

CAPTAIN SIGSBEE'S STORY.

His Detailed Testimony Before the Board Regarding the Disaster.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Captain Sigbee, in testifying before the court of inquiry, said that he assumed command of the Maine April 30, 1897, and that his ship anchored in the harbor of Havana the last time January 24, 1898. The authorities at Havana knew of the Maine's coming, Consul-General Lee having informed the authorities according to official custom. A pilot, sent by the port of Havana, the ship was berthed in the main-of-war anchorage, off the Machina, or the Shears, and according to his understanding, it was one of the regular buoys of the place. He then stated that he had been in Havana in 1872, and again in 1888. He could not state whether the Maine was placed in the usual berth for men-of-war, but said that he had heard remarks since the explosion, using Captains Stevens, temporarily in command of the Ward Line steamer City of Washington, as authority for the statement, that he had never known, in all his experience, which covered visits to Havana for five or six years, a man-of-war to be anchored at that buoy, that he had rarely known merchant vessels to be anchored there, and that it was the least used buoy in the harbor.

The Maine's Surroundings.

In describing the surroundings when first moored to the buoy, Captain Sigbee stated that the Spanish man-of-war Alfonso XIII was anchored in the position now occupied by the Fern, about 250 yards to the northward and westward from the Maine. The German ship Griesenau was anchored at the berth now occupied by the Spanish man-of-war Le Caspo, which is about 400 yards due north from the Maine. He then located the German man-of-war Charlotte, which came into the harbor a day or two before the Maine was anchored to the southward of the Maine's berth about 400 or 500 yards. In describing the surroundings at the time of the explosion, Captain Sigbee stated that the night was calm and still. The Alfonso XIII was at the same berth. The small Spanish dispatch boat, Le Caspo, had come out the day before and taken the berth occupied by the German man-of-war, the Griesenau, which had left. The steamer City of Washington was anchored about 300 yards to the south and east of the Maine's stern, slightly on the port quarter.

The Coal Was Safe.

The Maine coaled at Key West, taking on about 150 tons, the coal being regularly inspected, and taken from the government coal pile. This coal was placed generally in the forward bunkers. No report was received from the chief engineer that any coal had been lost, and that the fire alarms in the bunkers were sensitive.

The regulations regarding inflammables and paints on board, Captain Sigbee testified, were strictly carried out in regard to storage, and the waste also was subject to the same careful disposition. The inflammables were stored in chests according to the regulations, and inflammables in excess of chest capacity, were allowed to be kept in the bathroom of the admiral's cabin.

Regarding the electric plant of the Maine, Captain Sigbee stated that there was no serious grounding, nor sudden flaring up of the lights before the explosion, but a sudden and total eclipse.

As for regulations affecting the taking of the temperature of the magazines, etc., Captain Sigbee stated that there were no special regulations other than the usual regulations required by the department. He examined the temperature himself, and covered with the ordnance officer as to the various temperatures, and the contents of the magazines, and according to the opinion of this officer, as well as Sigbee, the temperatures were never at the danger point.

Relations With Spanish Authorities.

Speaking generally of the relations with the Spanish authorities, Captain Sigbee stated that with the officials they were outwardly cordial. The members of the autonomous council of the government, however, seem to have brought to the attention of the navy department the fact that he did not visit them, and that he brought embarrassment to the government at Washington. He took the ground to the department that it was unknown etiquette to call on the civil members of the colonial government other than the governors. Without waiting for such an order, Captain Sigbee made a visit afterwards, and, as he stated, was pleasantly received and his visit promptly returned by certain members of the council. A party of ladies and gentlemen called, and the president of the council made a speech which Captain Sigbee said he understood, but which was interpreted to him, to which he replied.

Exhibition of Antimathy.

When asked whether there was any demonstration of antimathy by people afloat, Captain Sigbee said there was never on shore, as he was informed, but there was afloat. He related that on the first Monday after the Maine's arrival the ferry-boat, crowded densely with people, civil and military, returning from a bull-fight at Regla, passed the Maine, and about 40 people on board indulged in yelling, whistling and derisive calls.

Every Precaution Taken.

