

# Eugene City Guard.

I. L. CAMPBELL, Proprietor.

EUGENE CITY, OREGON

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

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

The steamer *Elder* plying between Portland and Alaska ports, reports an exceedingly rough trip down. The sea was the worst the crew and officers of the *Elder* have ever encountered, and, owing to her being without ballast, all control of the vessel was lost, and it was only owing to the vigilance of the officers that she was saved from going with a crash on one of the thousands of small islands in this district. She was forced to remain at sea for 36 hours. The gale, while it lasted, was terrific, and attained a velocity of at least 100 miles an hour. The vessel's propeller blades were broken and she was compelled to lay over at Nanaimo for repairs.

At Philadelphia the birthday anniversary of George Washington was commemorated with appropriate exercises at the Academy of Music. The feature of the day was an address to the students of the university of Pennsylvania, delivered by President McKinley. The president paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the Father of Our Country, and from his life and deeds drew a lesson as to the duties of the American people of today. At Chicago, ex-President Harrison delivered a address before the Union League Club, choosing as his subject, "The Duties of Wealth." At numerous other cities the occasion was appropriately observed, with street parades and literary exercises.

The senate has passed a bill to add two artillery regiments to the strength of the army. This measure has been urged for many months by officials of the war department, who foresee that while congress of late years had taken measures for the protection of our coasts by additional appropriations for extensive work and great guns, it had not provided the men necessary to operate these engines of war. Should the house pass the bill, it will enable the department to carry out plans it has long had in view. Criticisms lately passed upon the state of the army and our fortifications have caused increased activity in military matters, and to some extent this is responsible for reports arriving from various quarters of movements at army posts.

The Bethlehem Company's steel mill, giving employment to 1,000 hands, has resumed work, after an illness of some months.

The Carpenter Steel Company, of Reading, Pa., is working a double turn on orders from the navy department for steel projectiles.

W. J. Scanlan, the once famous Irish actor, died of paralysis in a New York insane asylum, where he had been confined for five years.

Luther C. Billings, pay director in the United States navy, has been found guilty of falsehood and scandalous conduct by a court martial at Washington, and sentenced to dismissal from the service.

The Great Commonwealth Development and Mining Company has applied to the Dominion parliament for a railroad charter from Edmonton to the Alaska line by way of Peace, Laird and Felly rivers.

The board of directors of the Eastern Oregon & Washington Firemen's Association have met in Walla Walla and selected La Grande as the place for holding the next annual meeting and tournament of the associations, June 14, 15 and 16.

A sweeping reduction of over \$8,000,000 from the amount carried by the current law is made in the sundry civil appropriation bill, reported to the house Tuesday, the aggregate appropriation carried being \$14,749,893. The total is \$13,234,541 less than the regular and supplemental official estimates made for the fiscal year 1899, and \$5,861,850 less than the appropriations made for the current fiscal year.

A Port Townsend, Wash., dispatch says: As a consequence of the unfavorable criticism that has followed the sinking of the steamer *Clara Nevada* and the trouble that attended the departure of the *North Pacific* for the north, carrying goldseekers, Colonel Huestis, collector of customs, has determined to compel vessels bound for Alaska to carry only the number of passengers allowed by the federal permit.

The new wharf at Tampico, constructed by the Central railroad, under government supervision, was totally destroyed by fire Sunday. The cause of the fire is unknown. The construction of the wharf was commenced in July, 1892, and it was to be one of the finest on the Spanish-American coast. Its length was 2,375 feet, and all is burned. The custom-house under construction and nearly completed, was damaged to the extent of about \$800,000. The total loss on wharf, custom-house and merchandise is nearly \$2,000,000; fully insured.

Hon. Sanford B. Dole, president of the republic of Hawaii, was tendered a public reception at San Francisco at the chamber of commerce, and met with a cordial and flattering recognition on the part of the crowds of people.

Secretary Gage points with a good deal of interest to the fact that the custom receipts for this fiscal year at last have overtaken the receipts for the same period of the prior fiscal year. The total receipts for this fiscal year have reached \$85,089,596.

