Sunday, will weigh anchor to-morrow aft-ernoon and steam through the Narrows to the open sea on her way direct to Hayana.

Arturo Baldasano, the Spanish consul gen eral in New York, called on Captain Eulate

dispatches, one of which ordered him to

Captain Eulate had been in suspens

eave this port without delay.

Republicans of Kansas City Never Nominate a Non-Partisan Candidate for Mayor.

BRYAN THEIR GUEST.

KANSAS DEMOCRATS HAVE A BIG BANQUET AT TOPEKA.

MORE THAN 600 WERE THERE.

UNIQUE. IN THAT WINE WAS THE STRONGEST BEVERAGE.

Many of the Old Democratic War Horses Prominent by Their Absence-Mr. Bryan Talks on "Teller Resolution"-Kansas News,

Topeka, Kaz., Feb. 24 .- (Special.) The "rejuvenated" Democracy of Kasas took a day off, drove to Topeka, dropped the reins and partook of a square meal to-night. The entire party was here-623 in number. The recent visit of "the general" to Kansas enabled them one and all to rake up the wherewithal to pay the expense of the trip.
The banquet was held under the auspices of the Democratic state committee. W. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, was the guest of honor. There was one thing very noticeable— the absence of such old Kansas Democratic warhorses as Thomas Fenion, W. C. Perry, Eugene Hagan, Barney Sheridan, Ed Car-roll and Jim Fike. There was another thing even more noticeable-the absence of whis-For the first time in the history of Kansas Democracy, the Bourbons actually held a "feed" without washing it down with bug juice. The rejuvenated Democ-

strongest drink was grape wine.

The banquet was a success, despite the absence of liquor and of old warhorses. Democrat present had a good time The only disagreeable feature was the difficulty experienced in seating the crowd. The banquet was held in the third story of a business block and it was like solving a Chinese puzzle to get into the hall. It took Mr. Bryan just forty minutes to reach the hall after he had entered the front door of the building, so dense was the crowd.

racy is trying hard to follow the path of

the Republicans. It did not get clear over

to-night, but it made a good start. The

The hall was gailly decorated with flags, bunting and potted plants, and on each plate was a buttonhole bouquet. Over 600 sat down at the board, and it was not until Il o'clock the tables were cleared and the guests settled back to listen to the toasts. J. G. Johnson, Democratic national committeeman for Kansas, presided as toast-master. On his right sat Mr. Bryan, while David Overmyer was at his immediate left Then for four hours oratory flowed like liquor used to do at a Democratic banquet. The money question, of course, furnished the theme. It always does at a Kansar Popocratic blowout. There was also some sentiment expressed in favor of a fusion of the allied forces in Kansas this coming

Toasts were responded to as follows: "What Are We Here For?" J. Mack Love, Arkansas City; "Restored Democracy."
David Overmyer, Topeka; "The Young Claude Duval, Hutchinson The Issues and Our Platform,"W. S. Glass, Marysville; "Cuba," S. B. Amidon, Wichl-ta; "The Old Guard," G. W. Glick, Atchison; "Trusts, the Menace of Free Govern-ment," Hugh P. Farrelly, Chanute; "The Federal Judiciary," A. M. Jackson, How-ard; "The Teller Resolution," William J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.; "Bryan," John H. Atwood, Leavenworth; "The Hope of the People," H. S. Martin, Marion; "Kansas Democracy, Past, Present and Future,

John Martin, Topeka. While Mr. Bryan received an ovation, yet it was but little more pronounced than that given David Overmyer.

Mr. Bryan, in his address, asserted that the money question is to be the paramount ue in the next campaign, and cited the fact that the national committees of the Democrats, the Populists and the free silver Republicans have issued addresses in which they assert that the money question is the issue and call for the co-operation of the forces that it may triumph.

In an interview, Mr. Bryan declined discuss the present crisis with Spain. He said it would be time enough to discusthat affair when the official investigation committee in the Maine affair has made its Mr. Bryan goes to Holton to-morrow,

where he is to deliver an address.

