

THE DAILY ASTORIAN is the biggest and best paper on the Columbia River

The Daily Astorian

FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

THE ASTORIAN has the largest circulation of any paper on the Columbia River

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ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

NO. 48.

We Want the ATTENTION
of the Housewife who are missing this sale.

Closing out entirely the E. R. Hawes stock at a ...**SACRIFICE**...

In order to make room for goods on the way from the East.

AGENTS FOR—
Quick Meal Oil Stoves,
"Superior" Stoves
and Ranges

Eclipse Hardware Company 505 Bond St.

From the Thirty-Eighth Annual Statement of

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Of the United States.

Outstanding Assurance Dec. 31, 1897	\$561,165,837.00
New Assurance written in 1897	156,955,693.00
Proposals for Assurance Examined and Declined in 1897	24,491,973.00
Income in 1897	48,572,269.53
Assets December 31, 1897	236,876,308.04
Reserve on all existing policies (4 per cent. standard) and all other liabilities	186,333,133.20
Surplus, 4 per cent. standard	50,543,174.84
Paid Policy-Holders in 1897	21,106,314.14

HENRY B. HIDE, President. J. W. ALEXANDER, Vice-Pres.
L. SAMUELS, Manager.
Third Floor, Oregonian Building - - - Portland, Oregon.

Diaries and Calendars For 1898...

Blank-Books and Office Supplies

GRIFFIN & REED

A new way over the old route

To Klondike

This route leads you via our stores in Astoria, Skagway and Dyea...

Where we are prepared to furnish you with everything in the way of an outfit than will protect you from cold, aid you in

Prospecting for Gold and at the same time nourish the inner man for a long time. Our stores, picks, shovels, gold pans, cooking utensils, and provisions of all kinds, in fact a complete hardware and cooking outfit for Alaska, we will sell you at a reasonable price.

Foard & Stokes Co. ASTORIA, Oregon.

Stokes Bros. Skagway and Dyea, Alaska.

GRIFIN & REED

Blank-Books and Office Supplies

UNION MEAT COMPANY

ALL KINDS OF CANNED MEATS

Guaranteed The Best in the Market

Hams, Bacon and Strictly Pure Lard

Cor. Fourth and Gisan Streets Portland, Oregon.

Kopp's "Best"

A DELICIOUS DRINK... AND ABSOLUTELY PURE

The North Pacific Brewery, of which Mr. John Kopp is proprietor, makes beer for domestic and export trade.

Bottled beer for family use, or keg beer supplied at any time, delivery in the city free.

NORTH PACIFIC BREWERY

UNITED STATES READY FOR WAR

Preparations Being Made With Great Activity by All Departments.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY SPEAKS

War Not Inevitable, But We Must Be Ready for Developments. Spanish Fleet on the Way to Havana

Chicago, February 24.—The Tribune this morning prints the following special from Washington:

"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."

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 above words. There is no doubt of the fact that the government of the United States is actually preparing for war with Spain. It is not necessary that war will follow, but the conviction 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 of the Maine. When the first news arrived here last week experts at the department were nearly divided as between 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. The latter opinion is generally held, 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 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.

CUBANS DON'T WANT WAR

St. Louis, Feb. 24.—Lupercio Martinez, a Cuban residing in St. Louis, and a man reported to be in close touch with the leaders of the cause for independence, stated today that the Cubans are not in favor of a war between the United States and Spain.

"We do not want to see the United States declare war against Spain. We can win our own independence now and need no intervention. Spain realized its inability to keep the island, but the Sagasta party dare not declare such to be the case, because to do so would mean the downfall of the party and most likely a revolution. To declare the island independent would be a death blow to the powers that now rule Spain."

"Now, if that party can force a war with the United States, it will be just what they want, because by it they could surrender Cuba and at the same time preserve their existence. This is the only salvation of Sagasta and his followers. If they can force it they live; if not, they perish as the dominant force in the nation."

SPANISH FLEET FOR HAVANA.

New York, February 24.—A dispatch to the World from Madrid says:

The queen invited to lunch with the royal family Captain Villamil, commander of the Spanish squadron about to start for Cuba. He had called to take leave of the queen. After luncheon the queen talked a long time with the commander, inquiring into all the details of the contemplated cruise. Villamil afterwards went to the ministry of marine to take leave of General Bernajo, with whom he had a long interview. The squadron will be composed of three torpedo destroyers, the Pluton, the Terror and the Furor, and the torpedo vessels Bayo Alcor and Oazor. These craft will be accompanied by the steamer City of Cadiz, conveying coal and provisions. The vessels will stop at the Canary islands and also at Porto Rico before reaching Cuba.