The interstate commerce commission has suspended operation of the long and short-haul clause of the interstate commerce act in favor of railroad lines in the United States in competition with the Canadian Pacific road.

## A CLASH INEVITABLE.

Costa Rica and Nicaragua Apparently Close to the Verge of War.

New York, Feb. 28.—A dispatch to the *Herald* from Panama says: Advice received today from Costa Rica state that, at a banquet given on Sunday night, President Iglesias said the situation between Costa Rica and Nicaragua is such that war is inevitable. Further advices from Costa Rica say that on February 20 there was a large popular demonstration in which more than 5,000 persons showed their approval of the attitude of the government toward Nicaragua, and more troops were sent on February 20 to the frontier. Hostilities with Nicaragua are expected at any moment. Many prominent members of the American colony have offered to aid the government with men and money. One of them, James Bennett, offered to give \$50,000. The French colony has also promised to take up arms in defense of Costa Rica in the event of war.

Since the unsuccessful revolution broke out in Nicaragua on February 5, which President Zelaya charges the Costa Rican government with aiding, there has been little communication with the Costa Rican capital. Messages sent from here are in plain language at sender's risk and subject to censorship.

A special commissioner arrived at Colon a few days ago with a dispatch from Washington. Replies were sent to Port Limon by the steamship *Newport*. It is stated that the same commissioner had a private conference with the government authorities here. His object is to enlist Colombia on Costa Rica's side should the Greater Republic of Central America or the triple alliance declare war against her.

## AUTONOMISTS WANT PEACE.

Cuba Libre's Hour of Triumph Near at Hand.

New York, Feb. 28.—A dispatch to the *Tribune* from Havana says: In the uncertainty of the relations with the United States, the importance of the recent action of the autonomist party is overlooked. Its central committee has formally approved the plan which is a confession of the failure of the present scheme of autonomy and an offer to the insurgents to concede everything except the withdrawal of the Spanish flag.

Its significance is in the fact that Senator Govin, of the autonomist cabinet, was a leading spirit in the meeting, and offered the resolutions for treating with the insurgents, which contain a series of propositions outlined by Bibra two weeks ago when the radical autonomist party was formed. These cover everything but independence.

The transigents are still hostile to the government. Among them the Maine inquiry is adding to the smothered anti-American feeling. The authorities profess ability to hold it in check.

## NINE LIVES LOST.

A Tenement House in Charleston, S. C., Burns With Fatal Results.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 28.—Nine lives were lost in a fearful fire which raged for a short time here this morning. At 2:10 A. M., a policeman on duty noticed big sparks flying from the tenement house at 169 Church street. The officer found that a blaze was issuing from one of the windows on the first floor. The doors were broken open and the family on that floor rushed out without injury. Somebody yelled that a family of women were sleeping on the third floor. The police rushed upstairs and when they reached the top floor the lifesaving work was stopped by the flames, which seemed to be over the entire floor. Screams from dying women were heard, and Officer Bagley rushed in and pulled out three charred bodies. The quick work of the fire department checked the flames, but not until nine lives had been lost. The dead are: Mrs. Rebecca Knickmeyer, Albert O'Neil, Caswell O'Neil, Josephine Knickmeyer, 7 years old; Katie Knickmeyer, 19 years old; Leona Knickmeyer, 9 years old; Francis Knickmeyer, 6 years old; Lillie Knickmeyer, 3 years old; a baby of Mrs. Knickmeyer, 1 month old.

## BRANDING SEALS.

The Process Described in the Electrical Review.

New York, Feb. 28.—The *Electrical Review* will publish today the first authentic account of branding fur seals by electricity to prevent the destruction of the female seals. The article is written by Elmer E. Farmer, of Stanford university, who accompanied the United States fur seal commission to the Pribiloff islands last August, when the experiment was tried.