PARTIAL FUSION VICTORY. Kansas Democratic Convention to Be Held at Atchison-Date

Left Open. Topeka, Kas., Feb. 24.-(Special.) The silver Democratic state committee held meeting here to-day and decided to hold the next state convention at Atchison, No. date was fixed. That was left to the executive committee. But it was not de-When the committee first assembled, some of the members-those who are willing to be swallowed whole by the Pops this year-attempted to put a motion through to leave the time and place for holding the convention with the executive committee. Chairman Mack Love and James Orr, of Atchison, fought the proposition and succeeded in having it voted down. Then a motion carried fixing Atchison as the place. This was followed by a motion to fix the date for June 15. This motion was discussed at length. National Committeeman Johnson pleaded with the members not to fix a date. He was members not to fix a date. He was alarmed over the situation. He thought he saw in the proposed action a plan to reject fusion and nominate a straight Democratic ticket. W. J. Bryan was pressed into service about this time. He made a 1,500-word speech advocating a union of forces, and advised the Democratic committee to "act wisely." Bryan's speech and Johnson's pleading had the effect of knocking out the proposition to fix the date. The executive committee is favorable to a fusion deal; it will try to get something out of the thing if it can; if it can't, then it is in favor of permitting Democracy to be swallowed, hide, buir and all. Chairman Love insists on the Democrats being given a couple of places on the state ticket, and his persistency may cut some Ice. Others say the party should have some places but they do not favor making any demands. s on the state ticket, and his per-cey may cut some ice. Others say party should have some places, but do not favor making any demands think that the Pops should tender some. This shows how little they of Populist them some. This shows how know of Populist generosity.

HITCHCOCK'S FEELING TOUR.

He Visits Kansas City, Kas., to Learn the Strength of the Anti-Leedy

Movement. J. C. Hitchcock, who was superintendent of the state reform school at Topeka dur-ing Lewelling's administration, was in Kansas City, Kas., Wednesday on a "feeling tour. Mr. Hitchcock is of Cherokee county and the Populists and Democrats in that section of the state are as badly divided as they are in Wyandotte county. Mr. Hitchcock is not an enthusiastic Leedy supporter, and it is claimed that his visit to Kaness City. Kas., is for no other purpose than to ascertain from the Populists and Democrats how they stand on the Leedy question. He found all kinds of Pops and Democrats in the state's metropolis who were

willing to support some good man for governor. The rank and file of the Democratic and Populist parties in Wyandotte county are opposed to Governor Leedy, and would like to prevent his nomination for a second term, but they are afraid that there will be no other candidate. With fusionists so badly divided, its nominee will stand no chance of election, anyway.

SENOR DU BOSC ADMITS THE HARBOR WAS PROTECTED.

BURNED WITH HOT IRONS.

tory Officials for Subduing a Bad Boy.

Topeka, Kas., Feb. 24.-(Special.) The Populist management of the state reform-atory at Hutchinson stands charged with resorting to the method of discipline and correction regarded, even the the age of torture, as the extreme of barbarity, viz.:

The application of hot irons.

The Wellington Mail, in the course of a two-column "expose," alleges that Wade Thomas, an incorrigible negro boy, who was sent to the penitentiary during the superintendency of J. C. O. Morse, but has

school, acting under the orders of Superintendent Case.

The story goes that Thomas attacked Officer Overmyer, when the latter undertook to correct him, and on being confined to his cell became violent, tearing up his bed and setting fire to it.

To subdue him long hot irons were heated and poked through the bars of the cage against him, burning through his clothing and deeply into the fiesh, all the burning being done, the Mail says, after Thomas had surrendered and offered to put his arms out through the door to be hand-cuffed.

Three members of the reformatory board, who were in consultation with Governor Leedy here to-day, were interviewed by The Journal correspondent. They admitted that red hot iron had been applied to the negro, but claimed that only his hands were burned. As the iron was jabbed at him he would dodge and ward it off with his bare hands.

"We made a thorough examination of his."

hands.
"We made a thorough examination of his body," said Mr. Miller, one of the members. "and found no burns except on the hands." "What do you propose to do with Super-itendent Case?" "What do you propose to do with Super-intendent Case?"

