

Oregon City Courier.

A. W. CHENEY, Publisher.

OREGON CITY.....OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

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

The United States supreme court has decided that a person born in this country of Chinese parents is entitled to citizenship.

Chicago Topographical union has telegraphed the Illinois representatives in congress calling for the intervention of the United States toward ending the inhuman war in Cuba.

Frank B. Clark, of Chicago, has purchased 1,000 feet of river frontage at Linnton, a few miles below Portland, Or., and is negotiating for more. He will construct a large ship-building plant.

A diet kitchen and dispensary, where 2,000 sick will be cared for daily has been started in Havana. The kitchen was built by the central committee, and serves its purpose excellently. The sick and feeble will find the dispensary a great source of comfort and help.

The dispatch of the British fleet from Halifax to Bermuda, following the agitation for an Anglo-American alliance, is considerably commented upon by diplomats in London. The authorities explain that it is merely considered desirable that the British ships should be in the vicinity of Cuba in order to safely guard British commerce and British subjects, in case of war. The idea of Anglo-American co-operation in Cuba is scouted.

The levee on the Wabash river, near Sullivan, Ind., went out with a break of 100 feet, entailing a loss of \$100,000. Twenty thousand acres of land are overflowed, and hundreds of families are rendered homeless and destitute. Citizens are responding for miles around in the effort to remove families and stock. Hundreds of cattle and horses are hemmed in. Such a rush of water was never known in this section of the country before.

Deep interest is felt in Havana in the news received from the United States. La Lucha, in an editorial, says: "The United States' note to Spain demanding that a date be fixed to end hostilities is simply a declaration of war. It was not issued until after the finding of the United States court of inquiry had been received, which finding is without scientific basis, and is open to question even upon the part of the most prejudiced."

The most significant of the naval orders issued by the navy department recently was the detachment of Commander Horace M. Elmer, from Cramps' ship yard, and ordering him to duty "in the mosquito fleet." This auxiliary organization of the navy, which is to be called into service in time of war, is to be composed of small craft of all kinds that may be obtainable by the department upon which a gun may be mounted, and other defensive devices placed. As far as practicable, it is the intention of the department that there shall be a separate set of ships for the defense of the seacoast cities, the whole to compose the "mosquito fleet." In the event of necessity for a rendezvous of several of these local fleets it can be arranged, as the primary idea is for each local fleet to form the "mobile defense" of the particular city where it will be called into service to assist in furnishing armament for vessels, and in the event of war, naval officers will be assigned to the command of each of the several local fleets.

An explosion occurred at the Manowan coal mine near Monongahela City, Pa. Two men are known to have been killed. Five were injured, and from 15 to 25 are said to be entombed in the mine.

An explosion took place at San Rafael, Cal., at the United States smokeless powder works, which resulted in the death of two men, Charles A. Jenks and Charles Nelson, who were employed in the material room. Two buildings were completely destroyed, and the roofs torn off the other buildings close by and windows broken for miles around.

A Havana dispatch alleges that Captain-General Blanco and General Matorola have notified the Madrid government that they will resign their offices if the Spanish torpedo fleet is to be detained at the Canaries in obedience to the demand of President McKinley. Captain Enlate, of the Vizcaya, is also alleged to have sent a similar message to the Spanish admiralty.

Chaplain Chidwick, of the Maine, has completed his mortuary report, which shows that 257 men and two officers perished in the catastrophe. Six succumbed to their injuries while lying in San Ambrosio hospital; one died on the Spanish transport; 171 bodies have been recovered from the wreck, of which 61 have been identified; 161 have been buried in Colon cemetery and 11 at Key West. This is the official report, made public after careful correction.

After being opened to the public for more than five years for recreation purposes, Castle Island, in Boston harbor, has been closed. Orders from Washington to this effect have been expected ever since the work of handling explosives was begun at Fort Independence on the island some three weeks ago. More than a score of men have been at work painting torpedo shells and getting ready the wiring and other necessary preliminaries to laying them in position in the harbor if necessary.

A WARNING TO SPAIN.

Two Notes Cabled by the President to Minister Woodford.

Madrid, March 29.—President McKinley has cabled two notes to Spain through Minister Woodford. One deals with the Maine, the other with President McKinley's plan of humanitarian intervention in the Cuban war. Both notes are expressed in strong, firm language, without a suggestion of a threat. They are, perhaps, merely preliminary.