The electrical apparatus consists of a small dynamo operated by a gasoline engine and a branding cautery similar to that used by physicians. The young female seals were marked by drawing the hot platinum cautery across the back, which resulted in destroying the fur so that even if the seal were afterward killed the commercial value of the fur would be destroyed.

It is probable that the experiments will be carried further by means of improved electrical apparatus.

A writer in the *Fortnightly Review* thinks that 55,000 farmers, each with a 100-acre farm in Canada, could supply all the wheat England needs.

## WOUND AROUND THE SHAFT.

Pendleton, Or., Feb. 28.—Clarence Dupuis, aged 22, was fatally hurt by being wound around the shaft at the woolen mill late last night. Dupuis was employed in the picker-room, and went below to remove a belt without waiting for the machinery to stop. A set pin in the shaft caught his blouse, whirled him over and over, breaking many bones and hurting him internally, so that he died several hours afterward.

Dupuis acted against the mill regulations in trying to remove the belt before the machinery had been stopped. He was married and has a young wife, who had just given birth to a child. The accident is greatly deplored.

## The Cabinet Meeting.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The first full meeting of the cabinet in some weeks was held today, both Alger and Sherman, who have been sick, being present. The cabinet talked about the Maine disaster at some length as current topic of vital interest, but no action was taken.

## A STRICT CENSORSHIP

France Denies Right of Free Speech and Free Press.

## MELINE'S OFFICIAL WARNING

Several Newspapers Notified to Cease Discussing Dreyfus Campaign—Lawyers Disbarred.

Paris, Feb. 28.—The new dictatorship has decided to suppress the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press.

This decision was announced by Meline in the chamber of deputies this afternoon.

Four newspapers tonight were notified that unless they cease discussing the Dreyfus campaign tomorrow they will be rigorously prosecuted.

A number of correspondents of foreign newspapers were warned that unless they abandon their hostile dispatches they will be expelled from France.

It is even asserted that Blowitz, the correspondent of the *London Times*, was also warned.

Because of his courageous action as an officer in the war department and in the Zola trial, Colonel Picquart, by a decree issued tonight, was expelled from the army and placed under three years of police surveillance.

The lawyer who advised him has been suspended from the bar.

Esterhazy has received official permission to prosecute Mathieu Dreyfus. The announcement was made that more rigorous measures of the same high-handed policy will soon be promulgated.

Concluding his official warning, Meline said: "I trust it will be understood that if the agitation continues after yesterday's verdict we shall be in the presence of a party issue. Enough evil has already been done internally. The life of the nation has been checked. A part of the foreign press denounces us. This must be stopped, in the interests of peace, of the army, and of our foreign relations. The government must deal with the wound it desires to heal, and it will impose silence upon everybody. It will take such disciplinary measures as the circumstances demand. Nobly can continue the agitation in good faith, and after tomorrow the government will suppress all attempts to continue it. The government is applying the laws at its disposal, and if the weapons are insufficient, it will ask for more." (Great tumult.) "The vote of this house will prove that when patriotism is involved, there are no parties. Everybody rallies under that flag."

## A CUT AT SAN FRANCISCO.

The Canadian Pacific Makes Low Rate to the East.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—The Canadian Pacific threw a bombshell into the camp of the American railroad agents this morning by announcing that tickets would be sold from San Francisco to New York via Vancouver at \$40 first-class and \$30 second-class. The lowest first-class rates by the Central and Union Pacific are \$79. Agents here say that east-bound business by the Canadian road is slight at this season, and they don't fear demoralization, but they recognize the danger to Klondike business if these rates are enforced in the East. In fact, the Southern Pacific will have to meet the cut or see all Klondike travel go to Victoria and Seattle. Everything depends on the Chicago meeting. If the Canadian Pacific cannot be placated then the Southern Pacific will be compelled to cut the present rates nearly in half.

## Crushed to Death.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—Charles Lapan, superintendent of construction on the Call building, was instantly killed this afternoon, in the freight elevator on the Third-street side of the building.