"I don't know yet," he replied. "We will probably reach some conclusion before leav-ing here. We wanted to consult the gov-ernor and find out his ideas about the mat-

ernor and find out his ideas about the matter."

"We would like for the public to learn that we disavow the horrible crime," said Mr. O'Neil. another member of the board.

"Yes, indeed," said the other two members in chorus.

Just what will be done is not known. It is reasonably certain that Case will be discharged and also the subordinate officers who were parties to the crime. The administration can partially unload the odium by firing everybody connected with it. But it will not get rid of the stench altogether even if this is done.

AS TO AN EXTRA SESSION. Lee Jones Says the Legislature Will Be Called to Assemble

March 10.

Topeka, Kas., Feb. 24.-(Special.) Lee Jones, a Topeka druggist, one of Governor Leedy's friends, gave it out to some Pop statesmen to-day that there would be special session of the legislature, and that the call would be issued within the next week. He says the call will fix March 10 as the date for assembling. A number of influential Pop representatives who are here declare that they can't get anything out of the governor about the matter, and wonder why Leedy should confide his secrets to a Topeka druggist instead of to influential members of his own party. The only way they can account for it is that Jones keeps a brand that makes a man talkative. the call would be issued within the next

talkative.

Ed Hackney, of Wellington, predicts that a session will be held. Hackney was one of the governor's pets in the legislature. Several of the Democratic legislature here to-day say they can't get any definite information concerning the matter. They are all opposed to an extra session. They de-clare that the great body of Democrats in the state are opposed to the wasting of money for that purpose.

Leedy has at last broken his silence and told why he did not well the beside the

together earlier, when the farmers cou attend without inconveniencing them their work. He said that the state treasus was "busted" and there would have bewas "busted" and there would have been no money to pay the expense. However, this is a filmsy excuse. While the treasury was empty for several months, money began to accumulate the first week of January and the treasurer could have spared it just as well during the month of January as he can in March. It is the general opinion still among almost all of the Democrats and Pops here to-day that, in sending out the "Little" bill, Leedy simply was making a grand stand play, and that he never entertained the least idea of calling an extra session.

Committee Meeting Called. Topeka, Kas., Feb. 24.—(Special.) J. M. Simpson, chairman of the Republican state

Simpson, chairman of the Republican state committee, to-day issued a call for a meet-ing of the committee at the parlors of the Copeland hotel at Topeka, Tuesday evening, March 8, 1888, for the purpose of Major Remington in the Race.

Osawatomie, Kas., Feb. 24.—(Special.) Major J. B. Remington, of this city, an-nounces his candiacy for the Republican nomination for the office of state treas-urer in this week's issue of the Osawa-tomie Graphic.

ALLEN MEASURE WITHDRAWN. Senate Has No Opportunity to Vote on

Investigating the Maine Disaster.

Washington, Feb. 24.-A feature of the senate's session to-day was the speech of Mr. Spooner, of Wisconsin, on the right of Henry W. Corbett to a seat in the senate

Henry W. Corbett to a sent in the senate from Oregon, under appointment of the governor. Mr. Spooner made a constitutional argument in favor of seating Mr. Corbett and had not concluded when the senate adjourned.

An effort was made to obtain consideration of the Alaskan homestead and railway right of way bill, but on a parliamentary technicality it went over. The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, to appoint a committee of five senators to investigate the Cuban situation was withdrawn by its author when it was laid before the senate.

Mr. Allen said that, being satisfied from the yote on his amendment yesterday that the

vote on his amendment yesterday that the fate of this resolution was quite well sealed, he would withdraw it from further sealed, he would withdraw it from further consideration of the senate.

At the opening of the session the chaplain besought the throne of grace that, in this momentous hour of our history, the blessing of the Holy Spirit might be granted and rest upon the president and vice president of the United States, both branches of congress and all the people of the country. He prayed that the honor and dignity and rights of our country might be upheld.

Attempted Bank Robbery.

Nevada, Mo., Feb. 24.—(Special.) An attempt was made to rob the Farmers' bank, at Walker, Mo., ten miles northeast of Nevada, last night. The parties were just preparing to begin drilling the safe when they were frightened away by the depot agent.

