

THE HILLSBORO ARGUS.

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.

In case of war between Spain and the United States, England, it is said, will at least lend us her moral support.

The Washington Post says Mary Elen Lease, of Kansas, will speak in Oregon during the coming state election.

A London dispatch to a New York paper says that in an emergency Paris would supply Spain with money to carry on a war with the United States.

The navy department will send the dispatch boat Fern to Cuba with provisions for the starving people. It was at first intended to send the cruiser Montgomery.

A dispatch to the London Mail from Hong Kong says that a fresh rebellion has broken in the Philippines, and that 53 Spanish soldiers have been killed. No further details are known at Hong Kong.

The Royal Canadian dragoons of Winnipeg have been ordered to prepare to move to the Yukon. They will form a part of the military expedition which the federal government contemplates sending to that part of the dominion.

Recent heavy contracts for Los Angeles petroleum made by producers at Los Angeles with San Francisco have encouraged the development of the oil fields there. Several wells have been put down since the first of the month and others are being sunk.

A Tehran dispatch says: The governor of the province of Kerman routed the insurgents at several points in Persian Heluchistan. There were serious riots at Hamadan, February 22, due to a quarrel between partisans of rival priests, during which 27 priests were killed.

News was brought in to Salt Lake from Brown's Park, on the Colorado-Wyoming boundary line, that three members of the "Robbers' Roost" band of outlaws, who last week murdered Stockman Herr, had been captured and lynched by a posse of Herr's friends, and some of Sheriff Edgar's deputies.

The British sealer Anoka and Santiago, from Victoria, avoid a storm at sea. While five miles off Point Sur light on Saturday the Anoka lost two boats, containing four men, in a dense fog, and turned north to find them. Both boats landed safely near Point Sur.

An unknown man was shot in the leg by a mob near Princeton, Idaho. He fell, and, when called upon to surrender, fired a bullet into his left breast, missing the heart, and then, placing the revolver to the right side of his head, just above the ear, blew his brains out. He was suspected of being implicated in the murder of Dan Calland, a Tekoa rancher, and was being followed by a mob of men claiming to be deputy sheriffs from Whitman county.

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 \$1,010,104,316, a decrease for the month of \$1,597,122. 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.

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 fortune, variously estimated at from \$90,000 to \$120,000.

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.

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

Emperor 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 work, white rest and peace, and red blood, each of which was necessary to cement the others together.

TO STAND BY THE GUNS.

Bill Providing for Two Additional Artillery Regiments Passed.

Washington, March 9.—Chairman Hull, of the military committee, in the house, moved the passage under suspension of the rules of the Hawley bill, creating two additional regiments of artillery. The debate on the artillery bill developed nothing exciting, but there was a great outburst of enthusiasm when Hay (Dem. Va.) declared that he stood ready to vote for the measure, in view of the emergency which confronted the country.

Norton of Ohio today introduced in the house a resolution, which was referred to the committee on rules, setting aside Thursday and Friday for consideration of a joint resolution to recognize the independence of the republic of Cuba.

Two Democrats, Jones of Virginia and Cox of Tennessee, spoke against the bill, which was passed without a division.

Washington, March 9.—Today's session of the senate was devoted entirely to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. At the hour of adjournment the bill had not been disposed of, and its discussion will be continued tomorrow.

The present monopoly in the city of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telegraph Company, on account of high rates, was severely scored. Carter (Mont.) urged that the bill go over until tomorrow, as he desired to offer an amendment relating to the gas supply of Washington.

"A more infamous and audacious outrage was never perpetrated on an inoffensive public than is nightly perpetrated by the Washington Gaslight Company," declared Carter, "and I desire to present an amendment that will afford the suffering people of this city an opportunity to force the company to give them what they pay for."

The bill was laid aside, and at 4:45 the senate went into executive session, and soon afterwards adjourned.

During the morning hour Allen (Neb.) presented the petition of 18,000 railway men of Pennsylvania in favor of legislation to prevent the abuse of the writ of injunction.

MAXIMUM RATE CASE.

The Nebraska State Law Is Declared Invalid.

Washington, March 9.—Justice Harlan today delivered an opinion in the Nebraska maximum freight rate case. He held the Nebraska law to be unconstitutional under the 14th amendment, in that it authorized the taking of property without the process of law and was therefore invalid. Hence the railroad won.

