaha, March 23.—Plans for state buildings at the Trans-Mississippi exposition are coming in rapidly. The department of publicity has just received the architects' drawings of the Minnesota building, the Arkansas building, the Denver building and the Missouri building. The plans for the proposed Iowa building meet the hearty approval of the exposition authorities. The Illinois building is nearly completed. The Wisconsin building is well under way. The Nebraska building is practically completed. The plans for the Denver, or Colorado building have been accepted, and the contract will be let in a day or two. Plans for the Georgia pine palace have been submitted. It will be a handsome structure, built wholly of pine donated by the people of Georgia. The Minnesota building will be constructed on similar lines of unhealed logs.

Plans for the Oregon building are now being drawn, and will be submitted next week. Other states send assurances that plans for their state buildings will be forthcoming within a short time. It is highly probable that the states of New York and New Jersey will construct handsome buildings.

Thirty-five states have to date decided to participate in the exposition. In 30 of these, commissioners have been appointed and reports from agents in the field are to the effect that at least five more states will be organized within the next ten days.

The great government building, 600 feet long, and the pinnacle of whose dome is nearly 200 feet high, is nearly done. The management finds it necessary to build several annexes to accommodate the extraordinary demand for exhibit space.

THREE DEATHS RESULTED.

Murderous Attack of White Men on a Negro's Cabin.

Muskogee, I. T., March 23.—A dastardly outrage was committed last night at Wybar, five miles from here, resulting in the death of two men and a woman. The house of Ed Chalmers, a negro, who recently married a white woman, was attacked during the night by six white men, who had evidently determined to murder both the negro and his wife, both of whom had been threatened by white men who disliked the union. A door of their cabin was broken in, and both the negro and his wife were shot down, but not before Chalmers had put up a good fight against his assailants. The woman was killed outright, and although Chalmers succeeded in driving off the attacking party, they left him mortally wounded and he died before daylight. This morning, the body of Matthews, an aged white man, who lived at Gibson station, was found near the Chalmers cabin pierced with a bullet. Matthews answers the description given by Chalmers before he died of one of his assailants.

There were evidences that Matthews' body had been dragged from Chalmers' house to the place where it was found. A gun lay beside the body, evidently put there to give the impression that the dead man had murdered the negro and his wife. Deputy United States marshals are investigating the killing, and it is believed the murderers will be brought to justice.

MASSING HER SHIPS.

England Gathering a Powerful Fleet in the Orient.

Tacoma, Wash., March 23.—Officers of the Northern Pacific steamship Victoria, which arrived last night from China and Japan, report that the British government is massing a very powerful fleet of warships in Chinese waters, and that the British are buying all the coal coming to those waters for the men-of-war. So anxious are they to get it that they send vessels to sea and there hail colliers and bargain for their cargoes paying gilt-edge prices if necessary. They are said to be buying all the available coal from the Suez to the northern coast of Siberia, as they do not want to use Japanese coal. Purser McDonald says there are now 35 or 40 British warships on the China station, and the fleet has been considerably augmented in the past few weeks. Among the latest arrivals was the big marine fighter Powerful, one of the most destructive war vessels afloat.

FOR STARVING CUBANS.

Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma Send Train South.

Kansas City, March 23.—A relief fund of \$9,033 and 12 cars of provisions and clothing, collected in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma for the starving Cubans, were forwarded south from Kansas City today. The relief measures are being carried out under the management of the Kansas City Star, and the agents of the Star will aid in the distribution at Matanzas, under the direction of United States Consul Brice. This relief is being carried free in a special train over the Memphis road to Memphis, thence over the Illinois Central to New Orleans. The United States government has granted transportation from New Orleans to Matanzas. The principal articles of food sent are wheat, flour, cornmeal, rice, potatoes, rolled oats, condensed milk and soup extracts. The contributions of clothing include a great number of calico dresses for women and children, mostly of the "Mother Hubbard" pattern, made by various church sewing circles.

San Francisco's Defenses.

San Francisco, March 23.—Within three weeks San Francisco will have one of the most strongly fortified harbors in the United States, and will have a fleet of warships capable to hold its own with a country that has more ships than Spain can send to the Golden Gate.