Insurrection Proclamation.

Phillipoplis, Bulgaria, Feb. 24.—A secret proclamation just issued by the Macedonia revolutionary committee calls upon the people to join in an insurrection this spring.

Wabash Brakeman Killed. Macon, Mo., Feb. 24.—(Special.) Frank Kennerson, a Wabash brakeman, slipped under the cars while in the La Plata yards at noon to-day. The wheels passed over and killed him instantly.

Classified Assessment Wins.

Wichita, Kas., Feb. 24.—(Special.) The classified assessment in the A. O. U. W. grand lodge was carried late to-night by a two-thirds majority, after a hard fight. The lodge has decided on Pittsburg, Kas., as the next convention city.

Alleged Method of Kansas Reforms- A NEW THEORY ADVANCED.

IT IS THAT A TORPEDO WAS SENT FROM THE ALFONSO XII.

Walter Wellman Says That President McKinley Does Not Expect War as the Result of the Maine Disaster - Still, Outlook Is Grave.

Chicago, Feb. 24.-Walter Wellman telegraphs to the Times-Herald as follows: Senor du Bosc, the Spanish representative at this capital, has admitted that the authorities at Havana planted submarine mines in the harbor but he claims they were not placed in the anchorage, but in the channels.

This admission has reached the ears of navy department officials, and has caused considerable comment among them.

If Du Bosc's statement is strictly accurate the Spanish authorities have only followed the usual practice in arranging the defenses of a port. It is a common thing to plant torpedoes in channels, where ships never anchor, but is an unheard of procedure to plant them in anchorage ground, where the anchors would be pretty sure to come in contact with the connecting wires.

If the Spanish authorities placed torpeharbor they were within their rights, But if they planted such explosives at the spot where under their direction the Maine was anchored, and explosion of a mine, either by design or accident, wrecked the ship, Spains responsibility is an unenviable

It is undeniable that expert and official opinion at the navy department is settling down to a conviction that the Maine was not destroyed by an accident within the vessel. No conclusive evidence in support of this theory has been received, and so far as the government is concerned it does not assume to reach a conclusion in advance of the receipt of the finding of the court of inquiry. But the experts, and even the high officials of the department, have carefully noted all the facts and conditions discovered by the divers at Havana, and the great majority of them do not hesitate to say that in their opinion the Maine was wrecked by a cause originating from the outside. These conclusions, I wish to emphasize, are extra-official, and will not affect the attitude of our government, which is that we must calmly and patient ly await a verdict, which, it is hoped, will be so conclusive as to leave no room for doubt one way or the other.

Here a new theory has been advanced by naval men. It is an unpleasant suggestion and there are no facts to support it. Nevertheless there are competent naval experts who believe the Maine was blown up by a torpedo launched from the Spanish sruiser Alfonso XII., which lay near the Maine There is no reason to suppose this theory has any real foundation to stand upon, would be war.

It is undeniable, too, that the change of on among the experts as to the origin of the disaster has caused an uneasy feel ing in congress. There is intense anxiety among senators and representatives learn the truth, but no disposition is manifested to take action in advance of the finding of the court of inquiry, nor even then f the administration proceeds promptly and vigorously. Congress still upholds the attitude of President McKinley that we can do beyond peradventure, and that then we shall move with all the vigor which the circumstances may require.

The views of the administration have heen correctly reported in these dispatches. If Spanish conspiracy, war. If an accident due to Spanish carelessness or indifference apology and reparation by the payment of many millions for the ship and for the families of the victims. Thus the government, and congress, and the nation, ar simply waiting, with heroic patience, for the truth.