It is officially announced that there is no hurry for their joining the cruisers Oquendo and Vicaya at Havana.

STOP BUYING COTTON.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 24.—It is reported from Brenham that the agents of McFadden Brothers, of Philadelphia, one of the world's great cotton firms, has been instructed to stop buying cotton. The same notification is said to have been sent to all their hundred or more agents in Texas. Inquiries are said to have brought the answer that it was because of the Cuban complications. This has caused a considerable flurry among the local cotton men.

ANOTHER BATTLE WITH INSURGENTS

Spanish Major Rivas Killed and Four Officers and 15 Men Wounded.

CUBANS DON'T WANT WAR

Prefer to See Peace Between United States and Spain—War Just What Spain Would Like to See—Cubans Can Now Win.

Havana, via Key West, Feb. 24.—At an important meeting of the central committee of autonomists, Senor Govin, secretary of the interior, proposed an amendment increasing the committee from 49 to 55. The 15 new members will be taken from emigrants to the United States and insurgents of prominence who agree to support autonomy.

It is regarded as surprising that a Spanish resident supported the plan. The committee also nominated delegates for the election next month. It is believed that the radicals will carry the election.

General Pando after leaving Havana spent several days at Puerto del Padre, province of Santiago de Cuba. He sent emissaries to the insurgent leader Capote to negotiate a surrender. It is claimed that he has not been able to find Capote and that consequently he went on to the city of Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo and Santa Cruz, where he arrived last Tuesday. With a battalion of soldiers he took the steamer for Manzanillo to commence operations in the field. A battalion under Major Rivas left Candelaria on Monday to reconnoiter the insurgents. When the troops reached the heights they were attacked by a large insurgent force under General Maria Rodriguez and leader Perico Diaz and surrounded. A hot fight ensued. Major Rivas was killed by shots in the mouth and heart. The Spanish column retreated. Its casualties in addition to the loss of Major Rivas, were four officers and 15 men wounded. The insurgent loss was small.

The stories published in the Spanish newspapers that the United States naval officers at Havana are talking too much are unfounded. It would be impossible to find more discretion than is shown by all from captain to cadet. Even the men, wounded or unwounded, are careful of what they say, lest an indiscretion in talk should lead to serious action.

Captain Sigbee's private letters have been recovered. His gold medal from congress and the diplomatic order of the Red Eagle given him by Emperor William I. of Germany, for his inventions of deep sea apparatus, have not been found.

As an illustration of the want prevailing in the immediate suburbs of Havana it is said that during the last six weeks 230 patients have died of privation at the lunatic asylum at Maserra. In that period the autonomist mayor of Havana has given the asylum only \$100. The former mayor gave it \$400 a month with far fewer deaths.

SPANISH KILLED BY MACHETES.

Havana, via Key West, Feb. 24.—On Saturday last a party of about 40 guerrillas left the fort on a farm near Aguacate, about 40 miles from this city, to dine at a neighboring place. During the absence of the guerrillas a detachment of about 15 insurgents occupied the fort and when the garrison returned from dinner the insurgents fell upon them with machetes and killed 25 of the 40 guerrillas.

The remaining 15 members of the government force succeeded in escaping.

EXTENDING TELEGRAPH LINES.

St. Johns, N. F., Feb. 24.—One of the chief features of the railway data in this country is the extension of the telegraph system along the west coast of the straits of Belle Isle and thence north along Labrador, provided agreements can be effected whereby the Canadian government will subsidize the service.

THE CORBETT CASE IN THE SENATE

Spooner Makes a Favorable Impression in Favor of the Claimant.

A BUSHY DAY IN THE HOUSE

Preparing for Emergencies in Appropriation Bill—Arsenal Machinery to Be Put in Order—Naval Cadets Appointed.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The feature of the senate's session today was the speech of Spooner, of Wisconsin, on the right of Henry W. Corbett to a seat in the senate from Oregon under appointment of the governor. Spooner made a constitutional argument in favor of seating Corbett, and had not concluded when the senate adjourned.

An effort was made to obtain the consideration of the Alaskan homestead and railway right of way bill, but on a preliminary technicality it went over.