During the stay in Havana, Captain Sigbee took more than ordinary precautions for the protection of the Maine by placing sentries on the forecastle and poop, quarter line and single decks, on the bridge and the poop.

Spanish Officers on Board.

There were only two or three of the Spanish military officers came on board, but, according to the captain, they were contained, and not desirous of accepting much courtesy. The visit was during the absence of the captain. He said he made every effort to have Spanish officers to visit the ship to show his good-will.

Description of the Explosion.

He then went into a description of the explosion when he felt the crash. He characterized it as a burning, rattling and crashing sound or roar of immense volume, largely metallic in its character. It was succeeded by a metallic sound, probably of falling debris, a trembling and lurching motion of the vessel, then an impression of subsidence, attended by an eclipse of electric lights and intense darkness within his cabin. He thought immediately that the Maine had blown up and she was sinking. He hurried to the starboard cabin, but changed his course to the magazine leading to the superstructure. He detailed the manner of meeting Private Anthony, which is much the same as has been published.

Leutenant-Commander Wainwright was on deck when Captain Sigbee emerged from the passage-way, and turning to the orderly he asked for time, which was given as 2:40 P. M. Sentries were ordered placed about the ship, and the forward magazine flooded. He called for perfect silence. The surviving officers were about him at the time on the poop. He was informed that both forward and aft magazines were under water. There came faint cries and white floating bodies in the water. Boats were at once ordered lowered, but only two were available, the gig and whaleboat. They were lowered and manned by officers and men, and by the captain's order they left the ship and helped to save the wounded jointly with other boats that had arrived on the scene.

Fire amidships by this time was burning fiercely, and the spare ammunition in the pilot-house was exploding. At this time Lieutenant-Commander Wainwright said he thought the 10-inch magazine forward had been thrown up into the burning mass, and might explode any time. Everybody was then directed to get into the boats over the stern, which was done, the captain getting into the gig, and then proceeding to the City of Washington where he found the wounded in the dining saloon being carefully attended by the officers and crew of the vessel. He then went on deck and observed the wreck for a few minutes, and gave directions to General Blanco and the admiral of the station were among the Spanish officials who tendered their sympathies. About four or five men were found that night who survived. By the time Captain Sigbee reached the quarterdeck it was his impression that an overwhelming explosion had occurred in the forward magazine, but he was practically blinded for a few seconds. His only thought was for the vessel, and he took no note of the phenomena of the explosion. In reply to the question of whether any of the magazines or shellrooms were blown up, the captain said that he did not know of any explosion beneath and a little forward of the conning tower on the port side. In the region of the center or axis of the explosion was the six-inch reserve magazine which contained very little powder, about 200 pounds. The 10-inch magazine was in the same general region, but on the starboard side. Over the 10-inch magazine in the loading room of the turret, and in the adjoining passage-way, a number of 10-inch shells were presently located. According to the captain it would be difficult to conceive the explosion involved the 10-inch magazine, because of the location of the explosion, and none of the reports show that any 10-inch shells were hurled into the air because of the explosion.

Details of the Second Explosion.

The captain went into details as to the location of the small explosion. He said that he did not believe that the forward or 10-inch magazine blew up. The location of the gun cotton was aft, under the cabin. He stated that he had examined the wreck himself, conversed with other officers and men, but, as the Spanish authorities were very much adverse to an investigation, except officially, on the grounds, as stated by the Spanish admiral, that the honor of Spain was involved, he refrained from examining the submarine portion of the wreck for the cause of the explosion until the day the court convened.

He said the discipline of the ship was excellent. The marine guard was in excellent condition. The report of the medical department showed that about one man and a quarter per day were on the sick list during the past year. In the engineers' department the vessel was always ready and always responsive. He paid a tribute to the crew, and said that he never knew on board of any man who had not served. He had no fault to find with the behavior of any man at the time of the disaster, and considered their conduct admirable. On his examination by the court, Captain Sigbee said that the highest temperature he could discover was 112, but that was in the after magazine, the temperature in the forward magazines being considerably lower. There was no loose powder kept in the magazines. All the coal bunkers were ventilated through air tubes examined weekly by the chief engineer, and were connected electrically to the annunciator near his cabin door. The forward coal bunkers on the port side were full. The forward coal bunkers on the starboard side was half full, and it was being used at the time of the explosion.