I may add, upon the best authority, that President McKinley does not expect war a result of the wrecking of the Maine, Only one discovery as to the cause of that catas trophe, in the opinion of the president would justify us in making war, and that would be connivance of the Spanish gov ernment, or of high Spanish officials, in the erime. No such connivance is suspected.

other contingencies, her responsibility will not be such as to justify war. If negli-gence, reparation. If the crime of an individual, reparation and punishment by death of the malefactor. The future of Cuba, and not an accident, however deplorable, or the

crime of a fanatic, no matter how heinous is, in the opinion of the president, the great question at issue between the two na

That there are elements of danger in the situation everyone knows. Havana is a point at which a menace to peace is constantly presented. There the Weylerites and the autonomists are in better warfare. The city, the government, the army, teem with plots and in trigues. The Weylerites and thei uncompromising followers bitterly hate Americans. Information received here leaves little room for doubt that General Lee has privately advised Americans to leave Havana, as there is danger of trouble. General Lee has an acurate measure of Spanish intrigue be-ind the scene as he has more than once demonstrated. His fear at the present time is that the Weylerites, determined to destroy Blanco and autonomy, even if they have to embroil the United States and Spain in order to accomplish their purpose, may start anti-American riots.

Within a few days the administration vill order another American warship to Havana, for the same reason the illfated Maine was sent thither-to protect American citizens. There is fear in wellinformed circles here that the Weylerite conspirators may contrive to create a sitnation in which it will be necessary for the commander of the American vessel to fire a hostile shot. One shot might mean war no matter under what circumstances it was fired. In naval circles there is an impression that it would not require much prevocation to draw fire from one of our

Gloomy views as to the future are en tertained by many keen observers. Spain appears to be near the end of her rope in Cuba. Quarreling and bickering are increasing among the officials. A sensation has just been caused in Marid by charges of treachery made against leading Havana officials. The army is in a deplorable state. The people are becoming desperate. Anarchy does not appear to be far away.

It is known that General Lee has officially reported to the state department his conviction that autonomy is an absoute failure in Cuba. In this judgment he is supported by the reports of all our consuls, now on file at the department. and extracts from which will soon be sent to congress, though it is understo-General Lee's report will be withheld for ens here that President McKinley is right in assuming Cuba to be a bankrup estate upon which misery, disorder and crime prevail, and where anarchy is threatened. There is a strong belief, too, that the sooner the president moves toward a peaceful solution of the problem the better will be the chances of avert-

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY QUOTED. Alleged to Bave Saffito an Unnamed Senator That the Situation

la Grave. Chicago, Feb. 24.-A special dispatch to he Chicago Tribune quotes President Mc-Kinley as speaking as follows to a senator who called upon him yesterday;

who called upon him yesterday:

"I do not propose to do anything at all to precipitate 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 duty however if I did not prepare for the latter." but of course if it should prove to be the sary or inevitable. I would be lax in my true explanation of the mystery the result 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 o events from time to time. There is no ne essity of alarming the people, but congres must be ready to assist the administration vithout making too many inquiries as to the course of current events."

dispatch to the Tribune continues: "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 the result of an unfortunate ac ident, but they recognize the fact that th contrary may prove true at almost any nour, and that, if it is shown even infer entially that Spain had a hand in th cutastrophe there will be but one thing to io, and that will be to seize the island of Cuba by force of arms."

Mail Clerk Gets \$5,000 Damages.

Columbia, Mo., Feb. 24.—(Special.) Samuel W. Smiley, of Lincoln county, was given a verdict against the St. Louis & Hannibal Rallroad Company for \$5,000 in the Boone county circuit court here to-day. Smiley was a mail clerk and was injured in a wreck, and it was alleged that the injuries sustained then caused insanity. sustained then caused insanity.

Chinese Loan in Demand.

London, Feb. 24.—Half the Chinese loan mounting to £8,000,000 (\$49,000,000), was fully amounting to Estate the applicants had to be rejected. The issue price is 90 and the interest from the loan is 4½ per cent. It will be offered publicly a week hence.

THE CRUISER MONTGOMERY.

She May Be Sent to Havana to Replace the Maine.

IMPARCIAL TAKES GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR ITS APATHY.

COUNSELS SENDING FOUR MORE WARSHIPS TO CUBA.

Friendly Protestations by President McKinley Held to Be Made in Bad Faith-The Ministerial Press Is Much More Optimistic.

Madrid, Feb. 24.-The Imparcial to-day takes the Spanish government to task for its "apathy, contrasted with the patriotic feeling of the country," and warns the nation against the "hypocritical Yankee policy which really aims at the independence of Cuba."