For the destruction of the Maine, the president demands no indemnity. He merely acquaints the Madrid government with the fact that the court of inquiry finds that the ship was blown up in Havana harbor by an external agency and that nothing but a mine or torpedo of the largest size could have wrought the destruction. The president submits the facts to the Spanish government, and waits a reply. Mr. Woodford did not even demand an early response.

As to the war in Cuba, President McKinley advised the Spanish government in the politest terms that the time is fast drawing near when the United States would be compelled to act upon the warning so often given to Spain since the struggle in Cuba began. The president clearly intimated that the war in Cuba must cease, but he fixes no date. The note makes the question of Cuban intervention paramount to the Maine case, which the president's memorandum refers to merely as a lamentable incident. The issues and problems of the Cuban war, the United States government now calls urgently to the attention of Spain, declaring that the conditions prevailing in Cuba, so near to the shores of the United States, have long been intolerable to the American people.

Negotiations to End the War.

Washington, March 29.—The developments of the day in the Cuban situation indicate progress in the negotiations of this country and Spain looking to the maintenance of peace, for the present at least. There is good authority for saying that Spain's wish is to secure a cessation of hostilities in Cuba, rather than to engage in a war with the United States, and that it is more than probable that the negotiations with the Sagasta ministry will take such a turn in the immediate future. The present Spanish ministry has expressed a pacific disposition from the beginning, and the indications are strong now that it will avail itself of the good offices of the United States to the fullest extent that public opinion in Spain will allow in bringing to an end the hostilities in Cuba.

To what extent the United States may go in assisting Spain in her present design of securing an armistice is not determined, but the conservative element in the administration consider the manifestation of this desire on the part of Spain for even a temporary peace a direct result of President McKinley's diplomacy, and they naturally are disposed to contend that the president should be left free, for the present at least, to pursue a policy which promises much in the way of preventing war between this country and Spain; also of bringing to a close the hostilities in Cuba. Hence there will be an effort on the part of the peacefully inclined in congress to hold that body in check and to prevent inflammatory utterances there until this promising diplomatic lead may be exploited.

On the part of the administration it is stated that the development of the situation will not require a great length of time, and hence there will be no extended delay.

A policy has been fully determined upon by the president. It is to bring the Cuban war to a close. This will be accomplished by pointed intervention, if necessary, but it is considered far preferable that the end should come as the result of peaceful negotiations than that it should be accompanied by hostile demonstrations on the part of the United States. Hence the disposition of the president is to give Spain an opportunity to secure an armistice with the Cubans and allow her a reasonable time to come to an understanding with the hostiles.

It is stated that there is no abatement of the president's intention to see that the war is terminated, and that it is closed on terms that will render the Cubans practically a free people.

Friends of the administration feel that the situation is very delicate, and much will depend upon the course the Cubans may pursue.

The Spanish Elections.

Madrid, March 29.—The elections for the popular branch of the cortes have passed quietly. The indications are that the government of Senor Sagasta will have an enormous majority, estimated at 300 of the 433 seats in the chamber. Disorders are apprehended at Bilbao, where the polling caused great excitement. The military judge at Bilbao issued a warrant for the arrest of three socialist municipal councilors. One of them was taken into custody, but the other two escaped.

Spain's Refusal.

Berlin, March 29.—The Madrid correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt says: "Spain will not only refuse to allow American interference in assisting the suffering Cubans, but will decline to pay indemnity, unless it is shown unmistakably that the Spanish authorities were responsible for the Maine explosion. If President McKinley demands these two things, war is unavoidable."

A Fund to Buy Warships.

Madrid, March 29.—The latest intelligence from the United States has occasioned a great patriotic movement throughout Spain. A large number of persons have announced their intention to give up a day's pay for services in order to raise a fund to purchase warships. A committee, over which the bishop of Madrid will preside, has been organized to receive the subscriptions.

MAINE BLOWN UP

Report of the Board of Inquiry Received.

RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT FIXED

Spain Notified of the Findings of the Naval Court—Madrid Refuses to Recall the Torpedo Flotilla and Is Actively Fortifying Porto Rico.

Washington, March 28.—The court of inquiry appointed to investigate the cause of the Maine disaster has reported that the loss of the battle-ship was due to an outside explosion. The state department, by direction of the president, has cabled Minister Woodford, at Madrid, to notify the Spanish government of the conclusion.