Justice Harlan's opinion affirmed the opinion of the circuit court of appeals of the eighth circuit, which was against the maximum freight rates law favorable to the railroads.

This case was instituted to test the validity of the law passed by the Nebraska legislature in 1893, prescribing the maximum rates for transportation of freights by railroads within the state. The decision sustains the contention of the railroad companies and holds against the validity of the law. The opinion was based largely upon the charge of unreasonableness. Justice Brewer made a computation showing that the reduction effected in the freight rates amounted on an average to 29 1/2 per cent, which he held was too great a charge.

The case has been twice argued in the supreme court, Hon. W. J. Bryan appearing as one of the counsel for the state at the last hearing.

ON A BIG CONTRACT.

Cramps Reported to Be Figuring With a Foreign Naval Power.

Philadelphia, March 9.—The North American Review prints the following: While the attention of the public during the recent war scare has been for a time diverted from the Cramp shipyard to League island, yet it is safe to assert that the Kensington firm of shipbuilders is at this moment on the eve of securing a foreign contract of sensational proportions. Although the members of the firm maintain the utmost secrecy on the subject, it is a fact that during the week just passed a force of draughtsmen has been working on plans and estimates almost continuously.

These plans and estimates, it is said, are being drawn up for the consideration of a foreign power, and include a first-class shipyard, such as is operated by the Cramps, besides several battleships and cruisers. Although the name of the foreign power is being kept a secret, it is generally understood by those in a position to know that the plans and estimates will eventually find their way to Russia.

HAS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS.

Vancouver, B. C., March 9.—There will soon come up for trial at New Westminster a murder trial with international aspects, involving the feature of a man standing in Canada and shooting another in the United States. On Saturday last Jack Atkinson, who runs a hotel on the Canadian side of the boundary at Blaine, quarreled with Billy Patterson, who runs a rival establishment on the American side. Atkinson shot Patterson in the leg, inflicting a wound from which Patterson died. Atkinson then went to New Westminster and surrendered himself to the authorities.

Victoria, B. C., March 9.—F. Nichols, who arrived from Dawson today, confirms the reports of big strikes on American creek, and a stampede to that place from Dawson. He also reported big strikes on Rosebud creek, 50 miles this side of Dawson. Prospectors took from \$4 to \$5 to the pan, and when the news reached Dawson a big crowd started off for the new diggings. The creek is said to be very rich. Major Walsh is coming back to Skagway for some reason, but the rest of his party are continuing on to Dawson.

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.—Senor 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 sent 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 orders for the dispatch of the war vessels, making the representation that the war vessels are not fighting ships.

Sold Spain's 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 sold 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 number "2," 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 post 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 13 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 exultingly declare that their city is safe, and it is generally believed 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 henceforth is bound to be slow, owing to the ponderous weights to be moved and the safety clamps, nuts and rivets that must be cut.

FIFTY MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE.

Measure Prepared by Representative Cannon With President's Approval.

Washington, March 9.—Chairman Cannon of the appropriations committee, today introduced a measure in the house entitled "Making appropriations for the national defense." It is as follows:

"Resolved, That there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the national defense, and for each and every purpose connected therewith, to be expended at the discretion of the president, and to remain available until June 30, 1899, \$50,000,000."

It was referred to the committee on appropriations.

The Cannon bill, it was learned later, was the outcome of a conference held at the White House this morning at which Cannon, Secretary Long, Dingley, Allison and Grosvenor were present. The situation was considered so grave it was thought imperative that an immediate appropriation of this character should be made at once to prepare for the national defense. After the conference Cannon went to the capitol and called a special meeting of the appropriations committee. After this meeting Cannon introduced the national defense bill in the house. The appropriations committee will meet tomorrow.

DEMAND WITHDRAWN.

A Complete Backdown on the Part of Madrid Officials.

Washington, D. C., March 9.—Spain has withdrawn her request for recall of Consul-General Lee, and it is believed the incident is practically closed. The withdrawal came today in the shape of an official communication from Minister Woodford. It is stated that the request was never put in the shape of a demand, but was merely a suggestion on the part of Spain, and when she found it would not be pleasantly received by this country she promptly recalled it.

Washington, March 9.—It is learned that the Spanish objection to Consul-General Lee is based largely upon his sympathy for the Cubans and some of his utterances which have found their way into print. It is understood the friendly relations and companionship existing between Lee and the correspondents of papers which have been decidedly unfriendly to Spain.