Continuing, the Imparcial says: "Pres ident McKinley may make and reiterate protestations of friendship and pacific in tentions, but his actions contradict his words. While the president of the United States is cajolling us with words, he sharptalking concord, he utilizes his Sundays in unusual war preparations at the docks. and cancels the furloughs of the marines Can we trust those who are preventing the pacification of Cuba and fomenting rebellion and fillbustering expeditions, sending warships under the pretext of friendhip and preaching peace? We must prepare for war. There is no time to acquire warships, but we should fit out im mediately what we have-sending the Relayo, Colon, Carlos V. and Maria Teresa to follow the Almirante, Oquendo and Vizcaya to Cuban waters, and the rest of the fleet to guard the peninsula. The other policy than preparedness is only to play the American's game, which is to exhaust our resources and gain the independence of Cuba without risking anything. How

our resources and gain the independence of Cuba without risking anything. How long does the government mean to favor the American plans? How long will the agonizing nation tolerate the apathy of the government?"

This language from a semi-official organ is much commented upon.

The Paix frankly declares that Cuban independence is imminent.

United States Minister Woodford gave a banquet to-day in honor of the new Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Polo y Bernabe. The guests included the Austrian, Russian, French, German, Italian, Turkish. Dutch and British ministers, and the Duke of Veragua, the lineal descendant of Columbus, who was the guest of the United States at the time of the Chicago fair; the premier, Senor Sagasta: two members of the cabinet, and the staff of the United States legation.

Much political importance was attached here 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."

London, Feb. 25.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says:

"Spanish statesmen of every shade of opinion are simply amazed and indignant at the idea that Spain would ever consent to sell Cuba. The suggestion would expose the monarchy to an irresistible movement of popular feeling, shared by the army and navy.

"From a financier's point of view it is

LEE GAVE NO WARNING. The Consul General Did Not Advise Americans to Leave

Havana.

Tampa, Fla., Feb. 24.-The United States ruiser Montgomery, which arrived at Por-Tampa yesterday, remained at the coal docks all of to-day, taking on coal, getting over 300 tons. One of her officers said to ight that the ship would sail for Key West to-morrow unless otherwise ordered. The revenue cutter Forward sailed to-night for Key West after taking on a full supply of ovisions at Port Tampa

The Plant steamship Olivette arrived this The Plant steamship Olivette arrived this afternoon from Havana and a number of passengers from that city said that the report to the effect that Americans had been advised by General Lee to leave the city was absolutely false, that the city was quiet and no one expressed fears for their safety. The government's mail on the Olivette this afternoon was very heavy, and the greater portion was directed to the navy and navigation departments.

VIZCAYA TO SAIL TO-DAY aptain Eulate Receives Orders to Leave New York at Once

for Havana. New York, Feb. 24.-Unless some unexected order is received from Madrid, the

Spanish man-of-war Vizcaya, which has been lying off Tompkinsville, S. I., since

-From the New York Herald.

about the time of his sailing until the con-sul general called upon him, but the order URGES PREPARATION FOR WAR was not unexpected, and all day he had the vessel's crew preparing her for a voyage. The work of coaling was continued, with very available man handling the buckets, so that early in the morning the ship's

bunkers will be packed full. Seamen were also busy putting the ship in snug shape for cruising at sea, and in the afternoon the ship's gunners inspected and cleaned all the guns. After this work had been completed, leather boxes were placed over the gun breeches and the ship's

spars were canvassed. Captain Eulate, in conversation with a epresentative of the Associated Press today, said that the story circulated to the effect that the steering gear of the Vizcaya was out of order was purely imaginary. Being in port, the machinery of the steer ing gear had been overhauled and cleaned,

nothing more. A number of visitors were on board to day, but the marine patrol continues as active as ever, circling around the big cruiser, keeping back all those who have not been accorded the special privileges of paying their respects to friends on board. A number of officers of the Vizcaya dined with Consul General and Senor Baldasand to-night, returning to their ship at mid-night.

COURT TO LEAVE HAVANA.

Has Finished Its Work There and Will Meet Hereafter at Key West.