The president and his cabinet advisers held two extended sessions today, one at 10:30 A. M. and another at 3:30 P. M., at which the report was considered in detail. Members of the cabinet stated after the meetings that the discussion was of a grave character, and that never since the wrecking of the Maine has the situation seemed so critical.

The Spanish government has cabled officially to Washington that the Spanish naval commission holds the disaster of the Maine to be of internal origin.

The government of Spain, it can be stated positively, is not disposed to turn back the torpedo fleet now proceeding from the Canaries, and would be disinclined to consider a suggestion from this government tending to interfere with the disposition by Spain of her own naval forces.

War preparations on an unprecedented scale are being hurried to completion by the war and navy departments, and the country practically is on a war footing.

The foregoing gives the record of one of the most eventful days the national capital has seen since the close of the civil war. It was a day of profoundly important action and of the deepest anxiety, coupled with naval and military activity, one step following another in rapid succession.

Representative men of the administration, public men in all branches of official and congressional life, no less than the public in general, shared in the tension to which the situation has been wrought. There was no effort among the highest officials, nor, indeed, was it possible from what was clearly apparent in the development of the day, to minimize the situation.

Verdict of the Court of Inquiry.

Viewed in detail, the finding of the court of inquiry was the most vital factor. Commander Marix, judge advocate of the court of inquiry, delivered the report to Secretary Long early this morning, and shortly afterward it was carried to the White House and placed in the hands of the president.

At 10:30 the cabinet assembled, half an hour earlier than usual, and began the consideration of the momentous document. Even the rigid rules of secrecy which prevail at cabinet meetings were made doubly strict in this case, and no intimation of the results reached by the court was known until 2 o'clock, when a press bulletin gave the information to the country, as well as to the eagerly waiting officials throughout Washington. These results, briefly stated, are that the loss of the Maine was due to an explosion from the outside, the court being unable to fix the responsibility for the explosion.

The court does not express an opinion as to the character of the explosion, but the testimony goes to show that it was a powerful submarine mine, the exact character of which was not determined, though the belief was expressed that it was a floating submarine mine.

There were two exposures, the court finds. The first was from the outside, and that set off one of the smaller magazines.

It was this, expressed in detail, and with the precision of a court deeply conscious of its responsibility, together with the evidence upon which it was based, that occupied the attention of the cabinet throughout its extended sessions of the morning and afternoon. All other subjects have given way to this foremost question. There was no change in the plan of making the report public and transmitting it to congress, accompanied by a brief message from the president.

The afternoon cabinet session lasted until nearly 5:30. The entire situation was discussed at length, but no definite point was reached. The situation is regarded as decidedly critical, and it is feared there will be great difficulty in avoiding trouble.

While interest was thus centered at the White House, the navy and war departments were hurrying forward their work of preparation.

The Spanish Flotilla.

The advance of the Spanish torpedo flotilla continued to receive the closest attention of naval officials, and, while, so far as could be ascertained, no definite line of action was determined upon, the need of intercepting this fleet was urged by the highest naval authorities.

From the standpoint of the Spanish government, this movement was not a menace, having been decided upon many weeks ago. On the contrary, the

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

No Recommendation Is Made Regarding Action to Be Taken.

Washington, March 29.—The president today sent the following message to congress:

"To the congress of the United States—For some time prior to the visit of the Maine to Havana harbor our consular representatives pointed out the advantages to follow the visits of naval ships to Cuban waters in acquainting people to the presence of our flag as a symbol of good will and of our ships in fulfillment of the mission of protection to American interests, even though no immediate need thereof might exist. Accordingly, on the 25th of January last, after a conference with the Spanish minister, in which a renewal of the visits of our vessels to Spanish water was discussed and accepted, the peninsular authorities at Madrid and Havana were advised of the purpose of this government to resume friendly naval visits at Cuban ports, and that with that end in view the Maine would forthwith call at the port of Havana.

"This announcement was received by the Spanish government with appreciation of the friendly character of the visit of the Maine and with notification of an intention to return the courtesy by sending Spanish ships to the principal ports of the United States.

Meanwhile the Maine entered the port of Havana on the 25th of January, her arrival being marked with no special incident besides the exchange of customary salutes and ceremonial visits.