It is believed De Lome carried information calculated to make the Spanish government request the recall of Lee.

PROOF IS CONCLUSIVE.

But Divers Are Still in Doubt as to the Means Used.

New York, March 9.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says: Not many days will be needed for Captain Sampson and his associates to conclude the investigation. The wrecking companies are making progress in clearing a way through superstructure. During the absence of the board, the naval department divers have been able to extend their examination of the plates of the hull. They found these plates twisted as if from an outside explosion.

Everything previously learned regarding the forward magazine being intact and the existence of large quantities of unexploded ammunition has been confirmed and strengthened.

Without going into minutes, it may be said that the navy department divers have secured much technical evidence from the condition of the hull and keel and the interior indicating that the Maine explosion was due to foul play. Whether by a torpedo or a submarine mine, doubts may be felt. Not much proof can be gathered by the naval board concerning the persons who were in the conspiracy. The Spanish authorities are in the best position to determine the matter.

The Spanish divers have been working slowly. They have been giving more attention to the coal bunkers, apparently than to any other portions of the wreck. They have made nothing more than a superficial examination of the hull.

It seems to be understood that the Spanish board in its investigation is finding little evidence to give plausible support to the theory of accident. This distinction from positive proof of an external explosion may be able to ignore. There is clearly less confidence in official circles than during the period when the declarations of accident were made by General Blanco. The Spanish inquiry proceeds in leisurely fashion. It may be a long time before a conclusion is reached. This will be no reason for a long delay by the naval board.

CONUL AT SAGUA LA GRANDE RESIGNS.

New York, March 9.—The World's Havana correspondent sends word that Walter B. Barker, consul at Sagua la Grande for the United States, has resigned. It is alleged in Spanish circles that Consul Barker's resignation is on account of friction with Consul-General Lee over the improper distribution of American charity, but the World's correspondent declares that Mr. Barker feels that the American government, in its activity regarding Cuban affairs, has ignored all the consular reports, and the consuls to all intents and purposes are useless as channels of information.

His Larynx Broken.

Seattle, March 8.—John Russell, steamer steward of the steamer Valencia, met his death in a peculiar way today. While standing on the dock he fell between the steamer and dock into the water, striking a log. His larynx was broken and he was smothered to death. Russell's remains will be sent to San Francisco, where he leaves a family.

Maine factories sold \$350,000 worth of wooden shoe pegs in 1897.

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 Resisted—No Martial Law at Skagway.

Seattle, March 7.—Five steamers arrived from Alaska today—the Utopia, Huene, Del Norte, Protection and Queen. The Queen left Skagway last Sunday. E. R. Knapp, of Boston, who came down on the Queen, authorizes 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 13 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 "at 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 of 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.

A 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. Warne, of Haines 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 an Alaska winter. The suffering of some of the newcomers is terrible. The Perry Humbert expedition, stationed here, is going to lose 130 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 possesses 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."

A DUEL WITH SWORDS.

Cavalotti, the Italian Poet and Statesman, Killed.

Rome, March 8.—Signor Felice Carlo Cavalotti, the poet, dramatist, publicist and well-known radical member of the chamber of deputies for Cortona, was killed here this afternoon in a duel with swords with Signor Maola, 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 Magore. Signor Maola's seconds were Deputies Signor Guido Fusinato, a professor at the university of Turin and member of Folte, and Signor Bizzoni, the publicist, 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 Celio. There, tracheotomy was performed, and artificial breathing attempted, but all efforts were useless. Signor Cavalotti expired in 10 minutes, without speaking again. Signor Maola did not receive a scratch.

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 Huestis 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 \$3.50 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.

Texaskana, 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 Darigo is seriously wounded. The participants were barbers, S. A. Gingola and his son-in-law, Mike Cannella, were about to come to blows, when the Graviani boys and Darigo attempted to intercede. Gingola and Cannella turned upon the Gravianis and both sides drawing revolvers, the battle was soon in progress. More than 80 shots were fired. Gingola and Cannella fled.

THE CORONA FLOATED.

Seattle, March 8.—The steam schooner Lakme, 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 20 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 Catharine 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 LOONA.

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 Talien Wan for the same period and on the same conditions as given Germany at Kiao 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."

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.