Havana, Feb. 24.-The court of inquiry held its usual sessions to-day. Captain Sampson reports that Chapiain Chidwick iences at the time of the disaster to the Maine, and that the testimony was taken of the captain of a British bark in the haroor, and the superintendent of the West Indian oil works, across the bay at Regla, Rolf, the British engineer of the floating dock in the harbor, wrote a letter to the court, but, it is said, did not add anything 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 to-day 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 nor the witnesses will give the slightest indication of the testimony or the conclusions deducible from it, and all say that the men employed on the wreck have been cence. This course is regarded as eminently wise by the American and all intelligent Spanish officials, as there is no telling what passions might be aroused or what evil results might be brought about by talking freely on official matters in the present state of public feeling in Havana, Thus far Americans are treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness; and it seems the special care of the residents of Havana to show friendliness.

Consul General Lee says there is no truth in the report that he had asked Captain General Blanco to dismiss from Cuba certin newspaper men for sending sensational stories to the United States. On the contrary, General Lee has never interfered with the American newspaper men in any

To-day the principal streets and buildings are gaily decorated in honor of the Spanish soldlers, 2,029 infantrymen, under the command of Jose Amador, who ar rived this morning by the steamer Monte video, from Barcelona.

General Solano, the second chief-of-staff. to-day returned on board the Mangrove the visit of the court of inquiry, acting as the representative of the governor general. Admiral Manterola personally returned the visit paid to him by the court. The Thursday reception of General Blanco was re-

WAR INSURANCE CHEAP.

Rates Asked by Marine Companies Do Not Indicate Much Danger of Conflict.

New York, Feb. 24.-Fear of war has not yet attacked the shipping interests, for, although there have been many inquiries to the marine companies for "war rates," only one policy has yet been is This is on the vessel it is proposed to use in connection with raising

At the first evidence of any real un easiness among shippers war policies would be in demand, as a clause in the regular marine policies exempts the underwriting interests from damage if the

This clause provides that in case loss occurs through capture, seizure, detention or destruction arising from any belligerent nation or by or from any officer, civil or military, or other person claiming to act in their name or under their authori-ty or in their behalf, the assured shall have no claim against the underwriters. A. Raven, president of the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company (marine), acknowledges that he has received a considerable number of inquiries relative to

'war rates," and in this connection said: "In the instance of an East India voyage I will put the matter in this form: We are willing to insure against the possibilities of war at 1 per cent, but later on, should the situation become graver, we would require 10 per cent or 20 per cent or more if we were asked to insure the same risk."

It certainly does not look as though the fear of war had become very distinct in shipping circles, when the marine insur-ance companies are willing to write a war risk at 1 per cent.

ANOTHER WAR RUMOR DENIED. George B. McFadden Denies the Re port That His Firm Had Ceased Buying Cotton.

Philadelphia, Feb. 24.-George B. Mc-Fadden, of the firm of George H. McFadden & Bros., cotton dealers of this city. to-day declared that there was no truth in the statements contained in a dispatch from Houston, Tex., that his firm had ceased buying cotton on account of probability of war with Spain. Mr. McFadder said the rumor telegraphed from Texas had probably been based on a telegram sent by the firm yesterday afternoon to its agents in Texas and at other Southern points to "cancel all limits." This merely neant for them to cease purchasing for the day, owing to the belief of the firm that there would be a decline in the markets. Similar telegrams are frequently ent to the agents, and this one, he had no significance whatever, beyond that of the affairs of the firm's business. The agents, he said, are to-day purchasing cot-

IF WAR SHOULD COME IT WON'T CATCH US NAPPING.

STILL ONLY A POSSIBILITY.