"The Maine continued in the harbor of Havana during the three weeks following her arrival. No appreciable excitement attended her stay. On the contrary, a feeling of relief and confidence followed the resumption of long-interrupted friendly intercourse. So noticeable was this immediate effect of her visit that the consul-general strongly urged that the presence of our ships in Cuban waters should be kept up by retaining the Maine at Havana, or in the event of her recall, by sending another vessel there to take her place.

"At 40 minutes past 9 o'clock in the evening of the 15th of February, the Maine was destroyed by an explosion, by which the entire forward part of the ship was utterly wrecked. In this catastrophe, two officers and 260 members of her crew perished, those who were not killed outright by her explosion being panned between decks by the tangle of wreckage and drowned by the immediate sinking of the hull. Prompt assistance was rendered by neighboring vessels anchored in the harbor, aid being especially given by the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alphonso XII and the Ward line steamer City of Washington, which lay not far distant. The wounded were generously cared for by the authorities of Havana, the hospitals being freely opened to them, while the earliest recovered of the bodies were interred by the municipality in the public cemetery in the city. Tributes of grief and sympathy were offered from all official quarters of the island.

"The appalling calamity fell upon the people of our country with crushing force, and for a brief time intense excitement prevailed, which, in a community less just and selfishly controlled, must have led to hasty acts of blind resentment. This spirit, however, soon gave way to the calmer process of reason and to a resolve to investigate the facts and await material proof before forming judgment as to the responsibility, and if the facts warranted the remedy due. This course necessarily recommended itself from the outset to the executive, for only in the light of a dispassionately ascertained certainty could it determine the nature and measure its full duty in the matter.

"The usual procedure was followed as in cases of casualty or disaster to national vessels of any maritime state. A naval court of inquiry was at once organized, composed of officers well qualified by rank and practical experience to discharge the onerous duties imposed upon them, and, accompanied by a strong force of wreckers and divers, the court proceeded to make a thorough investigation on the spot, employing every available means for an impartial and exact determination as to the cause of the explosion. Its operations have been conducted with the utmost deliberation and judgment, and while independently pursued, no source of information was neglected and the fullest opportunity was allowed for simultaneous investigation by the Spanish authorities.

"The findings of the court of inquiry were reached after 23 days' continuous labor, on the 21st of March, and having been approved on the 22d, by the commander-in-chief of the naval force of the North Atlantic station, were transmitted to the executive. It is herewith laid before congress, together with the voluminous testimony taken before the court, which is in brief as follows:

"When the Maine arrived at Havana she was conducted by a regular government pilot to buoy No. 4, to which she was moored in from 5 1/2 to 6 fathoms of water. The state of discipline on board and the condition of her magazines, boilers, coal bunkers and storage compartments are passed in review, with the conclusion that excellent order prevailed and that no indication of any

cause for internal explosion existed in any quarter.

"At 8 o'clock in the evening, on February 15, everything had been reported secure and all was quiet. At 40 minutes past 9 o'clock the vessel was suddenly destroyed. There were two distinct explosions with brief intervals between them. The first lifted the forward part of the ship very perceptibly, the second, which was more prolonged, is attributed by the court to the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines.

"The evidence of the divers establishes that the after part of the ship was practically intact, and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the explosion. The forward part was completely demolished.

"Upon the evidence of concurrent external cause, the finding of the court is as follows:

"At frame 17, the outer shell of the ship, from a point 11 1/2 feet from the middle line of the ship and six feet above the keel when in normal position, had been forced to about four feet above the surface of the water, therefore, about 34 feet above where it would have been had she sunk uninjured. The outside bottom plating is bent into a reversed 'V' shape, the after wing of which, about 15 feet broad and 32 feet long (from frame 17 to frame 25), is doubled back upon itself against a continuation of the same plating extending forward.

"At frame 18, the vertical keel is broken in two and bent into a singular angle, formed by the outside plates. This break is about six feet below the surface of the water and about 30 feet above its normal position.

"In the opinion of the court this effect could have been produced only by the explosion of a mine situated under the bottom of the ship at about frame 18, and somewhat on the port side of the ship."

"The conclusions of the court are:

"The loss of the Maine was not in any respect due to the fault of or negligence on the part of any officer or member of her crew.

"That the ship was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused a partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines, and that no evidence has been obtainable fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine upon any person or persons."

