



EXCUSES FOR DELAY.

TARDY NAVAL WORK.

Causes and Comparisons Set Forth by Secretary Moody.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The exclusive publication in The Tribune of February 13 of Read Admiral Bowles's official report on the progress of naval vessels now in construction, showing the extraordinary clemency enjoyed by delinquent contractors through remission of penalties, led to immediate action by President Roosevelt, whose attention had not hitherto been called to the abuses, and as one result the Secretary of the Navy, by the President's direction, has issued an authoritative statement for publication which opens as follows:

The matter of the delay in the completion of vessels of the navy now under construction has been the subject of an interesting correspondence between the President and the Secretary of the Navy. Much comment has been caused by the fact that so many vessels have run over contract time, and by many months. Under date of February 14 the President called the matter to the attention of the Secretary of the Navy. The Secretary's reply, with the accompanying statement by Admiral Bowles, chief constructor, covers the subject exhaustively, and shows that while through a number of causes the building of war vessels has been delayed and the dates of their completion have been pushed out, it is not materially behind the naval construction of England and Germany in the matter of time. In his reply to the President Secretary Moody says:

Naval Department, Washington, February 18, 1903.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from Secretary Cortelyou under date of February 14, 1903, directing me to furnish you information upon the subject of the delays in building vessels of the navy.

On February 6 I directed the Bureau of Construction and Repair to report to me upon the subject, and believe that the report made in accordance with that direction on February 13 (the date of the Tribune's dispatch giving the important features of this report) covers to a very considerable extent the information which you desire. Accordingly I have the honor to submit a copy of the report with this communication. I respectfully invite your attention especially to paragraph 12 of the report, in which it is pointed out that the completion of our own ships and those of foreign nations have been in some cases placed on an "aground" while on her trial, and is understood not to be ready for regular service yet.

Simultaneously with the distribution of this official correspondence to-day there appeared the issue of a popular American scientific weekly for February 21, its first cover page being devoted to a remarkably attractive photograph of a great battleship launching which occurred on January 6 at the Vickers-Maxim yard, in England, entitled "Chilian Battleship Libertad Launched Ten Months After Laying of Keel Plates," which furnishes a means of measuring the exhaustiveness of Admiral Bowles's report, and especially of Paragraph 12, the last annual report of the chief constructor of the United States Navy supplying the following official information in regard to two ships substantially the size of the Libertad:

MAINE—Keel laid February 15, 1899; launched July 27, 1901; elapsed time, thirty months.

MISSOURI—Keel laid February 27, 1900; launched December 28, 1901; time elapsed, twenty-two months.

PARIS POLICE ACCUSED.

Stones from Mrs. Gore's Jewelry, Worth \$5,000, Missing.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] San Francisco, Feb. 22.—According to a letter received by Mrs. P. T. Dickinson, of Alameda, aunt of Mrs. Ellen Gore, the American singer, who was killed last November in Paris by the Russian Rydzinski, the Paris police have made away with valuable stones in Mrs. Gore's jewelry, worth \$5,000. There are also missing valuable articles from Mrs. Gore's jewelry. An inventory of the articles sent to S. Mallet-Prevost, the executor of Mrs. Gore in New-York, shows plainly that the jewelry and other things were tampered with by the Paris police. Valuable rings, brooches and lockets were deprived of the precious stones that gave them their chief value. Mrs. Dickinson said:

Not a stone was left in any of my niece's jewelry when it was shipped from the American consulate to New-York. The Paris police officials who did everything to blacken Mrs. Gore's character, are responsible for this. A rare sapphire in one ring was as large as a diamond. This stone, surrounded by diamonds, was worth \$2,500. Another diamond was bought at Tiffany's for \$275. The total value of the stones abstracted will reach \$5,000. I shall write to Mr. Prevost and ascertain what steps can be taken to recover the value of these jewels.

MUSKRATS FLOOD TOWN.

Undermine a Dam, Turning Water From Two Reservoirs Loose.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Derby, Conn., Feb. 22.—The undermining of the dam of a large reservoir of the Shelton Water Company by muskrats led loose early this morning a flood which carried away the dam of a lower reservoir, and, sweeping through Shelton, did damage there aggregating \$50,000. No lives were lost, but there were many narrow escapes.