Lapan was at work in the basement, and stepped on the freight elevator. It is believed he pulled the wrong rope, and when the elevator started up, attempted to jump out. His body was caught between the floor of the elevator and the first floor and was terribly crushed. Death must have been instantaneous, for his whole chest was crushed to a pulp.

## Will Not Sell Cuba.

London, Feb. 28.—The *Standard's* Madrid correspondent says that he has found by an exhaustive canvass that all parties are amazed and indignant at the suggestion that Spain should sell Cuba, saying that it meant that the monarchy would be menaced by an irresistible popular movement supported by the army and navy. The financiers make the practical objection that, as the Cuban debt is almost entirely held by Spaniards, the price suggested would not satisfy half the commission required. None of the ministers would entertain the suggestion.

## Shipments From Canadian Points.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—The Canadian government has decided to permit Canadian goods to be shipped from Vancouver and Victoria in American vessels free of duty by St. Michaels to the Yukon for the coming season. An order to this effect has been sent to the customs office on the coast. The order applies to the Yukon route by St. Michaels, and does not include Skagway.

Tacoma, Feb. 28.—The *Midnight Sun* is the name of a tiny craft about to sail for Alaska from Tacoma. The boat is flat bottomed, 24 feet long, 6 feet wide and 2 feet deep, provided with side paddle-wheels, a two-horse power boiler and a steam engine. Only her two owners will go in her with their outfit.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—A party of goldseekers bound for the Klondike has just arrived from Gloucester, Mass., on the small schooner *Hattie L. Phillips*. The voyage was made in 129 days. She made a stop of five days at Sandy point. A heavy storm was encountered in the Gulf stream, and she was hove to for 37 hours. Six stops were made in the Straits of Magellan. The men, who are nearly all artisans or fishermen, will sell their vessel here and go north by steamer.

Colorado has passed California and taken first rank as a gold bearing state.

## SINKING IN THE MUD.

Prompt Word Is Necessary to Raise the Maine.

Havana, Feb. 28.—The wreck of the *Maine* is slowly but surely sinking into the mud. Before the hull can be raised it will be necessary to move the guns and deck debris. For lack of proper appliances, practically nothing in this line has been accomplished.

The cloudy weather and rain made the work of the divers unsatisfactory today, and very little was done. It is said that a hole has been made by the divers in one of the forward hatches, and it is hoped that a number of bottles will be recovered.

The court of inquiry last longer than usual today, the six divers being examined more in detail than heretofore. At the afternoon session the examination of the divers was continued. A civilian whose testimony is said to be of importance, was also examined. The name of the witness and all particulars of the evidence are withheld.

Late today, the paymaster's safe, with \$23,500, and his papers, was taken from the wreck. Beyond this, no statement is made as to the value and nature of the contents. A large quantity of water ran out when the safe was raised above the surface.

The complaint is still made that the electric lamps are of little use to the divers, as the light is faint and uncertain, and to hold them takes one of the diver's hands. They have assuredly proved of little value in the present investigation.

So far as reports made public go, workmen on the Right Arm with the assistance of the naval militia are laboring hard to recover the bodies under the hatch which led to the fire room platforms. It is hoped the bodies will be taken out tomorrow.

The Havana papers print long extracts from the American papers but of course only of delayed news. All the Americans are anxiously waiting the arrival of tomorrow's mail.

Consul-General Lee says he has received no news of importance from the state department.

The Spanish cruiser *Alfonso XIII* has been towed to a buoy further within the harbor to make room for the cruiser *Vizcaya* which is expected here tomorrow or the next day from New York.

The wounded are reported as doing well today.

The wrecking tug *Right Arm* is engaged in removing such parts of the wreck as it is possible to handle in advance of the arrival of strong tugs and derricks from the north. It is believed the divers from the fleet and *Right Arm* will remain at work when the *Mangrove* leaves. The *Fern* will be the only United States vessel in the harbor after the *Mangrove* goes.

## A TRANSPORT SERVICE.

Plant Line Said to Be Prepared to Land Troops in Havana.