Spooner said that the primary power to fill seats in the senate from any state was in the legislature of the state, but in the reading of the constitution it ought to be remembered that this very matter was one of dispute in the constitutional convention. He pointed out that the constitution provided that each state should be the peer of every other state, not in population, not in area, but in the number of votes in the senate. While this constitution could be amended by the action of two-thirds of the states, it is provided that no state could be deprived of representation in the senate without its consent. It was the purpose undoubtedly of the framers of the constitution in placing in the governor the power to make a temporary appointment to safeguard the rights and interests of the state so that every state at all times might have full and complete representation in the senate.

An effective point was made by Spooner when he cited the credentials of John Walker, of Virginia, who was appointed to the senate on March 21, 1790, by the governor of Virginia. This case was the first gubernatorial appointment made to the senate under the constitution. Spooner said, and was precisely similar to that now under consideration, as Walker's credentials showed that the legislature of Virginia had the opportunity to fill the vacancy then existing and had failed to do so. The senate accepted Walker's credentials and seated him. "Can it reasonably be held," exclaimed Spooner, "that the distinguished men then sitting in the senate knew less of constitutional law than we know now?"

Just before the conclusion of Spooner's remarks Bacon, of Georgia, inquired whether under all circumstances in cases of anticipatory vacancies, the senator from Wisconsin (Spooner) held that the governor had the right to make the appointment irrespective of the inaction and the inability for any reason for the legislature to elect.

Spooner replied that Bacon had correctly stated his position.

Bacon then cited the hypothetical case of a legislature being influenced by the corrupt use of money not to elect in order that the governor might make the appointment, and asked Spooner if he would seat the appointee of the governor.

"Certainly," replied Spooner, "unless it could be clearly shown to the senate that the appointee was himself implicated in the conspiracy and in the corrupt use of money."

BUSY DAY IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The house devoted itself strictly to business today and disposed of 30 additional pages of the sundry civil appropriation bill.

The fact that the government is preparing for contingencies was recognized in the house today when Chairman Cannon, who has been laboring to keep down appropriations, accepted without a word of protest the amendment to increase the appropriation to care for the unused machinery in the Springfield arsenal. Gillette explained that the necessity for using this machinery might occur at any time.

The resolutions which were objected to a few weeks ago for the appointment of two extra naval cadets to positions in the engineer corps of the navy were also made. One of them will fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lieutenant Merritt, of the Maine.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

London, Feb. 24.—The Times announces this morning that the Chinese loan will issue at a price about 90. The security will include the unpledged balance of the customs revenue and a portion of the likin.

CHINESE LOAN UNDERWRITTEN.

London, Feb. 24.—Half the Chinese loan, amounting to \$28,000,000 (\$40,000,000) was underwritten this afternoon. The issue price is 90 and the interest from the loan is 4 1/2 per cent.

THE BANQUET IN OLD MADRID

Minister Woodford Entertains Diplomats and Spanish Officials.

IMPARCIAL WARNS PEOPLE

Against the Hypothetical Yankee Policy, Which Really Aims at the Independence of Cuba—Incident Important.

Madrid, Feb. 24.—United States Minister Woodford gave a banquet in honor of the new Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Poley Bernabe. The guests included the Austrian, Russian, French, German, Italian, Turkish, Dutch and British ministers and the Duke of Veragua, a lineal descendant of Columbus, who was the guest of the United States at the time of the Chicago fair; Premier Senor Sagasta, two members of the cabinet, and the staff of the United States legation.

Much political importance was attached to the incident, and the banquet, "coupled with the peaceful utterances of President McKinley," according to a semi-official report, have been optimistically utilized by the ministerial press. But the Imparcial today takes the Spanish government to task for "its apathy, contrasted with the patriotic feeling of the country" and warns the nation against "the hypothetical Yankee policy which really aims at the independence of Cuba."

NEW CANAL BONDS.

Plans to Float the St. Clair and Erie Canal Proposition.

Montreal, Feb. 24.—A proposal to guarantee the bonds of the St. Clair and Erie canal is being considered by the Dominion government. A deputation of representative men from the companies interested accompanied by the several members of parliament presented a petition that the petition of the St. Clair and Erie Canal Company asking for a guarantee of 2 per cent interest for 25 years on an issue of \$5,500,000 bonds be granted. The more important of the points touched upon by the delegates were the shortening of the distance between lake St. Clair and lake Erie by 79 miles, which would decrease the sailing distance and thus increase the number of trips in a season, the avoidance of the dangers and delays of the Detroit river route, the lessening of the cost of transports between Fort William and lake Erie and locally the making effectual of drainage of a very large area of fertile land now only imperfectly drained at a great cost and the bringing of a market equal to that of a large city to the very doors of the farmers and gardeners. It was also shown that the government will not be called upon to pay any of the interest guaranteed as the company would provide for it during the construction and after that the tolls on less than one-third of the tonnage passing through Detroit river would pay interest on the bonds and all expenses of operation.