The lower reservoir is a quarter of a mile from Shelton and two hundred feet above the town. From it a body of water thirty feet high and sixty feet wide descended through one of the principal streets of the town, gulfing it out to a depth of from twenty to forty feet. A bridge carrying the railroad tracks of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company was swept into the Shelton Canal and the Housatonic River with fifty yards of rails and the highway, which was washed out to a depth of thirty feet. Scores of houses and barns were damaged.

Walter Warren was asleep on the first floor of a house directly in the path of the torrent. He had barely time to escape upstairs, struggling up to his neck in water, when the wall of his room was carried away and his bed swept into the river. Mrs. Walter Nichols succeeded in getting her six children upstairs just before the lower rooms of her house, where they slept, were flooded with six feet of water. The barn of Charles P. Nettleton was carried away and scores of telegraph and telephone poles were snapped. The rush of water put out the fires in several large factories along the canal and filled the canal with gravel and rocks.

The upper reservoir is two miles back of Shelton. B. N. Beard, who lives near it, sent the alarm into town over the telephone and was out while talking by the carrying away of the telephone poles.

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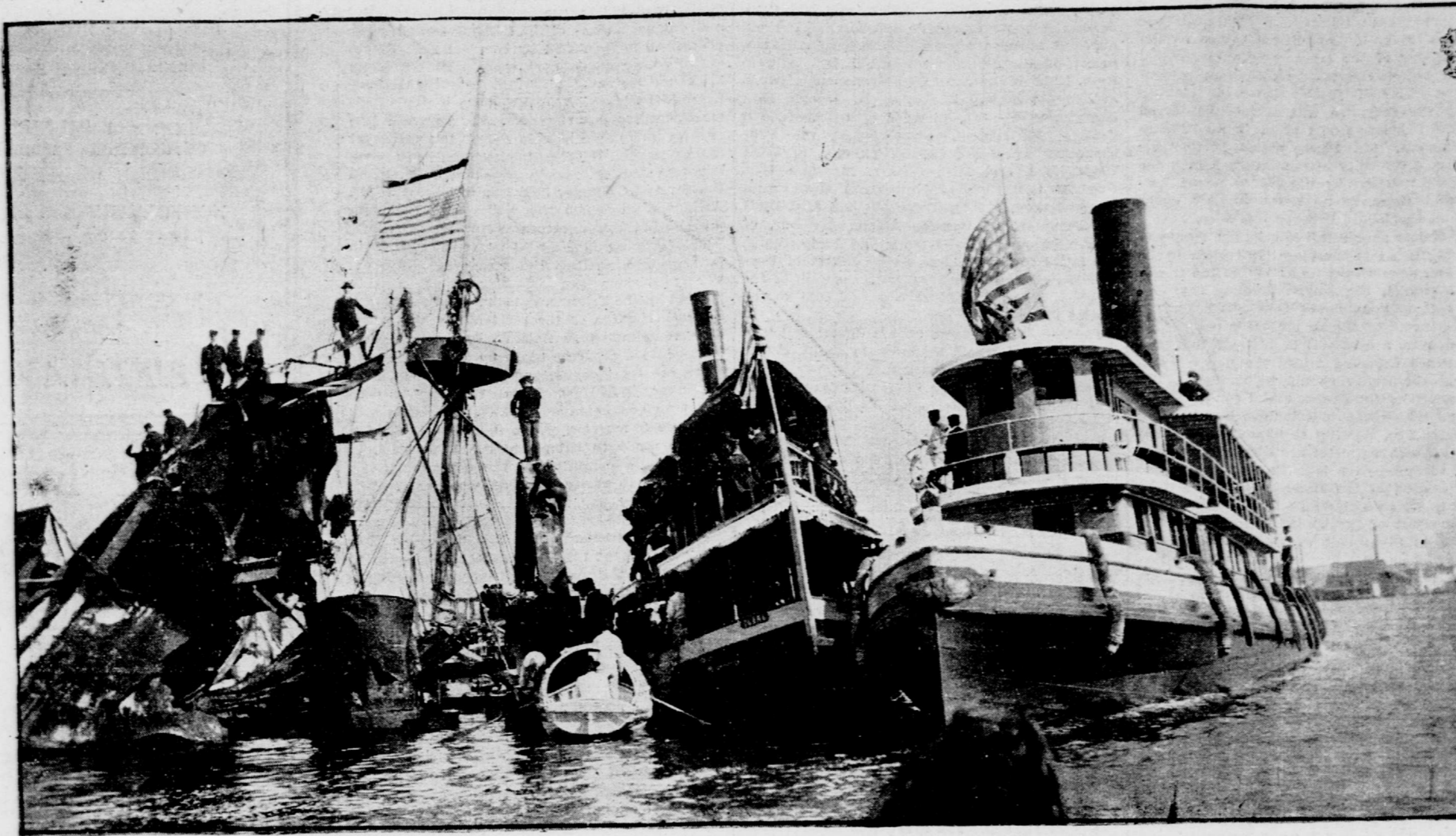
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VISITING THE WRECK OF THE MAINE IN HAVANA HARBOR ON FEBRUARY 15.



