

FLORIDA'S QUARANTINE.

The Law Will Be Applied to All Naval Vessels.

GOES INTO EFFECT APRIL 1ST.

Sicard Reports the Facts to the Navy Department--Nothing Definite From the Board of Inquiry.

The court of inquiry into the Maine disaster has resumed its session at Havana, Cuba, after finishing taking testimony at Key West, Fla., but nothing official as yet has been given out by the War Department at Washington, and, as stated previously, it may be weeks yet before the board makes its report in the matter.

The latest from Havana, Cuba, says three more bodies have been recovered from the Maine's ruins.

Spain has now in the harbor at Havana three of her war ships.

The smoke stacks of the Maine have

been removed from the wreck.

The United States Government, says the Pittsburg (Pa.) Post, has just closed a contract with Pearl, Peacock & Kerr, local contractors, for the delivery at Key West, Fla., within forty days of 40,000 tons of steel coal.

This order is under the emergency clause.

There is no concealment of the fact that the administration is impressed with a sense of duty in putting the two war branches in the highest state of efficiency to meet any emergency.

There is no disposition to anticipate an emergency, or to say that any situation will develop which will call into use the preparations now on foot.

On the contrary, the highest authorities of the naval and military branches say they do not expect an emergency, but are performing the duty allotted to them of being ready for any result that may come.

There is promise of a new and unwelcome development of the Maine affair, that in the end may

war ships, with the aid of cable surgeons on each side, make it their pride to keep their craft in the most healthful condition, naval officers feel that they may be safely left to run their ships between Havana and Key West without restriction.

As an evidence of the care exercised to avoid carrying contagious diseases the officials refer to the fact that without the suggestion of any health authorities of Florida, Admiral Sicard caused the wounded survivors of the Maine disaster to be detained for several days at Ortugas before allowing them to go to Key West.

The continued reports that Spain is buying new ships led to counter reports that the naval authorities here were purchasing similar purchases.

In no official quarter at the Navy Department could this be confirmed, as it was guarded with the utmost secrecy.

There is little doubt, however, that the Department has informed itself fully as to the opportunities for purchases, should the necessity for more warships arise.

STATE PROHIBITION RALLY.

A Convention Called to Nominate a Ticket.

14TH INSTANT IS THE DATE.

Delegates Are Wanted Who Favor Prohibition Legislation--The Call As Given Out.

The following call has been issued by the Prohibitionists for a convention to be held in Columbia:

COLUMBIA, Feb. 25, 1898. The State central Prohibition committee having determined to call a convention of the Prohibitionists of the State to meet in Columbia, April 14, 1898, have authorized their executive committee to issue such call.

The said committee hereby publishes the call, and the regulations which will be observed in selecting delegates to represent the several counties of the State in said convention:

1. The Convention will assemble at 8 P. M., on the 14th day of April next, in the Hall of the House of Representatives in Columbia.

2. The chairman of the respective county committees will call meetings of conventions of the Prohibitionists of their county, who favor the enactment of laws restricting the sale of alcoholic liquors in this State to medicinal, scientific, mechanical and sacramental purposes only, and the nomination by the Convention of State ticket, who will support such legislation, to be placed before the voters for their choice at the next Democratic primary elections, and subject to the result of said elections.

3. At such county meeting or convention the number of delegates selected, in the manner determined by the body, shall be not less than the number of representatives from the county in the General Assembly, but may be a greater number, if so determined by said county meeting or convention.

4. That said county meeting or convention shall be called to meet at a later date than the 4th day of April next, and if for any cause it shall be found impracticable to assemble such meeting, then the county executive committee are authorized to appoint said delegates and certify their appointment to the secretary of the State executive committee.

C. D. Stanley, J. G. Dale, L. B. Haynes, Chas. P. Wray, Thos. J. Mott, secretary, State executive committee.

J. L. Quimby, Aiken; G. M. Elliott, Beaufort; John B. White, Charleston; J. S. Mollat, Chester; J. S. Suman, Cherokee; J. O. Gosh, Clarendon; J. J. Drew, Darlington; John Lake, Edgefield; Chas. P. Wray, Fairfield; F. P. Covington, Florence; J. M. Whitmore, Greenville; P. L. Sturkey, Greenwood; W. H. Dowling, Hampton; B. Beatty, Horry; N. A. Thompson, Lancaster; L. B. Haynes, Lexington; W. S. Foxworth, Marion; H. S. Vandiver, Oconee; J. L. Siffy, Orangeburg; Julius E. Jiggs, Pickens; L. D. Childs, Richland; W. H. Herbert, Saluda; C. M. Hurst, Jr., Sumter; J. H. Cartwright, Jr., Spartanburg; S. T. Scatte, Union; Joel E. Brunson, Williamsburg; J. J. Neville, York.

