

# Lincoln County Leader

J. F. STEWART, Publisher.

TOLEDO.....OREGON

## CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

### Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Cited From the Telegraphic Columns

The first mining and irrigation congress ever held in the Pacific Northwest met in Baker City, Or., Tuesday. Much interest was manifested and numerous delegates attended.

A Cairo dispatch says: It is announced that the gunboats and Anglo-Egyptian troops attacked Shendy Saturday, destroyed the forts, captured quantities of grain, cattle and ammunition and liberated over 600 slaves. The dervishes lost 160 men. There were no casualties on the Anglo-Egyptian side.

A London dispatch says the situation in the far East is considered gloomy and unsatisfactory, and there is deep discontent here over the results of Lord Salisbury's diplomacy. The belated movement of the British fleet in Chinese waters has caused as much uneasiness in financial circles as satisfaction among other classes. This apprehension would have affected all classes of securities if American stocks had not been remarkably buoyant, and carried everything upward.

The Official Messenger, of St. Petersburg, publishes a circular which has been telegraphed to the representatives of Russia abroad. It is as follows: "By virtue of a convention signed at Peking on March 27, Port Arthur and the port of Talien Wan and territories adjacent thereto have been ceded to Russia in usufruct by China. You are requested to notify the government to which you are accredited, adding that the above mentioned ports and territories will be immediately occupied by Russian troops and the Russian flag will be hoisted by the side of the Chinese flag. You may at the same time inform the foreign minister that the port of Talien Wan will be open to foreign trade and that the largest measure of hospitality will be extended to ships of all friendly nations."

John G. Brady, governor of Alaska, came down on the last steamer from the north. He is on his way to Washington in the interest of Alaskan legislation. Governor Brady said that all saloons in Alaska will be closed, if it is within his power. He does not expect, however, that this will put a stop to the use and sale of liquor in Alaska, it being his opinion that prohibition cannot be successfully carried out there. Governor Brady declared himself in favor of high license. On his visit to Washington he will endeavor to have the general land laws of the United States extended to Alaska. He will suggest that a commission be appointed to draft a code of laws for the territory.

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

Chicago Typographical 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."

### ENGULFED BY A FLOOD.

Terrible Loss of Life at Shawneetown, Ill., by Breaking of a Levee.

Louisville, April 5.—A special to the Courier-Journal, from Evansville, Ind., says: This evening the levee at Shawneetown, Ill., broke a mile above town, and from information obtained, it is learned that a greater part of the place is destroyed and, perhaps, a large number of citizens have been drowned.

Shawneetown is 75 miles below Evansville, on the Ohio river. It is situated in a valley of extremely low land, with hills skirting it in the rear, and with a 25-foot levee running from hill to hill. The town is very much in the position of a fortified city, and when the levee gave way a mile above town under the pressure of very high water, the water shot through a 20-foot opening and struck the place like a hurricane, sweeping everything before it.

Houses were turned and tossed about like boxes. The people were not warned, and for that reason many were caught. Those at home sought refuge in second stories and on house tops. Those in the streets were carried before the avalanche of water, and probably a majority were drowned.

Citizens came from the place by skiffs to a telephone several miles away and asked for aid from Evansville. They said that more than 200 people were drowned, and they had reason to believe that the number would reach 500, or even 1,000. The water stands from 20 to 30 feet all over the town.

There are, of course, no fires or lights in the place, and total darkness envelops the desolate city. Consequently, it is impossible for them to have anything like definite information.

At 10 o'clock two steamboats started for Shawneetown under a full head of steam, and it is thought they will arrive there before morning. They carried large supplies of food and blankets, quickly collected by city officials.

Late news from Mount Carmel says the disaster is probably worse than at first supposed, and the loss of life will be over 200. The survivors will be without food or fire, and will suffer considerably. Communication with the ill-fated place will not be had for several hours.

#### Communication Cut Off.

Chicago, April 5.—At 12:30 this morning the operator in the long-distance telephone office at Mount Vernon, Ind., informed the press that the estimated loss of life at Shawneetown was at that hour 200. Mount Vernon is 30 miles from Shawneetown, and the information is based on reports believed to be reliable. The company's wires to the stricken city failed soon after 4 P. M. At that hour it was known that the damage was heavy, but it was not thought the levee would go to pieces quickly enough to occasion loss of life. At 3 o'clock it was known in Mount Vernon that many people had been drowned. A relief-boat bearing food, blankets and surgeons was started down the river, and was expected to reach Shawneetown before morning. Gradually the reports of loss of life increased, the estimates coming from various points near the scene of the flood showing clearly that the disaster was far worse than was at first believed. People at Mount Vernon and surrounding towns besieged the telegraph offices frantically asking for tidings from friends and relatives in the flooded town. No attempt at an accurate list of the lost was possible, however, and the crowds stood all night before the bulletin-boards on which were posted the meager reports being received.