Coal Bunkers Not Hot.

Captain Sigbee, being recalled, stated that he had detailed Lieutenant-Commander Wainwright, Lieutenant Holman and Chief Engineer Holman, all of the Maine, to obtain information in regard to the conditions who might have seen the explosion. Captain Sigbee also gave his opinion that if coal bunkers A15 had been so hot as to be dangerous to the 6-inch reserve magazine, that this condition would have been shown on three sides where the bunker was exposed, and that men constantly passing to and fro by it would have necessarily noticed any undue heat. Captain Sigbee was recalled and examined as to the ammunition on board the Maine. He stated that there were no high explosives, gun cotton, detonators or other material in magazines or shell rooms which the regulations prohibited. He testified that no warheads had been placed on torpedoes since he had had command of the ship.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

It is stated that sharks have now penetrated into the Mediterranean through the Suez canal from the Red sea.

In France there have been found only two criminals whose measurement by the Bertillon system coincided.

The Adams homestead at Quincy, Miss., has been restored under the direction of the Quinby Historical Society.

The largest room in the world under one roof and unbroken by pillars is at St. Petersburg. It is 620 feet long by 130 in breadth.

Ginger is a tropical production of Mexico, where it grows wild. It has been cultivated from an early period to tropical Asia.

The oldest city in the world is Nippur, the "Older Bel" of Babylon; the foundations were laid 7,000 years B. C. and the ruins have lately been unearthed.

POLITICAL PARTIES COMBINE.

Populists, Silver Republicans and Democrats of Oregon Join Issues.

Three state conventions met in Portland last week, the Populist, silver Republican and Democratic. A union of forces or fusion is the result. All parties united on the platform adopted by the Populists at Friday's session, and agreed to a division of the offices by a conference committee. The platform as adopted reads:

United in a common cause for the sacred purpose of preserving the principles of government by the whole people, in fact as well as in name, restoring and maintaining equality, under that government of all classes, we, the people's democratic and silver-republican parties of the state of Oregon, waiving all minor points of difference, and uniting for the purpose of carrying out the great underlying principles upon which we are all agreed, do make and present to the people of this state the following declaration of principles, and to the carrying out of which we solemnly pledge each and every candidate upon our united ticket:

First—We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of foreign nations; and we are unalterably opposed to the policy of the present republican administration in demoralizing the currency by the issue of currency, and the turning over of the money-making power of the government to the national banks, as presented by the bill drawn by the republican secretary of the treasury, and indorsed by the president of the United States.

We demand a national money, safe and sound, issued by the general government only, without the intervention of banks of issue, to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; also a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people through the lawful disbursements of the government.

We demand that the volume of circulating medium be speedily increased to an amount sufficient to meet the demands of the business and industry of this country, and to restore the just level of prices of labor and production.

We favor such legislation as will prevent for the future the demoralization of any kind of legal-tender money by private contract.

We demand that the government, in payment of its obligations, shall use its own coin to the kind of lawful money in which they are to be paid, and we demand the present and preceding administrations for surrendering this option to the holders of government obligations.

We demand that there shall be no further issue of United States interest-bearing bonds.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

We demand the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

We demand the initiative and referendum system of law-making in its optional form, local and national, and the submission by congress of all important national questions for an advisory vote of the people, until such time as the national constitution shall have been amended so as to provide for direct legislation.

We condemn as dangerous and unjust the surrender, in all departments of the government, to the influence of trusts, corporations and aggregations of wealth generally; and we demand that the highest court of the land, with corporation lawyers, not ready to do the will of their late employers, and to set aside valid and wholesome laws passed by our legislature, and the judgments of the states and government, upon direct protests, at the behests of such institutions.

We are opposed to government by injunction. In state matters, we demand simple and well-guarded registration laws.

A more equitable mode of appointing judges of election.

For greater safety in regulating the operation of fish traps, fish wheels and all fishing gear in the waters within the jurisdiction of the state.