THE HOUSE. 5TH DAY.--The House today entered upon the consideration of the Loud bill, relative to second class mail matter.

Second class mail matter by the bill, is restricted to newspaper and periodicals sent by mail, and the bill, as amended, carried 85,606,647. By the Senate committee the appropriations were increased \$1,469,650, making the total amount of the bill as reported to the Senate, \$7,076,200.

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FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Proceedings of Both the Senate and House Day By Day.

THE SENATE.

53D DAY.--The Senate today passed the resolution offered by Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, providing for a bronze tablet to be erected at some suitable place in the capitol, in memory of the officers and sailors who lost their lives in the Maine disaster.

Mr. Bacon, of Massachusetts, to non-concur in the House amendments to the bankruptcy bill, drew a speech from Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, in which he vigorously denounced the measure passed by the House.

A resolution, introduced by Mr. Hays, of Ohio, and adopted by the committee on judiciary to send for persons and papers upon the case of H. G. Ewart, nominated for United States district judge for the Western District of North Carolina, was adopted.

53D DAY.--Debate in the Senate on the Alaskan homestead and railway right of way bill, delivered a vigorous speech in reply to Rawlins, of Utah, in the course of which he made a strong defense of the honor of the congressional committee on the subject.

As soon as the Senate convened on motion of Hale, of Maine, it went into executive session. At 12:30 p. m., the Senate resumed the open session.

Mason, of Illinois, of the committee on postoffice and post roads, presented a concurrent resolution from the committee or investigating the Lake City, S. C., postoffice murder.

On objection by Allen, of Nebraska, the resolution was laid over.

53D DAY.--In the Senate the resolution providing for a congressional investigation into the murder of the postmaster at Lake City, S. C., and his family and the burning of his home was laid before the Senate, discussed and referred to the committee on postoffice and post roads.

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GANG OF ROBBERS CAUGHT.

Prominent, Well-to-do Farmers Are in the Band.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCLOSURES.

Burning and Burglaries Opened Up for Months, Almost Openly--No Telling Who are Implicated.

A special to the Columbia State from Pomaria, of the 8th says: "The bottom has been knocked" out of Pomaria, and the war in Cuba is placed in the background for the time being.

It is well known the most daring robbers, wanton burning of buildings have been going on here for several years and little attention seems to have been given it, as all thought it was a band of "home-raised Jesse James," and none cared to strike for fear of being struck back.

So bold and daring had this become that good white men saw parties drive in the place in the bright moon light or carry down rob and leave without even reporting the matter or names, however well were the parties known, for fear of bodily injury or secret hurt.

First, E. R. Hipp's store was burned, robbed first, it was thought. Then the railroad depot was forcibly entered, and wagon loads taken, then Seizer & Co.'s store robbed of several hundred dollars' worth.

Then again the Southern railroad. At this time detectives came, secured a large lot of the stolen property, but by a perceptive practice and methods of the railroad, "better compromise and get on," they came upon the scene, the matter was hushed, although some of the "best citizens," or so supposed, were implicated.

Then came the burning of Col. Holloway's gin house and other buildings.

Then the loss, by which it is hoped the parties are trapped and broken up, was that two weeks ago, D. Hipp's large store of plantation supplies was robbed. Mr. Hipp was apparently quiet, but a detective, in the guise of a peacemaker, came upon the scene, he found a wagon load and two buggy loads of the stolen goods in the house of Mr. A. F. Riser, a former clerk; also in the barn forty kegs of blasting powder belonging to the railroad.

This was in a house near the railroad, built for that purpose. The house was burned, and it was supposed, the powder, too, until its finding. Mr. Riser lived with his father, a most estimable citizen and a strict church member; a well-to-do farmer. Goods of a small nature were found in other houses of men of good repute. So far, the authorities have arrested A. F. Riser and brother, a Mr. Bickley and several negroes, one the renowned "blind tiger" and the despised enemy of William Baker. There are a number of doubts that there are a large number interested, and what is astonishing, so much so as to border on disbelief, is that some of the most well-to-do farmers, men of families and strict church members, some even of wealth, are thought to be implicated.

There is a "peach" on his pals, then, in that case, I can only say "the end is not yet." The question the good people are asking each other is: "Whither are we drifting," when some of our best men are turning robbers and burglars.

Another special from Newberry says Jas. A. Riser and his three sons, Albert F. Joann Willie, and John Buckley, white, and Willis and William Baker, colored, were arrested at Pomaria. In default of \$500 bond they were committed to jail.