Wittelsbach, the keel of which was laid on September 30, 1899, and which was probably ordered several months previous to that date, has not yet been placed in service. She recently ran aground while on her trial, and is understood not to be ready for regular service yet.

BRITISH ARMY REFORM.

MR. BRODRICK'S SCHEME.

Opposition to Assail It Vigorously—The News of London.

[Special to The New-York Tribune by French Cable.] (Copyright, 1903, by The Tribune Association.) London, Feb. 23, 1 a. m.—Mr. Brodrick's much criticized and inept army corps scheme will be assailed from both sides of the House of Commons to-day. Mr. Beckett, Conservative Member for Whitby, will lead the assault from the Ministerial side of the House by moving an amendment to the address regretting that the organization of Great Britain's land forces is unsuited to the needs of the nation. This amendment will have the support of a large number of Unionists, including Winston Churchill. They threaten to vote against Mr. Brodrick, but whether their courage will remain at the sticking point is rather doubtful. The War Secretary is a first class fighting man, and his confidence in his scheme is described as being unshaken, but his ostentatious attitude is hardly likely to mollify the anger of the malcontents.

Mr. Balfour saved the government over the London and Globe scandal, and much will depend on his attitude to-day. Should he make it clear that the ministers have a proper appreciation of the important question of national defence he will succeed in winning over the malcontents who are now in the Opposition camp. The Radicals are, however, determined to stick to their guns, and will be satisfied with nothing short of Mr. Brodrick's retirement from office. The ministerial whips are sorely exercised over the smallness of the government majorities in the House of Commons last week. The balance of parties at the present moment gives the government an advantage of 126, but the whips experience difficulty in getting the men together. There have been four divisions in all on the address since the session began, and the majorities ranged from fifty-one to thirty-eight. In view of the threatened defection of a number of Unionists of the rank and file on the army debate to-day, urgent summonses have been issued to the supporters of the government to be in their places when the division bells ring. Mr. Balfour is undoubtedly anxious, as he fully realizes that under the conditions which prevailed last week the transfer of a score of Unionist votes would place the government in the minority.

The Austrian and Russian ambassadors on Saturday presented identical notes to the Porte on the reform question in Macedonia. The Constantinople correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" says the reforms suggested contain nothing objectionable to the Sultan or the government, and make no distinction of religion or race. They include the nomination by the Sultan of an inspector general for a fixed term of three years, with extensive powers and the right of requisition of troops when necessary, and power to act without referring to the Porte or the Palace. The scheme provides for the better collection of taxes, and for the proceeds to be paid into specially created branches of the Ottoman Bank for distribution to the proper departments and the regular payment of officials; also for the reorganization of the police and gendarmery under European instructors.

The Cunard company is reported to be finding great difficulty in getting shipbuilders to undertake the construction of the new liners, owing to the clause in the proposed contracts that the builders shall guarantee the new vessels to have a speed of twenty-five knots an hour for twelve hours.