We denounce and condemn the corrupt and extravagant republican legislative assemblies, and charge that the republican party, in its eagerness for the spoils of office, has become divided into warring factions, so that it is incapable of government as exemplified by the treasurer, resulting in the effect of the state treasury, there being at this time more than \$500,000 therein wrong from the people by the process of taxation, while state warrants are stamped "Not paid."

We demand that all district and county officers be placed upon salaries commensurate with the duties to be performed by them. Inasmuch as railroad and other corporate property is not bearing its proportion of taxation, we demand that such property shall bear its just and equal share of the expenses of government.

State Nominations.

For governor—W. R. King, populist, of Baker.

For congressman—First district, R. M. Vestal, democrat; second district, C. M. Vonch, populist; silver republican, of Baker.

For secretary of state—H. E. Kincaid, silver republican, of Lane.

For supreme judge—W. A. Ramsay, democrat, of Yamhill.

For attorney-general—J. L. Story, populist, of Wasco.

For state printer—Charles A. Fitch, populist, of Clackamas.

For superintendent of public instruction—H. B. Lyman, populist, of Clatsop.

Spring Medicine

These two words emphasize a necessity and indicate a remedy.

SPRING—the season when the blood is most impure as a result of the winter's closer confinement, higher living, slower action of the kidneys and liver; when humors of all kinds, boils, pimples and eruptions are most liable to appear; when the weak, languid condition of the whole bodily structure demands and welcomes help.

MEDICINE—that to which the millions turn at this season—Hood's Sarsaparilla. The original and only preparation especially adapted to the present needs of the human family; that which makes the blood pure and clean, as shown by its thousands of wonderful cures of dreadful blood diseases; creates an appetite and cures dyspepsia, as shown by its "magic touch" in all stomach troubles; steadies and strengthens the nerves, as proved by people formerly nervous, now calm and self-possessed, thanks to

Only those who have been relieved of great suffering can fully appreciate the gratitude with which the testimonials overflow written in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla. Just read this:



"C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.: 'Gentlemen—After an illness of two years during which time I underwent several surgical operations, I at last began to improve; but my improvement was so slow that I became discouraged and it seemed as though I would never

get strong again. I was very much run down and it did not seem as though I had any appetite and I did not care to live. One day I met a friend who had taken Hood's Sarsaparilla and I was advised to try it. After I had taken a few doses I

Began to Feel Better and had a better appetite. I gained from two to three pounds a week and grew stronger every day. I took two or three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and am now as strong as I ever was in my life, and I praise Hood's Sarsaparilla for bringing me back to health."

—Emily Billinger, 10 Grand avenue, South, Portland, Or.

"The members of our family have derived much benefit from the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla. My father was severely troubled with humor, but it readily yielded to Hood's Sarsaparilla."—Mrs. I. M. White, Salem, Or.

The Medicine For You Because of what it does for others; because you ought this spring to take that which will do you the most good.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is America's Greatest Medicine because it cures when all others fail. Be sure to get Hood's.

Lubricants for Bicycles.

A writer in The India Rubber World calls attention of bicyclists to the fact that animal oils are very destructive to rubber products, such as bicycle tires. It makes no difference how good the compound may be; a little spot of animal grease in contact with the tire injures the rubber. A careful examination of many bicycle oils shows that they are partially of animal origin. Mineral oils are not nearly so apt to injure the rubber. In fact, many of them are not injurious at all, when applied in small quantities, while many vegetable oils are in a measure helpful to rubber.

Milking Cows by Machinery.

By means of a newly-designed apparatus all the cows in a dairy can be milked at once, a vacuum tank being connected by pipes with air-tight pails near each animal, with flexible rubber tubes for attachment to the teats to draw the milk into the pails as soon as the valves in the pipes are opened to apply the suction of the vacuum tank.

2 x I

Schilling's Best baking powder ought to sell for twice as much as the next best.

DON'T BE FOUNDERED.

We blanket a horse in the warmest weather after a hard drive if he is to stand in his stall. We take violent exercise and do hard manual labor, and very many take no precaution against sudden cooling off. In case of the horse, if he chills, he will be foundered. In case of men and women who are forgetful of the consequences, they will suffer rheumatism and stiffness from head to foot. If we are thus forgetful, we need not be so of the fact that St. Jacobs Oil, used in a case of the kind, is one of the best and surest cures. A good rubbing relaxes the stiffened muscles and puts the joints to work again in good order. In this season of sports none who enjoy them ought to be without a bottle of the Oil.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I, Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which CHAS. H. FLETCHER is President.