"I have directed that the finding of the court of inquiry and the views of this government thereon be communicated to the government of her majesty, the queen regent of Spain, and I do not permit myself to doubt that the sense of justice of the Spanish nation will dictate a course of action suggested by honor and friendly relations of the two governments.

"It is the duty of the executive to advise congress of the result and in the meantime deliberate consideration is invoked. WILLIAM MCKINLEY, Executive Mansion, March 28, 1898."

FRESH SIGNS OF WAR

The Spanish Flotilla Starts for the West.

THEIR FLEET MAY BE STOPPED

Secretary Long Places Our Squadron on a War Footing—Additional Vessels Purchased.

Washington, March 26.—Today was one of unexampled activity in all official quarters. Advice came early that the Spanish torpedo flotilla had sailed from the Canaries for Porto Rico, and from this moment the most energetic warlike measures followed one another in constant succession. The movement of this fleet is watched with the keenest interest, as it was felt to involve serious possibilities which might compel the United States government to protest against the movement as of a hostile character.

Immediately on the receipt of the official dispatch from one of our naval attaches abroad, briefly announcing the sailing of the fleet, the fact was made known to the president, and an earnest conference was held between him and Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt. The news of the movement was fully considered, and the president was advised that naval strategists regarded it as essential that the torpedo fleet should not be allowed to reach Western waters. What, if any, conclusion was reached is not known.

Later in the day the Spanish minister, Senor Polo y Bernabe, called at the state department and spent some time with Judge Day. It was naturally inferred that the approach of the Spanish flotilla was one of the subjects referred to.

Navy on a War Footing.

Following the flotilla announcement, important news followed rapidly. The first was this announcement by Secretary Long indicating the placing of our squadron and fleet on a war footing:

"Admiral Sigsbee has been granted leave, very much to the regret of the navy department, and altogether on account of his health. Captain Sampson has been made commander of the fleet at Key West. Captain Evans has been ordered to take command of the battleship Iowa. The orders to the squadron in Hampton Roads have not yet been issued."

A Joint Commission.

The next important move was a determination to create a joint commission from the war departments, so as to bring them into harmonious action on all measures. Captain Barker, the naval aid to Secretary Long, was designated to represent the navy department in this common plan of action. The representative of the war department has not yet been named. It will not be necessary for these two officers to leave Washington, as they can arrange a joint plan of action in conference with the bureau chiefs of the two departments here.

Then at the close of the day came an announcement that the navy department had succeeded in purchasing eight steam yachts and four steam tugs, presumably at or near New York, for use in the auxiliary navy fleet. The boats are of about 400 tons each, and in an emergency would be suitable as torpedo boats. The yachts purchased are among the fleetest along the Atlantic coast, and are said to be somewhat similar to the Mayflower, recently purchased from the Ogden Goelst estate. This addition to the navy is regarded as an exceptionally valuable one at the present time, as the greatest need is felt for small craft suitable for torpedo-boats and dispatch boats. There was additional satisfaction at the navy department at the large number secured in a single purchase. The names and amounts paid for the various yachts and tugs are not disclosed, as it is said this would prove an embarrassment to the government in promoting speculation in other craft for which negotiations are now pending.

President Says Maine Was Blown Up.

Throughout the day the White House presented an animated appearance. Senators and representatives from both political parties called to confer with the president. Among the callers were Senators Cullom, Fairbanks, Aldrich, Jones of Arkansas and Spooner, and Representative Bailey, the Democratic leader in the house. The president said to several of his visitors today, in discussing the situation, that he would do everything consistent with the honor and dignity of the country to avert war, and that he still believed war could be averted. He also said he believed the government of Spain was as anxious for peace as we were.

The president frankly acknowledged that he believes the report of the board of inquiry will find that the Maine was blown up from the outside.

Maine Report Reaches Washington.

Lieutenant Commander Marix and his naval companions, bearing the report of the Maine court of inquiry, reached Washington at 6:45 tonight. The crowd was so dense at the depot that the party left the train outside the shed and took carriages for the Ebbitt house, where the officers will spend the night.

Orders were issued today detaching Captain Sigsbee and other officers from the battleship Maine at Havana and ordering them to proceed home and await orders.

The old single-turreted monitor Kentucky has been ordered from League island to Portland, Me.

Brought Up From the Maine.

Havana, March 26.—The body of Lieutenant Friend W. Jenkins, of the Maine, was found early this morning near the torpedo tube aft, as it had been hoped would be the case.

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