Londoners are very proud of their police force, which they consider the finest in the world, and they are always pleased when foreign police officers send representatives to see how vehicular traffic is controlled in London's busy streets. Captain Piper, Deputy Commissioner of the New-York police, who was a witness of the King's procession to Parliament last week, was asked before his departure for Paris to state how the conduct of London street traffic compared with that of New-York. He replied: "Better; much better. Where we need reform is at the busiest centres. At such places the traffic moved 25 per cent quicker in London than in New-York, because of the English regulation that between 10 o'clock in the morning and 6 in the evening carriages were not allowed to back up to the sidewalk in busy places and load or unload or make any delivery of coal, casks or heavy freight. This is what we have got to come to, and it is one of the changes which, it seems to me, will have to be very radical."

L. N. F.

JANITORS PROTEST.

SWEATSHOP PETITIONS.

Hosts Marching to Fight Tenement Law Amendments.

The East Side campaign of protest against the proposed amendments to the Tenement House law goes on with undiminished ardor. Yesterday an enthusiastic meeting of the Janitors' Society of New-York took place at the society's rooms, No. 103 Attorney-st. Addresses in Yiddish, German and English denouncing the amendments were delivered by I. Basha, president of the society; Dr. David Blaustein, superintendent of the Educational Alliance; Henry Moskowitz, of the Downtown Ethical Culture Society; Dr. Radin, chaplain of the Jewish Prisons Missionary Society, and others. The following protest and resolutions were unanimously carried:

We, the Janitors' Society, do hereby protest against the proposed amendments of the Tenement House law. Inasmuch as we reside in the midst of the tenement house district of the city and know from experience the evil results of the old system of poor ventilation and sanitation, it is hereby resolved, That the said amendments to the law are bad and should be fought, and

Resolved, That the present law tends to improve the conditions of the East Side and the whole city, and makes for better lighted and healthier houses and for purer homes; and

Resolved, That we request our Mayor, Hon. Seth Low, to oppose the said amendments with his whole influence and power.

It was a crowded meeting of the Janitors' Society last night. Ebon-locked women janitors in red worsted shawls or imitation furs, German janitors with bristling mustaches and fiercely forking chin tufts, bewhiskered and olive skinned Hebrews in plush skull caps, made a picturesque and enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Moskowitz began his speech by reviewing the arguments advanced by those legislators who favor a relaxation of the Tenement House law in regard to Brooklyn, because it is not so crowded as Manhattan. He maintained that the normal increase of the population in Manhattan, the facilities contemplated by the introduction of rapid transit and the numerous bridges in course of erection would inevitably mean an ever increasing influx into Brooklyn and other boroughs. The argument of those legislators, if for only this one reason, was, he declared, thus proved untenable and absurd. Continuing, and speaking as an actual resident of many East Side tenements, he mentioned the trash, the filth and general sickness that are so characteristic of the tenement house children, and which doctors laid directly at the door of those conditions which the amendments sought to revive. He also spoke of the soliciting to be witnessed in the tenements before the introduction of the present law, soliciting which was limited in all innocence by the little children who saw it in the halls. Why did tenement children dislike their homes? he asked. Why children there that tragedy of the East Side, was there that separation of father and child? Why were there so many pickpockets among the dwellers on the East Side? Why the numerous East Side saloons, cafes and never empty prisons? Did not an unclean, filthy, airless, unlit, unsanitary, fetid home go far toward furnishing an answer to all their questions? The proposed amendments to the Tenement House law cut at the very roots of religion, decency, order, health and social purity. The East Side was not so ignorant as politicians might think. Let the politicians realize that they were elected by the people, and that the people were aroused, and would tolerate no tampering with the law, and the amendments would be defeated.

At a meeting of the People's Institute held last evening at Cooper Union, at which over thirteen hundred persons were present, Charles Sprague Smith, the director of the institute, moved a resolution against any change of the present Tenement House law. The resolution was carried by a rising vote.

Similar resolutions have been passed by Justice Lodge of the Order E. Nal B. Rith, by the Council of Jewish Women, the Thomas Davidson Society and many other organizations in this city. A mass meeting of protest and petition under the joint auspices of the Civic Committee of the Union Club and the Era Club will take place at No. 184 Eldridge-st. on Thursday, and numerous other meetings have been planned.