ELECTRICITY ON ELEVATED.

New York, Feb. 24.—The Times says:

A contract has been signed by the Brooklyn elevated railway company on the one hand and the Walker company of Ohio and the Sprague Electric Elevator company on the other, which is the initiative step toward the adoption of electricity as a motive power on the elevated roads in Brooklyn. The contract calls for the equipment of 750 cars of the Brooklyn elevated company with Walker motors. Connection will be made with the tracks on Brooklyn bridge and trains will be run between Manhattan and Brooklyn without charge. It is expected that the contract will be running across by June 15. The signing of the contract is said to be the preliminary step involving the expenditure of between \$2,500,000 and \$3,000,000.

MCCORMICK CANNOT SERVE.

Cincinnati, February 24.—E. O. McCormick, passenger traffic manager of the Big Four railway, has telegraphed to New York to Commissioner Farmer of the Trunk Line Passenger association that pressing duties would render it impossible for him to serve on the conference committee, to which he was appointed by Commissioner Farmer, to endeavor to get the Canadian Pacific to call off its rate war.

BRANDING SEALS.

New York, Feb. 24.—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 by 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 cauterizer similar to that used by physicians. The young female seals were marked by drawing the hot platinum cauterizer across the back which resulted in destroying the fur so that even 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.

MORE WITNESSES ARE EXAMINED

Testimony of Chaplain Childwick and British Captain Taken.

STRICT SECRECY MAINTAINED

The Divers Examined Daily—The Court Will Probably Adjourn to Key West Today and Take More Evidence.

Havana, Feb. 24.—The court of inquiry held its usual sessions today. Captain Sampson reports that Chaplain Childwick was examined as to his personal experiences at the time of the disaster to the Maine and that the testimony was taken of the captain of the British bark in the harbor and the superintendent of the West Indian Oil Works across the bay at Regla, both of whom witnessed the explosion. Mr. Rolf, the British engineer of the floating dock in the harbor, wrote a letter to the court, but it is said it did not add anything material to what was known.

At the afternoon session the divers were examined more fully than before. Their testimony is taken from day to day. The court expects now to finish here today and to sail on the Mangrove for Key West where the other officers and men will be examined. Neither the officers of the court of inquiry or the witnesses will give the slightest indication of the testimony or conclusions deducible from it, and all say the men employed on the wreck have been warned to observe an equally strict reticence.

A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS.

City of Mexico, Feb. 24.—The large excursion of Chicago people under the management of the Mexican National railroad is due to arrive in this city today. Mr. Nolf, a French journalist of this city, has committed suicide. He was for a time a resident of San Francisco.

F. C. McDonald and Edward M. Fowler, of New York, who were passengers on the City of Washington at Havana at the time of the Maine explosion, have arrived here. They were walking on the rear deck of the Washington when the explosion occurred and they thought at first that the Alfonso XIII. had opened fire on the Maine. They say that there seemed to be a series of explosions in quick succession.

EXPERIENCE OF SURVIVORS.

Kansas City, Feb. 24.—John R. Morris, one of the assistant engineers of the Maine, in a letter to his sister in Kansas City, Kan., written at Key West, Saturday last, tells of his experience in the disaster. Morris does not speculate as to the disaster or intimate in any way whether or not the ship was blown up by design. He says in part:

"We have just heard that in all probability as soon as we testify before the board of investigation, which convenes tomorrow, all survivors will be ordered to their homes for a short time. * * * All of us had, to a certain extent, very different experiences, and all of the officers who were aft, and they were practically the ones spared, were for a time in a semi-conscious state. I was sitting on the upper deck and at the first explosion we were thrown headlong on the deck. In talking afterwards we found that all had practically the same experience. Every time that we would gain our feet, we came in contact with escaping gases and were suffocated and would fall again."

KLONDIKERS AROUND THE HORN.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—A party of gold-seekers bound for the Klondike has just arrived from Gloucester, Mass., on the small schooner Hattie I. Phillips. The voyage was made in 129 days. She made a stop of five days at Sanly Point. A very heavy storm was encountered in the gulf stream and she was hoisted 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.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.