NOTHING DEVELOPED YESTERDAY

TO PRESAGE A CONFLICT. Secretary Long Says the Navy Depart-

ment Knows No More About the

Cause of the Disaster Than

It Knew the Night It

Occurred. Washington, Feb. 24 .- (Special.) There were few developments to-day to change the situation reative to the Maine disaster. If anything, war sentiment here is less ardent than for two days past. Practically no information of any importance has been

received officially from Havana to-day, and there is no reason whatever to justify suspicion that the administration is keeping anything of vital bearing from the public. The president and the leading men of both parties are awaiting the result of the official inquiry into the tragedy before expressing any opinions. It can be stated upon good inside authority that the dignity of the nation in this matter will be carefully guarded, but the country will not be rushed into war upon the reports of sensational correspondents. Preparations for war are going forward steadily, and if the result of the investigation justifies action. Spain will

war to the handle. Rumors of startling discoveries in the wreck of the Maine were less frequent, but there were enough of them still affoat to-day to warrant Secretary Long in making this statement to the newspaper men as he left his office:

find the United States prepared to make

"Summing up the situation, I should say that the navy department knows to-day nothing more about the cause of the disaster than it did five minutes after the receipt of the first dispatch from Captain

Sigsbee.' The secretary's attention was drawn to the published statement that Captain Crowninshield, chief of the bereau of navigation, had just arrived at Tampa, Fla., on the Montgomery, from a trip to Cuba, where he had been inspecting prospective coaling stations near Matanzas. The secretary's comment was simply this: "Captain Crowninshield has not been to Cuba. He has been off with his boy on matters not in any wise connected with the business of the navv.

Secretary Long further said that he rather expected to see Captain Crowninshield

of the court of inquiry at Havana, the principal business of the navy department in connection with the Maine will relate

Captain Lemly, the judge advocate gener-

al, who has this branch of the work immediately in charge, to y received grams from the Merritt & Chapman Wrecking Company at New York, stating that the steamer Merritt and wrecking lighter Sharpe had sailed for Havana and that the tug Underwriter, with the chief, would leave New York Saturday for the same place. The assistant wrecking master was roing to Havana on the Ward line steamer Saturday and it was suggested to the department that its inspector should take the same steamer. Inasmuch as Lieutenant Commander Kimball, who is now at Haspecting the wrecking operations, it will

The statement received by the navy defrom Captain Sigsbee, that the divers have down aft seven days and forward four days, gave the navy department the first information of the time that the div-ers had been in the vicinity of the "zone of the explosion," as he termed it. The zone is confined to the forward part of the ship, and while the divers have been down the vicinity of the large magazine has been in progress only four days, which presum-ably began on Monday and included to-day. The statement in the Sigsbee dispatch we are in the tropics" is understood at the navy department to refer to the urgent pleas of relatives of the deceased that they be brought to the United States. These appeals continue to be received here, and

while they excite the deepest sympathy of the officials, no hope can be held out that

the dead can be brought back. One of

the burying of the dead "by allen hands There are circumstances which, if they could be made known, would end such ap-peals and would show that the department has not been wanting in a desire to bring the remains to this country. These circumstances have been withheld, mainly through a desire to save friends and rela-tives from the pain which would be caused by a full disclosure of the effect of the explosion. The press reports have given in part the terrible mutilation of the bodies, but it is feared this has not been fully realized by friends and relatives. The men were sleeping on the berth deck, with metal floors and ceilings, which, by the force of the terrific explosion, were ground together into a confused mass. Knowing this, there is little hope that many of the

this, there is little hope that many of the bodies still missing will be found, or, if found, that they will be in a condition to be brought to the United States.

The navy department to-day gave out the figures, showing the strength of the naval militia up to date. This shows a total force of 4.45 officers and enlisted men, which is a gratifying increase from the 3,703 shown by the last report. The number of officers and men by states is as follows:

Maryland Massachusetts ... 441 Michigan ... 193 New Jersey ... 364 Total 4.415

Assistant Secretary Roosvelt says, in this connection, that Illinois leads the list with forty-three commissioned officers and 42 petty officers and enlisted men. The adjutant general of that state recently made a request that the United States steamer Michigan be assigned for the use of the Illinois brigade for one month during the coming summer. During Mr. Roosvelts tour of the lakes last summer, he was much pleased with the showing made by the Illinois and other naval brigades on the lakes, and he has recommended to Secretary Long that the request for the Michigan be granted.

had no significance whatever, beyond that of the affairs of the firm's business. The agents, he said, are to-day purchasing cotton as usual.

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