

FOR SPEEDY RELIEF.

Measures in Behalf of Families of Maine Victims.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION THEORY.

This Now Prominent in Accounting for Habana Disaster.

INQUIRY INTO THE EXPLOSION.

Par Examination of the Wreck to Begin To-Day and to Be Independent of and Prior to That of Spain.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—The interesting feature of the day's news at the Navy Department was the decision of the government to allow concurrent investigations of the Maine disaster, for its own part, making an independent inquiry through the naval court of inquiry already appointed, while permitting the Spanish authorities to make such investigation as they may desire.

It happens that by the rare chance of an unexpected change of paymasters, very little of the savings of the entire voyage were in the vessel.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION. Since the spontaneous combustion theory has come so prominently to the front as accounting for the disaster, the officials have been looking over the records and a parallel case, as nearly as may be.

THE FLAGSHIP NEW YORK WAS DISCOVERED to be on fire March 9, 1866. Smoke was issuing from her main magazine. This was cleared of powder safely, and it was found that the woodwork had been charred deeply.

RAISING OF THE MAINE. There is no abatement of the talk of the expediency of raising the Maine. Chief-Constructor Hiebhorn is one of the most earnest advocates of the resurrection of the ship.

TO REBUILD THE SHIP. Chief-Engineer Melville has decided views in favor of the proposition to rebuild the Maine.

ENLISTMENT ROLL OPENED. Orders have been issued for the enlistment of 500 men for the navy.

SPANISH INVESTIGATION. Secretary Long and Assistant-Secretary Day, of the State Department, had an interview with the President this morning.

Lee, at Habana, transmitting a request from the Spanish authorities in Cuba that the Spanish officials be permitted to join with our own people in making an investigation into the cause of the disaster to the Maine.

OUR EXAMINATION INDEPENDENT. The following is the answer sent: "Washington, February 19.—The Consul-General, Habana: The Government of the United States has already begun an investigation as to the causes of the disaster to the Maine, through officers of the navy and of the State Department.

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toward understanding the general plan of operation, but that a final agreement had not been reached.

Until to-day the Merritt & Chapman Wrecking Company and the Boston Tow-boat Company have been alone in the field, and the department understood they had combined their interests.

Admiral Sigsbee Providing for the Comfort of Injured.

KEY WEST INJURED BETTER.

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running forward. He evidently thought, in the confusion, that the Maine had been fired on, and he was rushing to the fore-castle, where was located the 6-inch gun, of which he was in charge.

The United States flag is hoisted at half-mast from the poop of the Maine to-day, and the two divers, with six assistants, are at work about the wreck, under the direction of Captain Sigsbee.

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precise promises are given to Agrarian demands, especially in the direction of paralyzing or excluding "the constantly increasing American competition in all products of the soil, which, if unchecked, will utterly ruin German agriculture."

THE ZOLA TRIAL QUIET.

LABORIE NOT PERMITTED TO SPEAK—CASE TO END WEDNESDAY.

TURKS TORTURE CHRISTIANS.

VILLAGES SURROUNDED AND RESIDENTS PUT TO THE TEST.

THE CARNIVAL HANDICAP.

IT IS WON BY SILGO—DONNA RITA FALLS—JOCKEY INJURED.

LOOKS LIKE THE BROOKLYN.

MR. GLADSTONE VERY FEEBLE.

THE LATTER CASE.

TWO WITNESSES EXAMINED, BUT NOTHING NEW DEVELOPED.

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH THEFT.

THE GERMAN AGRARIANS.

THEY DEMAND PROMISES FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

LUETIGER DULY SENTENCED.

DANGER IN AFRICA.

COLLISION OF FRENCH AND BRITISH TROOPS THREATENED.

LATIN AMERICA AGAINST UNCLE SAM.

Such a Confederation Proposed by Spanish Press—France-Spanish Entente With Respect to This Country—Foot-Ball Murder.

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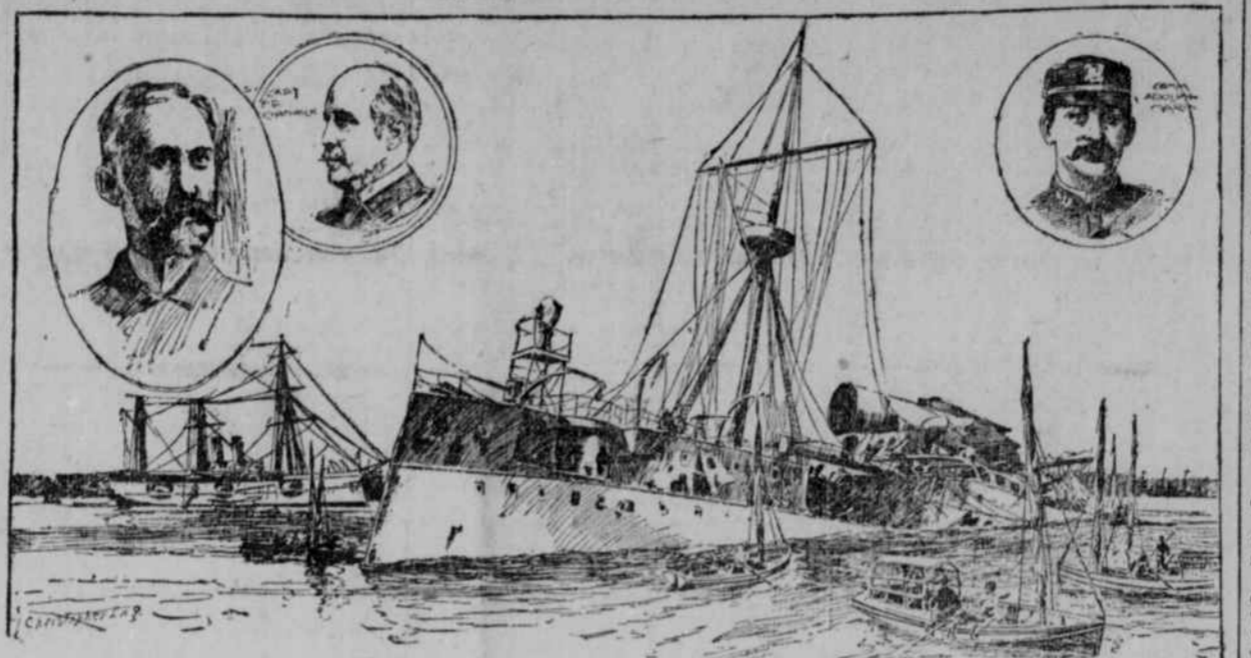
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THE MAINE AS SHE NOW APPEARS IN HABANA HARBOR—AND MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