Tampa Fla., Feb. 28.—Although the officials of the company have not so stated publicly, nearly everybody here understands that the Plant system has completed arrangements for the transportation of troops and munitions of war to Havana on short notice. All of the ships have been placed in condition for an emergency. Should war be declared it is said that the company has perfected plans to land a large body of troops in Havana within 36 hours after their arrival at this place. Troops can be transported from Washington and New York to this port in from 24 to 30 hours. The company has also made arrangements it is said to land promptly men and arms at Key West and all strategic points on the coast of Florida and at Mobile.

## BATTLESHIPS TO BE LAUNCHED

An Important Event to Occur at Newport News Soon.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 28.—The officers of the *Newport News* shipping yard announce that the double launching of the battleships *Kentucky* and *Kearsage* will take place March 24, and will be the first double launching of first-class battleships in the world.

Governor Bradley and staff will come from Kentucky, and Miss Christine Bradley will christen the *Kentucky* with a bottle of water taken from the spring from which Abraham Lincoln drank when a boy, while Mrs. Winslow, wife of Lieutenant Wilson, U. S. N., will stand sponsor for the *Kearsage*. The ships could be put in commission in six months if necessary, but the contractors have no hurry orders.

The Illinois, the third big battle-ship building at Newport News, is only a month or two behind the others.

## Spaniards Eager for War.

London Feb. 28.—According to a special dispatch from Madrid reports received there from the United States to the effect that public opinion in the latter country is becoming more excited owing to the impression that the *Maine* disaster was not due to accident are "restraining popular feeling here (in Madrid) and the conviction is increasing in ministerial circles that the worst must be expected."

Continuing the dispatch says: "The government has no choice if the United States adopts a threatening attitude for the prospect of war is popular with all parties and the more excitable newspapers are already urging the government to take measures to enable Spain to strike the first and decisive blow."

## Town Nearly Destroyed.

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 28.—Floods and avalanches have partly destroyed the town of Monte Cristo, situated in the heart of the Cascade mountains. The railroad connecting the place with Everett has been washed out, and the lack of railroad connections has caused the concentrator and the part of the Monte Cristo mines which John D. Rockefeller owns to shut down.

In 1897 Ohio furnished almost 37,000 tons of grindstones.

## Artillery Bill in House Committee.

Washington, Feb. 28.—There was but one vote in the house committee on military affairs today against favorably reporting the senate bill providing for two additional regiments of artillery. It was delivered by Cox, Democrat, of Tennessee. The sentiment in the committee was overwhelming for the two additional regiments to promptly man guns which are being erected along the coast.

Infant schools began in New Lanark, Scotland, in 1815; in England not till 1818.

## FEELING OF SUSPENSE

Due to Warlike Preparations Throughout the Land.

## STRENGTH OF NAVAL MILITIA

Movement of United States Warships—Alleged Interviews With President McKinley.

Washington, Feb. 28.—While there is nothing to indicate that war with Spain is inevitable, a feeling of suspense pervades all sections of the country. The government, without a doubt, is preparing for a possible emergency. Unusual activity is reported at navy yards, barracks, and recruiting stations, and where war material is being manufactured, orders have been received to push the work with all speed. As a result of the tension, stocks and bonds on the New York exchange dropped from 110 to 120 points, and the New York and Chicago wheat markets were affected sympathetically. In the London stock market, American shares sold at declines. The senate fortunately did not add to the excitement yesterday, the jingoes doubtless being absent. In the house, an increase in the appropriation for caring for the Springfield, Mass., arsenal, was accepted without protest.

## The Naval Militia.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The navy department today gave out figures showing the strength of the naval militia up to date. This shows a total force of 4,445 officers and enlisted men, which is a gratifying increase from the 3,703 shown by the former report.

Aside from this, new brigades are in process of formation, which promises to swell the total to much larger figures at an early date. The organization of this auxiliary arm of the naval service is under the immediate direction of Lieutenant Gibbons, U. S. N., whose energy has accomplished much in securing state organization and in the harmonizing of the bodies into one compact force, capable in emergency of cooperating with the regular navy.