Won't Have Much to Do. State Chairman Tompkins, of the Democratic executive committee, was asked by a Columbia State representative about the coming May State convention. He did not have much to say, but does not see what the convention will have to do, other than electing a new State committee and making such changes as may be deemed necessary in the party constitution and rules governing the primary elections. As yet he has heard of no changes. The publication of the call from the Prohibitionists, showing that they intend to put out a State ticket in the coming campaign, has created quite a stir in political circles. Not a few of the regular line politicians are feeling a little uncomfortable over this action of those who are fighting so persistently against the liquor traffic.

Converts of the Mormon Doctrine. Manning correspondent of the Columbia Register says an exodus of ten white persons left this county for Colorado, converts of the Mormon doctrine. They represent the families of S. R. Tobias and James Haly. A daughter of Mr. Tobias left a year ago with a Mormon elder to be married in a Mormon temple in Colorado. She has written such a glowing description of her adopted home, that together with the influence of the Mormon elders in this county, the two families have embraced the Mormon faith and left for the West. The families are well-to-do.

A Horrible Death. At Pelzer, Mrs. L. A. Bell was burned to death. She was at home alone, teaching a school teacher, Pelzer being absent. At 4 o'clock Miss Bell returned from her school duties and entering the house found her mother lying in the fire place in the parlor, the upper part of her body, arms and head burned to a charred mass. It is presumed that Mrs. Bell was sitting by the fire and was the victim of heart failure, falling into the fire.

An Unwarranted Sentence. At Louisville, Ky., Louis H. Altman, who was formerly the confidential bookkeeper of Charles Rosenbaum & Co., was found guilty in the Criminal Court of charges of forgery and embezzlement in having taken \$20,000 from the firm. He was sentenced to the State penitentiary for a term of five years.

Wanted to Get High Colored. "Did your railway make money?" "No," replied the promoter. "We wouldn't sell enough coal."

"There was a chance of its being profitable, then?"

"Yes, but we weren't satisfied with selling stock. We had to go and sell."

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SNAP SHOTS AT THE NEWS.

The South.

Judge John Newton Hendon, the last Treasurer of the Southern Confederacy, died at his home near Stanton, Va., on the 10th.

At Raleigh, N. C., Mrs. Fannie E. Howard was awarded \$20,000 against the W. N. C. R. for the killing of her husband at the Old Fort wreck. She sued for \$25,000.

To stop burglaries at Paducah, Ky., a curfew law has been adopted, and suspicious characters are being driven out of town by a Vigilance Committee.

Jeff Senter was shot and killed near Montpelier, Ala., while resisting arrest for passing counterfeit.

At Jacksonville, Fla., the tug Dauntless was libelled by the government, charged with filibustering. The vessel is now in charge of a deputy marshal.

At Fountain Inn, a small town in Greenville county, S. C., 1,300 bales of cotton were destroyed by fire. The conflagration was undoubtedly incendiary.

Gov. Tyler, of Virginia, has approved the bill passed by the Virginia Legislature providing for a labor bureau.

Judge Emory Speer, in an address to the grand jury in the United States Court at Savannah, Ga., contrasted American justice with that of France as shown at the Zoo trial.

In event of war West Virginia could at once put two well-drilled regiments in the field.

Heavy shipments of Tennessee marble are being shipped to the City of Mexico from Knoxville.

At Spartanburg, S. C., T. J. Trimnier was shot and killed in his store by Dentist S. J. Bivings.

Col. Matthew C. Galloway, founder of the Memphis Avalanche, and afterwards editor of the Appeal, is dead.

During a quarrel at Paducah, Ky., Auctioneer Samuel Clark fatally shot Steven B. Carney, a leading business man.

Geo. W. Vanderbilt proposes to continue the development of the model village of Biltmore, near Asheville, N. C.

Mayor Collier, of Atlanta, has decided to issue a call for the quarantine convention, arranged to be held in Atlanta, on April 12th.

At Moridan, Miss., J. P. Royals, his wife and the latter's sister were poisoned by a servant, a 12-year-old negro boy; Royals at the young lady are at the point of death.

At Welch, W. Va., two men held up George Day, knocked him down and beat his head to a pulp with a piece of railroad iron. Three young men of good families have been arrested for attempted robbery.

The Virginia State Senate, after cutting down the appropriation from \$100,000 to \$100,000 provided for enlarging the cell accommodations of the penitentiary. The money is to come out of future earnings of the prison.

The North.