The Association of Neighborhood Workers, representing fifty societies who work and live in the tenement districts of Manhattan and Brooklyn, has sent out pamphlets and handbills calling attention to the attempts that are being made at Albany to destroy or emasculate the present Tenement House law. The pamphlets contain a digest of the nine amendments introduced, and explain just what these signify. They are in part:

The members of the legislature are being strongly impudently by the building interests and by many other interests to pass this legislation. Unless they learn from the great mass of the people in New-York that the proposed changes in the law are not wanted, and are strongly disapproved of they are apt to believe that the representations of the persons interested in the bills reflect the real sentiment in New-York.

The handbills which are being extensively circulated run thus: Protect yourselves and your children from the attacks of those landlords and speculators who are threatening to give your homes less light, less air, and bad plumbing.

Protest against all bills that take away any of the protections to life and health that the present Tenement House law gives. You can help by writing at once to Governor Odell, Albany, N. Y.; the Hon. Horace White, Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y.; the Hon. Jean L. Burnett, Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.; and to your own Assemblyman and Senator at Albany, and telling them that all such bills are bad and you are against them.

It was learned yesterday that three thousand of the petitions already received in opposition to the amendments have come exclusively from the sweat shops of the East Side. The following significant communication was received yesterday by the East Side Civic Club: We appreciate your action in defending the Tenement House law, and I have signed the petition attached hereto. I am the owner of a tenement house (No. East ————), and I am against the Marshall bill.

A PUZZLING DEMAND.

Immediate Payment for Germany Refused.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The German Government, through its representative here, Baron Speck von Sternburg, has made a request for the immediate payment of the \$5,000 which it was stipulated in the protocol signed on February 13 should be paid within thirty days from that date, as a preliminary to the raising of the blockade against Venezuelan ports and the agreement to send the question of preferential treatment of the blockading nations to the Hague for determination. The request was declined, but Germany's representative was informed that, as provided in the protocol, the money would be paid to the German representative at Caracas thirty days from February 13, which would be on March 15. The reason that animated the German Government in making the request is not disclosed here.

The French Ambassador, M. Jusserand; the Spanish Minister, Señor Ojeda, and the Belgian Minister, Baron Moncheur, called on Mr. Bowen to-day in regard to the protocols that are in preparation for the settlement of the claims of the citizens of their countries against Venezuela. Rough drafts of these instruments were already on their way by mail to the peace governments interested, but there are certain provisions regarding them about which the expected to reach their destinations the latter part of this week, and pending their arrival no final steps for their joint signature can be taken.

BELGIUM SATISFIED.

Claimants to Receive \$2,500,000 After Anglo-German Payments.

London, Feb. 23.—The correspondent of "The Standard" at Brussels telegraphs that the protocol between Belgium and Venezuela which is being signed this week, Belgium, says the correspondent, has obtained full satisfaction. The Belgian claimants will receive \$2,500,000 after the Anglo-German claims have been paid.

SHOT DOWN AS HE RAN.

North Carolina Lawyer Murders Minister's Son.

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 22.—Ernest Haywood, son of the late Dr. E. B. Haywood, grandson of the late State Treasurer John Haywood, and one of the leading lawyers in this city, yesterday afternoon shot and killed Ludlow Skinner, a grandson of the late Mr. Ludlow Skinner, and a son of the Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Skinner, in the city, one of the best known Baptists in the South. The shooting was done in Fayetteville, in front of the courthouse, and was seen by at least a hundred persons.

Haywood was arrested and taken to his law office, where, guarded by deputies, he spent two hours in consultation with his attorneys. He was then taken to the courthouse, where Magistrate Maroon committed him to jail without bail for murder.

The testimony before Justice Maroon developed the fact that earlier in the day Skinner called at Haywood's office. When he came out he started for the postoffice. In the mean time Haywood went to the courthouse. As he returned and was near the middle steps of the postoffice, he saw Skinner on the sidewalk and called him.

As Skinner approached Haywood fired point blank at him. He missed and Skinner turned and ran. When Skinner reached the car track Haywood fired again and Skinner sank to the ground. He was taken into a drug store and died in a few minutes. Later the body was removed to his home.

It is said that the tragedy grew out of a reported secret marriage in the family of one of the men.

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