#### Levee Had Shown Weakness.

Evansville, Ind., April 5.—The man who ventured out in a skiff at great peril to his life to call on Evansville for help for Shawneetown says that the dam had shown weakness for several days. However, the people were lulled into security by the fact that a guard was put on the levee to give warning in case of danger. This man, who did not give his name, and who was so much excited that he could not be prevailed upon to stay longer, said that when he came he floated through streets ringing with the frightened cries of drowning women and children, and with brave words of exhortation by their rescuers. He said the whole neighboring country was flooded for miles.

#### Places Loss at Five Hundred.

Chicago, April 5.—A Chronicle dispatch from Carmi, Ill., says: A courier has just reached here from Shawneetown. He estimates the loss of life at from 200 to 500. His name is Jackson Phillips and he has lost a wife and two children in the flood.

#### Some of the Victims.

St. Louis, April 5.—A Globe-Democrat special from Ridgeway, Ill., says: It is hard to learn the particulars of the flood at Shawneetown, but it is known that 200 persons perished, among the number being Sheriff Galoway's family, the wife of Zach Meier, Charles Clayton, Wash Callicott and wife, Paul Phalen's family, and others.

#### South Carolina Town Burned.

Charlotte, N. C., April 5.—Fire at Rock Hill, S. C., destroyed 12 buildings involving a loss of \$250,000, upon which there was an insurance of \$150,000, distributed in 16 companies. The origin is yet a matter of speculation. The Charlotte fire department arrived there after the fire was under control.

## IN THE EMPLOY OF RUSSIA

### Chinese Foreign Office Accused of Treachery.

#### SAID TO HAVE BEEN BRIBED

Li Hung Chang Accused of Complicity—A Demand Has Been Made That He Be Beheaded.

Shanghai, April 5.—It is announced that a person of the highest rank has memorialized the emperor in the most vigorous language, accusing the whole tsung-li-yamen (Chinese foreign office) of being in the pay of Russia. He asserts that Russia expended 10,000,000 taels in bribery during the recent negotiations regarding the cession of Port Arthur and Talien Wan, etc., and claims that Li Hung Chang's share was 1,500,000 taels.

The personage referred to demands a full investigation, and asks that Li Hung Chang be beheaded if the accusations are proven, the memorializer offering to be executed himself if his charges are not sustained.

The Russians have permitted two British gunboats to enter and leave Port Arthur freely.

The British first-class cruiser Graf-ton, flagship of Rear Admiral C. P. Fitzgerald, second in command on the China station, and the first-class cruiser Narcissus, the second-class cruiser Rainbow, and other vessels of the squadron, left Che Foo Saturday. Their destination is unknown, but it is reported to be Chemulpo, the port of Seoul. The movements of the various ships excite the greatest interest among foreigners here. It is supposed they will make a demonstration, possibly in support of some British demands for concessions.

### WAR OR PEACE.

#### Question Will Be Determined by the President's Message.

Washington, April 5.—The opinion almost universally held in Washington tonight by public men and diplomats is that the crisis will reach its climax this week and that the question of war or peace will be determined within the next few days. Senators and representatives conferred all day about the gravity of the situation, and at the White House the president consulted with several members of his cabinet and other confidential advisers regarding the message he is preparing to send to congress. At the state, war and navy building, active work was going on and altogether it has been a day of suppressed feeling.

No day has been announced as the day when the message will be sent to congress. Besides the physical work of preparing the comprehensive document, upon which the president expects to rest his case with the world, there are reasons why those in charge of the war preparations will welcome every hour's delay. War material which we have ordered abroad is not yet shipped, and the factories in this country will work day and night making powder and projectiles and are anxious for delay. Some of the factories in Connecticut with contracts have telegraphed Representative Hitt, urging all delay possible. They say every day now is precious.