THE MODERN GENERATION OF MEN

Physically men are better today than ever before. Our college youth are, as a general thing, magnificent specimens. The constitutionally weak and nervous, though they may never become athletes, can greatly increase their strength and restore tranquility to the nervous system by the efficient aid of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which also removes malaria, kidney, dyspeptic and bilious troubles.

SHAKE INTO YOUR SHOES.

Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It cures painful, swollen, smarting feet and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight-fitting or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for chilblains, sweating, damp, callous and hot, tired aching feet. We have over 10,000 testimonials of cures. Try it today. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores. By mail for 25c. In stamps. Trial package FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Common salt that is used daily in our food is needed in the body. It aids digestion and the assimilation of the food, and helps in the composition of many of the tissues.

WHEAT The population of New South Wales last year was 96,640, a gain of about 20,000 in one year.

Very Honest.

"Papa," said Johnny, "I am a very honest little boy, and I proved it today."

"Tell me about it, Johnny," asked his father, proudly taking his son on his knee.

"I went to the store," answered Johnny, "and the groceryman went into a back room and left me all alone near a barrel of apples. I could have stolen them all, but I thought I would be honest, so only took two."—N. Y. World.

Some of the foreign newspapers, Australian among them, exhibit a remarkably clear knowledge of the Klondike country. The following account of the proper way of reaching the Klondike is taken from an Australian newspaper:

"The real starting point for the Klondike is Spokane. There the traveler takes a canoe, by which he voyages to Vancouver, B. C. At the latter point he takes a sailing vessel direct to Dawson City."

The above item came from Australia, and for several months it has been traveling around in the humorous columns of American newspapers.

Automatic Car Brake.

A new automatic car stopper has a gate hanging under the front of the car which tips back when it strikes a raised body and releases a pair of brake shoes, which are flat on the under side to fit the rails and curved on the upper side to engage the wheels, causing them to run on to the shoes and stop the car.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

W. B. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. We have discovered, have known for 70 years, the past 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

West & Tenth, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALKING, KINMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Zena King, of Fairland, Mich., kicked at a hog and missed it and broke his leg against a post.

ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels cures, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50 cent bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. LOUISVILLE, KY. NEW YORK, N.Y.

WHEAT Make money by successful speculation in Chicago. We buy and sell wheat on margins. Fortune has been made on a small beginning by trading in futures. Write for full particulars. Best of references given. Several years' experience on the Chicago Board of Trade, and a thorough knowledge of the business. Send for our free reference book. DOWNING, HOPKINS & CO., Chicago, Board of Trade Brokers. Offices in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Wash.

YOUR LIVER Is it Wrong? Get it Right. Keep it Right.

Moore's Revealed Remedy will do it. Three doses will make you feel better. Get it from your druggist or any wholesale drug house, or from Stewart & Holmes Drug Co., Seattle.

WILL & FINCK CO'S SPRING EYE GRAIN BAC NEEDLES.....

Plain or with Cutter. The best needle in the market. Used by all stock owners. For sale by all general merchandise stores, or by

WILL & FINCK CO.,

820 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal.

INDIAN WARS—1847-56. This information is important to survivors and widows of Indian war veterans. TABER & WHITMAN CO., Pension and Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C.

IOWA FARMS For sale on crop payment, \$200 per acre cash balance. 1/2 crop yearly until paid for. J. Mulhall, Sioux City, Ia.

SIMMONS' SKIRT SUPPORTERS.

An annoying safety pant which does not break or unfasten. Works automatically. Absolutely Prevents Skirts from Sagging. Simple and effective. Will sell readily wherever shown. Agents wanted everywhere. For terms, etc., address

SIMMONS' SKIRT SUPPORTERS

819 Market St., Room 25, San Francisco, Cal. N. P. N. E. No. 14, '98.

When writing to advertisers please mention this paper.

PISO'S CURE FOR

COUGHS WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.

Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in Time. Sold by Druggists.

CONSUMPTION