The court of inquiry appointed by the government to investigate the Maine disaster is composed of Captain W. T. Sampson, commanding the battleship Iowa, president; Captain P. E. Chadwick, commanding the armored cruiser New York, member; Lieutenant-Commander W. P. Potter, executive officer of the New York; member; Lieutenant-Commander Adolph Marx, formerly executive officer of the Maine and now executive officer of the receiving-ship Vermont, Judge advocate.

The court is recognized by naval experts as composed of officers of the highest reputation. Captain Sampson, whose picture appears in the upper left-hand corner of the cut, was formerly chief of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance, and understands clearly every detail connected with the cause and effect of explosions of powder, gun-cotton, and torpedoes.

NAVAL APPROPRIATIONS. While the disaster to the Maine has created a temper in the House for liberal appropriations for the navy, and while it is undeniably a fact that the House, in its present frame of mind, would not hesitate to vote for two new battleships, one to replace the Maine, this temper is predicated upon by the theory that the Maine was blown up by external means.

TESTIMONIALS TO SPANIARDS. The President has presented loving cups, each duly inscribed, to Jose Mendez y Herrera, sub-lieutenant of Spanish marines, and to Eugenio Montero y Legaria, lieutenant of Spanish marines, in recognition of their humane services to the captain and crew of the American brig Wau-Ban, wrecked October 25, 1897, on a reef about eight miles north of Cape San Antonio light, island of Cuba.

CAPTAIN SIGSBEE'S STORY. Commander of the Maine Describes the Explosion. HAWANA, February 19.—Captain C. D. Sigsbee, of the battleship Maine, in an interview to-day with the correspondent of the Associated Press, described in detail the explosion which destroyed the great ship.

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LONDON, February 19.—The danger of leaving explosives about, in the shape of armed bands roaming in disputed spheres, under youthful officers, has been amply illustrated in West Africa, where the intermingling of French and British troops has already caused incidents which threaten the most grave complications.

PARIS, February 19.—The crowd present at the Zola trial to-day was very large, but quiet was maintained, and there was less demonstration than yesterday when the principals in the great case arrived.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 16.—Delayed in transmission.—The note of the Bulgarian agent to the Turkish Government protesting against the treatment which Bulgarians have been subjected to in Macedonia, reveals a state of affairs similar to that which existed in Armenia.

It says that village after village has been surrounded by the Turkish army; that wholesale arrests have been made, and that the arrested have been subjected to unheard-of tortures. The note further gives a list of the villages and the names of the victims to whom torture has been applied.

THE CARNIVAL HANDICAP. It is Won by Silgo—Donna Rita Falls—Jockey Injured. NEW ORLEANS, February 19.—The Carnival Handicap, at six furlongs, was the star number on to-day's card, and like most of the stakes that have preceded it, was won by Schorr & Son, of Memphis, whose good colt, Silgo, was first from start to finish.

LOOKS LIKE THE BROOKLYN. Supposed American Warship Anchored Near the Vizcaya. NEW YORK, February 19.—At 10:30 to-night the observer at Sandy Hook reported that a warship was passing there, bound in, and that it appeared to him to be an American vessel.

MR. GLADSTONE VERY FEEBLE. Reported in London That He Is Going Home to Die. LONDON, February 19.—It is said that Mr. Gladstone is coming home to die. An eye-witness reports that he is coming from the Riviera and his arrival at Calais reports a striking change in the old statesman's appearance.

THE LATTER CASE. Two Witnesses Examined, But Nothing New Developed. WILKESBARRE, PA., February 19.—The Commonwealth's side of the Lattimer case was not closed to-day. Owing to the absence of two important witnesses, the court, after being in session a short time, adjourned until Monday.

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH THEFT. WASHINGTON, February 19.—James Verrier and Robert N. Mills, who were connected with the Republican Congressional Committee during the late campaign, were arrested to-day on the charge of stealing 5,000 envelopes, the property of the committee, which were stored in the old Congressional Globe building.

THE GERMAN AGRARIANS. They Demand Promises from the Government. (Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.) BERLIN, February 19.—By far the most important event of the week, politically, was the annual meeting of the Federation of Husbandry in this city. The Conservatives, the week before, attempted to make an amicable bargain with the federation, whereby they would wage a joint campaign in the Reichstag and Diet elections, but at the convention the leaders of the federation frankly declared they would not support any candidates who were not pledged to support the aims of the federation.

Table with weather forecast for Sunday, including temperature and conditions for various regions like Virginia, North Carolina, and the West.