Alexander Mijlet, a Chelsea (Mass.) pedler, claims the \$5,000,000 estate of John Green, of Portland, Ore.

The Fifth Maryland Regiment of militia is to have an armory built by the State at Baltimore, to cost \$400,000.

Captain G. E. D. Dimond, 102 years old, is about to start from San Francisco, Cal., to walk to New York.

John Wanamaker is expected to accept the invitation of the Pennsylvania Business Men's League to run for Governor against the Quay machine.

Fifteen hundred operatives have accepted a 10 per cent. reduction in wages at the Boston Company's cotton mills in Waltham, Mass.

Mrs. Isabella A. Marsh and William C. Buzzell, convicted at Montpelier, Vt., of murdering Mrs. Marsh's husband by poison, will be hanged February 8, 1899.

Edwin S. Thynge, town treasurer of Exeter, N. H., has been arrested, charged with embezzlement of \$20,500 of the funds of the town.

Through a telephone call the life of C. C. Wingate, son of General Wingate, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who poisoned himself at a Washington (D. C.) hotel, was saved.

Wm. H. Heath, manager of the Central Electric Express Company, of St. Louis, Mo., was found lying in Forest Park, from a bullet wound in the head. It was evidently a case of suicide. The young man was taken to the city hospital, where he died. He is a relative of Perry S. Heath, Assistant Postmaster General.

OPINION OF NAVAL OFFICERS.

Belief is General That the Maine Was Blown Up by a

FLOATING SUBMARINE TORPEDO,

Laid Purposely Near the Buoy, and Fired by a Flash from an Electric Battery on Shore.

Havana, via Key West, (Special).--Without adding unnecessarily to the flood of surmises, conjecture and prophecy concerning the finding of the court of inquiry, it is fair to say that, as a matter of fact, most of the naval officers here and at Key West incline to the opinion that the court will find that the disaster to the Maine was caused by the explosion of a floating submarine mine under the forward port side of the ship.

Opinions differ as to whether this mine was made of high explosive, such as wet and dry gun cotton, or ordinary gun powder. Opinions agree, not only as to the existence of mines in the harbor, but also that only one was laid purposely near the buoy where the "Maine" was wrecked.

These views are gathered from officers who talk with great reserve and only upon the assurance that their identity will never be revealed. The fact remains that only the members of the court of inquiry know all the testimony elicited, and no one is authorized to make public matters in advance of the final judgment.

A good deal of surprise was expressed by American here at learning that Spanish divers were to be permitted to make an examination of the wreck of the Maine, especially as it was also said that American naval officers here would give such divers all consistent facilities and would throw no obstacle in the way of thorough submarine inspection. It was not at first understood, as it came to be later, that the Spanish search was to be entirely independent and that while it was being made the American investigation would proceed under Captain Sigbee's supervision. As understood here the Spanish request made after the disaster for a joint investigation was promptly refused at Washington, but after a cabinet consultation it was agreed that the Spanish had a moral and international right to discover the cause of the wreck for themselves if possible. Therefore, permission for an independent examination of the wreck on the ground was understood here, that it could not be refused to a friendly power in her own harbor. What the permission was not accorded until after the court of inquiry had finished its work here and gone to Key West is a matter which cannot be discussed. It opens a wide field for speculation.

Some assert that the court now has no objection to a Spanish inquiry for one of two reasons. Either the court has sufficient evidence already of accident or negligence, evidence that cannot be controverted by the Spaniards--or after a diligent search, the mystery remains as deep as ever and the court does not think the Spanish will reach a conclusion where the Americans have failed. Of course all this refers to the wreck of the Maine, and not to the ship other than the hull. Until the guns, decks, engines and debris of all kinds have been removed and the mud has been pumped from the hull it can not be examined thoroughly by any one. Some good authorities think it will be better to build a coffer dam around the wreck, piles being driven, etc.

Two Ships to Cuba. The Navy Department has decided to send two ships to Cuba with supplies for the suffering reconcentrados, but they will carry only long enough to unload their cargoes--the Montgomery and Nashville will be retained to make the peaceful mission.

Preparing for War With Nicaragua. Arrivals from Limon, Costa Rica, report that preparations for war with Nicaragua are rapidly advancing. Men and arms and troops have already been ordered to the frontier. The mission of the Guatemalan peace envoys to the two governments has thus far been unsuccessful.

Lyfingh Cause Little Excitement. Fred Moore, the murderer of Tom Anderson, was taken from the county jail at Senatobia, Miss., and shot to death by a mob of fifty persons. Anderson and Moore had quarreled about some trivial matter. Moore followed his man and shot him five times, afterward placing the body on the railroad track