In his last report, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt said that the state naval militia, in the event of a sudden emergency, could be utilized at once for manning the smaller cruisers. It could be depended upon mainly, he said, as a second line of defense, and also be used in placing mines and the establishment of signal stations for coast defense.

The appropriation of \$50,000 that is to aid the work of the naval militia will be distributed among the states in a few days.

## FOUND BY DIVERS.

Evidence That the First Explosion Was Beneath the Ship.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The *Evening Star* has received the following telegram from Charles Pepper, its staff correspondent in Cuba:

At this writing divers are developing important results. From the examination of the inner wreckage they have secured evidence which seems conclusive that the explosion came from underneath the ship. Some of the smaller magazines may have exploded. The main 10-inch magazine did not explode. The condition of the interior of the wreck shows further probability of the ship having been due to outside forces. The further the investigation progresses, the more untenable becomes the theory which the Spanish government adduced to show accidental cause. It is evident that the Spanish case will be based on the claim that the fire preceded the explosion.

Captain Sampson and his colleagues of the naval board say that outside evidence is offered regarding the torpedo float producing the explosion. Said one diver, who had been engaged in the work of getting bodies out from under the hatch:

"God may be merciful to the men who blew these poor fellows into eternity, the United States should not forget this was before Long's order prohibiting officers from talking had been issued. This diver evidently thought the explosion was not an accident. He had an expert's capacity and opportunity for judging.

The Havana public is not permitted to know the intensity of public sentiment in the United States. Only meager details are permitted to be known of what happens in Washington. Congress is watched with excessive anxiety by palace officials, but the populace know nothing of what is liable to happen. Evidence of ill-feeling toward the American people and anxiety over the *Maine* disaster does not lessen.

The *Maine* inquiry dwarfs interest in Cuban politics, but recent developments carry an official confession of the failure of autonomy.

## War Preparations in Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—Major-General Snowden, commander of the national guard of Pennsylvania, has issued general orders to every officer in the state to recruit his command up to the full quota required by law. The orders were issued five days ago with instructions that they be kept a profound secret. The officers were instructed to have their men ready to march fully armed and equipped at 24 hours' notice.

New York, Feb. 28.—A *Tribune* dispatch from Havana says: The outlook in Cuba does not grow more promising. The exact situation is that the government officials were never so much disturbed as today. This is partly due to information from Washington and Madrid. News from these places which is permitted to reach the public is so meager that better judgment can be formed in the United States than here as to whether the fears of the officials are exaggerated.

## General Rainfall in California.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—Reports from all parts of the state indicate a general rain has fallen during the past 24 hours, to the great benefit of the growing crops, which had been suffering from the long-continued drought.

## Mounted Police for Sticken.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 28.—The Canadian government has decided to station mounted police in the Sticken river country. A small detachment of police left tonight on the steamer *Danube*. They will be located at Glenora, Telegraph creek and Lake Tealin.

## THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

War With Spain Not Inevitable, but the Situation Is Grave.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—The *Tribune* this morning prints the following special from Washington:

To a senator who called upon him yesterday in order to ask some serious questions as to the policy of the administration, President McKinley, with the utmost frankness, uttered the following words:

"I do not propose to do anything at all to accelerate war with Spain. Up to the present I do not think war is either necessary or inevitable. I would be lax in my duty, however, if I did not prepare for the future. The situation is grave, and the policy of the administration will be determined almost entirely by the course of events from time to time. There is no necessity of alarming the people, but congress must be ready to assist the administration without making too many inquiries as to the course of current events."

There is no doubt of the fact that the government of the United States is actually preparing for war with Spain. It is not inevitable that war will follow, but the activity is too unmistakable to be concealed. The president and his cabinet unite in the belief still, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, that the explosion of the *Maine* was an unfortunate accident, but they recognize the fact that the contrary may prove true at almost any hour, and that if it is shown even inferentially that Spain had a hand in the catastrophe there will be but one thing to do, and that will be to seize the island of Cuba by force of arms. At no time since the war of the rebellion has the military branch of the government been so active as it is today.