#### Pacific Base of Supply.

Honolulu, April 4.—The United States ship Mohican arrived on the 19th, nine days from San Francisco. She brought ammunition and supplies for the United States ship Baltimore, which will leave for Hong Kong tomorrow. A telegram received from Washington the 19th says that in the event of war with Spain, the neutrality of these islands will not be kept, but they will at once be made a depot of naval supplies. A lengthy dispatch was received by the Hawaiian government on the same date from Minister Hatch, at Washington. It gives practically the newspaper accounts of delay with the treaty on account of the Maine disaster. The minister mentions that one of the assumptions of the situation is that in case of war the islands would be made a base of supply by the United States fleets operating in the Pacific.

#### Ready for Flight.

Berlin, April 5.—The German ambassador at Madrid reports to the foreign office here that the Spanish royal family fears an outbreak at home unless the differences between the United States and Spain are very soon settled. The Carlist movement is assuming a more active form, and the royal family fears especially a pronunciamento by Weyer and the military party.

Everything is prepared in the royal castle for flight. The boy king, Alfonso, will be taken to San Lucar de Barrameda, where a yacht is kept ready for sailing. The replies to the queen's letters asking for the intervention of the European powers have been wholly unsatisfactory.

#### Astoria Road Completed.

Clatskanie, Or., April 5.—The two tracklaying crews on the Astoria & Columbia River railroad completed the all-rail connection between Astoria and Portland at a point near this place at 4:30 P. M. today. Several hundred citizens of this place, headed by the Clatskanie band, were present to witness the driving of the last spike.

### ON STATEN ISLAND SHORE.

Government Fortifications on Condemned Property.

New York, April 4.—Great activity prevails on the Staten island shore at the southern extension of Fort Wadsworth, where the government has acquired residence property and is using it for fortification. Tenants of condemned residences have received official notice from Major Adams, in command at Fort Wadsworth, that they must vacate in four days.

Much energy is being exerted about Captain King's residence. Even while the household effects were being moved workmen were felling trees on the lawns and digging trenches. Beyond the ruins can be seen the concrete emplacements of the battery of disappearing guns belonging to Fort Wadsworth.

In a diagonal line from the ruined domicile to the lawn in front of the King residence hundreds of workmen are making an enormous trench. The excavated earth is carried beyond, where a growing mound marks the site of a new battery which is to be constructed. This battery will command a view of South beach. Near by are other houses still the property of private citizens, who, however, will have to relinquish them to the government.

### SPAIN'S ANSWER FINAL.

#### The Situation Is Critical, But the People Do Not Realize It.

Madrid, April 4.—According to the best information obtainable today Spain has definitely resolved not to make any further concessions to the United States.

Views from an authoritative source already bulletined to the press from Madrid are the substance of the official note on the subject published today. The Spanish government takes a bright view of relations with the United States, and believes peace is secured. Important newspapers comment on the note in this strain. But inquiries made last evening of Minister Woodford failed to secure anything confirming the optimistic impressions prevailing here. He has so earnestly been a friend of peace throughout that his silence now causes much anxiety in diplomatic circles. Woodford was busy until late last night. The substance of yesterday's proposals of the Spanish government, the press learns, is: First—That the insurgents should ask for an armistice, and not the United States.

Second—That the request for an armistice should be dealt with by the autonomist cabinet of Cuba, and without the intervention or good offices of the United States.

### VANDERBILT'S PATRIOTISM.

#### In Case of War He Will Give the Government a \$5,000,000 Warship.

New York, April 4.—W. K. Vanderbilt, it is reported, has decided, in the event of war with Spain, to present to the government a warship to cost \$5,000,000. This interesting information came from a most reliable source, with the explanation that Mr. Vanderbilt, impressed with the justice of the nation's attitude, believed this to be the most direct and practical manner in which he could be of service to his country. His grandfather, Commodore Vanderbilt, during the civil war, presented to the federal government the steamship Vanderbilt, valued at \$1,000,000.

#### Iconoclast Brann Killed.

Dallas, Tex., April 4.—A special to the News from Waco says: In the midst of busy preparations for city election meetings, while bands were playing and scattering handbills from their decorated vans calling the people together, W. C. Brann, editor of the Iconoclast, and Captain M. T. Davis met and fought a revolver duel, which resulted in Brann's death tonight. The combatants met at 6 o'clock on South Fourth street, in front of the Cotton Belt ticket office, and after exchanging a few words, both began emptying their revolvers into each other's bodies. When the battle was over Brann was found to be perforated in the left lung, the left leg, and the right foot. Davis was shot through the right lung and through both arms. The difficulty between the two men grew out of the Brann-Baylor feud of last year.