It is a significant fact that within the last two days there has been a remarkable change of opinion in the navy department in regard to the explosion on the *Maine*. When the first news arrived here last week experts at the department were nearly divided as between the accident and design, but today after studying the late reports, and especially photographs sent from Havana, nine out of ten of the officers of the department express the belief that the *Maine* was anchored over a submarine mine. The only difference of opinion seems to be as to whether the mine was exploded by Spanish officers acting under orders, or by some enthusiast, but it is said that this does not lessen in any degree the responsibility of Spain for the horrible catastrophe.

If the Spanish officers allowed the warship to be moored to a buoy which was attached to a submarine mine, they thereby became responsible for the result, whether the mine was exploded by official orders or not. The placing of the *Maine* in an exposed place in the harbor if it was done at all, was done by Spanish officers, and if the mine was exploded by anybody at all, they were directly responsible, and will be so held by President McKinley's administration.

## RELIEF FOR MAINE VICTIMS.

Bill for That Purpose Introduced into the House.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Representative Boutelle, of Maine, chairman of the house committee on naval affairs, introduced a bill this afternoon providing for the relief of the victims of the battle-ship *Maine*. It follows generally the lines of the Sanoan disaster relief bill of 1890, and is the result of several days' conference in committee, and embodies the views of the administration. Boutelle had a conference with President McKinley today, at which he went over with him the proposed legislation, and later submitted the measure at an informal meeting of some of the committee. It will be referred back to the committee immediately, and its passage expedited. The bill provides for the payment of 12 months' pay to the widows or children, or, if there be no such, to the parents, or if neither of these, to the brothers and sisters of each of those killed in the *Maine* disaster. In addition, the legal heirs of each of the victims shall receive an annuity of pay due at the time of death. It is provided also that any allotments previously made by any of the deceased to any relatives of the men mentioned shall be continued for three months, the amounts so paid to be deducted from the 12 months' pay otherwise allowed.

## THAT SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGE.

Spaniards Confess There Is a Mine Under the Harbor Entrance.

Havana, Feb. 28.—In connection with the claim made by the Cubans that there are mine galleries under the harbor of Havana, leading from subterranean passages and known to have existed for years, between Fort Cabanas, Morro castle, and this port, the Spaniards explain that for over a century, a subterranean passage about two miles long and eight feet wide at its narrowest diameter, capable of giving passage to a column of troops, has existed from the navy-yard to Castillo del Principe. But, the Spaniards further assert, the existence of this passage was not known to the present authorities, or to those who have been in power for many years past. The entrance and exit, it is added, have been closed for years past, by thick walls now covered with debris, and their exact location is said to be lost. At the same time, it is admitted that the matter regarding the subterranean passage can be found in old documents in the archives of Havana.

Finally, the Spaniards insist that this passage does not go under the harbor at any point.

## Warships Headed for Havana.

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Feb. 28.—The Spanish armored cruiser *Almirante Oquendo* left today for Havana. The Italian third-class cruiser *Giovanni Bausani* is expected here Saturday next. She is on her way to Cuba.

## Bank Vault Blown Open.

St. Louis, Feb. 28.—A special to the *Post-Dispatch* from Shipman, Ill., says that the vault of the Shipman bank was today blown open by robbers, who used nitroglycerin. The robbers only secured \$10 in pennies, as they were scared away before being able to break into the inner steel safe, which contained thousands of dollars.

## Richard Allen and Tom Holmes were Lynched at Mayfield, Ky. Allen robbed a house, and Holmes killed his wife six months ago.

Richard Allen and Tom Holmes were lynched at Mayfield, Ky. Allen robbed a house, and Holmes killed his wife six months ago.

## DYING IN THE STREETS

Condition of Reconcentrados in Matanzas.

## RELIEF FUND IS EXHAUSTED

Fourteen Thousand Persons in the City Absolutely Without Food—The Autonomists' Latest Move.

Santiago, de Cuba, Feb