#### The Colville Mining Boom.

Spokane, April 4.—Mining men down from the north half of the Colville reservation last night report a lively rush to the new camp of Republic, in Eureka district. Four stages run daily, and men are rushing in by the hundred—in wagons, on horseback and afoot. Capitalists are coming in large numbers, and many transfers are being made.

Experts who have examined the Republic mine report that over \$2,000,000 worth of gold ore has been blocked out.

The townsites was put on the market two days ago, and men stood in line for hours to buy lots. Mining men predict that the town will have 10,000 population before next winter.

#### To Man a Monitor.

New York, April 4.—Orders were received by the commander of the New York naval reserve today to send 100 men to League island to bring to this port one of the monitors now there. The men will leave at 8:30 P. M.

## WAR REGARDED INEVITABLE

### Spain's Answer Is Entirely Unsatisfactory.

#### REPLY SENT TO CONGRESS

An Important Cabinet Meeting Held—Administration Has Done All in Its Power to Settle Matter Peaceably.

Washington, April 4.—There is little doubt that the president and members of his cabinet now regard a conflict with Spain as almost inevitable. In his message to congress, which in all probability will be sent in early in the week, it is understood that the president will review at some length the record as it stands between this government and Spain, but will not insist upon further time in which to continue negotiations looking to a peaceful settlement of the Cuban problem.

The cabinet meeting this morning was unquestionably the most important held in many years. It received Spain's answer to the ultimatum of this government, and finding it unsatisfactory, practically decided upon a policy which at this hour seems certain to involve hostilities. The whole record will be laid before congress, and the question is now under earnest consideration of what shall be the particular form our policy shall take in bringing to an end the horrors in Cuba, and securing the independence of the island.

Propositions ranging from a simple recognition of Cuban independence to a straight out declaration of war have been urged at the capitol, but there is hardly a doubt that the majority of congress await the executive lead before taking action, and are disposed to adopt Mr. McKinley's suggestions on this point. It is not thought that any of the resolutions, except, possibly, a simple recognition of independence, would lead to war.

There were, of course, all sorts of rumors in circulation, including reports of mediation by some European powers, but no such suggestion has come to this government, for as late as 5 o'clock, in response to a direct question, Secretary Day said there had been no offer of mediation by any foreign government.

#### Cabinet Member's Statement.

One member of the cabinet, in speaking of the meeting today, said: "In the morning, it was apparent to all of us that, having exhausted all diplomatic efforts to bring about a better condition of affairs in Cuba, the whole question must be submitted to congress. At our afternoon meeting, the president requested each member of the cabinet to express freely his individual opinion as to what should be done. The discussion was entirely on the lines indicated by the members. Nothing definite was decided upon, and no conclusions reached. The president will now take the views submitted to him under consideration, preparatory to his message to congress, which will be sent early in the week."

"President McKinley has done a great deal of work recently, and appears pretty well fatigued. Consequently, he will take some little rest before beginning work on the message. He has not yet determined what recommendation will be communicated to congress."

"My own individual opinion is that but little faith can be put in promises made by Spain, and this makes me hesitate about accepting with any confidence her latest proposals. In the first place, she promised a long time ago that the reconcentrados would be released; the result shows this promise has not been kept. Now she proposes to release them, but keep them under military supervision. Who can tell whether she will adhere to this expressed intention?"

"Broadly, there appears to be three courses open to the president in dealing further with this matter. The first of these is to accept the proposals submitted by Spain in reply to the American representations, the second to relegate the whole matter to congress, and let that body do as it seems proper—which I think would mean intervention—and the third, to take a middle stand. But, as I said before, nothing has yet been determined upon by the president, or, if he has reached a decision, he did not communicate it to the cabinet."

"Yes, reference was made by Spain to the Maine matter in the reply she sent through Minister Woodford. She made no offer to pay for the loss, but suggested that the matter be settled by arbitration. So far as I recall, she expressed no regret for the sad occurrence, and the whole thing was regarded as a cold-blooded statement."

The reply of Spain is said in effect to be representation that the independence of Cuba means the parting or cession of Spanish territory, which cannot be done without the consent of the Spanish cortes, which will not be in session until April 24. Then a counter-proposition is submitted that the Cuban matter shall be settled upon a basis equitable among nations. The United States is asked to give Spain time to treat with the insurgents and ascertain what can be done in the nature of a peaceful settlement.