

Testimony of Lee Before Foreign Relations Committee.

Interesting Information Concerning the Explosion.

Washington, April 14—The testimony taken before the Senate committee on foreign relations in connection with the investigation into the relations between the United States and Cuba was made public to day. The statement which contains the greatest current interest is that made by Consul General Lee on the 12th instant, in which he said that he was informed on very good authority that the Spaniards had placed two rows of torpedoes just at the mouth of Havana harbor, by Morro Castle, within the past two months, or subsequent to the Maine disaster, and that the switchboard is in a room in the castle. He said, however, that he had no information of the placing of any torpedoes before the Maine was destroyed, and none in regard to the purchase of torpedoes abroad by the Spanish authorities. He also stated that he had no reason to suspect that the harbor was mined before the blowing up of the Maine.

General Lee stated that he thought the Weyler letter (the Laine letter) was a correct copy of the genuine letter. He had information of a telegram from General Weyler to Eva Capel, a noted Spanish woman and an admirer of Weyler's, and also to Senor Guzman, which read: "Grave circumstances cause me to ask you to destroy the last letter of February 18."

General Lee said that this telegram had never before been published, and he found in its strong confirmatory evidence of the genuineness of the Weyler letter.

THE MAINE DISASTER.

With reference to the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine, General Lee said he was satisfied that the explosion was from the outside, and that it was caused by some of the officers who had charge of the mines and electrical wires and torpedoes in the arsenal. He did not think General Blanco had anything to do with it.

General Lee said that he had seen a copy of a telegram from Admiral Manterola, dated in Havana prior to the explosion of the Maine, to the Spanish commission in London, asking the commission to "hurry up the electrical cables."

"Whether that referred to wire for submarine mines or torpedoes I do not know," he continued. "I tried to ascertain if any of the wire or electrical cables had arrived here, but they came on Spanish ships, and I could not find out."

General Lee said that this telegram in regard to Manterola, and also that with reference to the Weyler telegram, had been furnished to the court of inquiry which investigated the Maine disaster, but had not been sent to Congress nor published, because of a request of his made to the State department not to make them public, "as I was afraid the Spanish papers there would republish it and they would probably kill the man that gave it to me."

Continuing his testimony, General Lee said that he had made inquiries and ascertained that none of the electric lights of the city went out at the time of the explosion. He had also heard that some of the Spanish officers celebrated the blowing up of the battleship by drinking champagne.

CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

In reply to a question from Senator Gray, General Lee stated that the Spanish population is not especially hostile toward the United States. He said that the condition of the reconcentrados was just as bad now as in General Weyler's day.

In regard to the cessation of hostilities, General Lee thought the armistice amounted to practically nothing. He did not think the insurgents would pay any attention to it.

General Lee stated that provisions were scarce in Havana, and he thought that in case of a blockade the town would surrender in a short while. The insurgents were also living from hand to mouth. General Lee said that he had expended all but about \$5,000 of the \$50,000 appropriated for the relief of American citizens in Cuba.

He described the condition of the Spanish soldiers in the island as being very bad, and said that if Spain has really appropriated \$600,000 for the sustenance of the reconcentrados, those people would get but very little of it, but he did not believe they had appropriated anything of the kind. He did not think there was the slightest possibility of Spain conquering the insurgents and restoring peace in the island. A number of American citizens are still there, he said, for whom active steps will have to be taken, as they are suffering and starving. General Lee said that the same condition of things existed when President Cleveland sent him to Havana, and that he had so reported. Continuing, he said: "If I had to write that report over, I would not dot an 'i' or cross a 't', although I have been there two years since then."

Concerning the insurgent government, General Lee said he had never thought that the insurgents had anything except the skeleton form of a government—a moving capital. General Lee said that when he left Havana the Spanish troops had not been paid for about nine months, nor had the Spanish officers for about four months. He thought that an American army of occupation could go into the island with safety now.

OTHER TESTIMONY.

Admiral John Irwin, a torpedo expert, appeared before the committee on the 2d instant. He is familiar with Havana harbor, and said, in effect, the fact that there were no dead fish the day after the explosion was not surprising, as there were no fish there.

Captain Sigbee, the commander of the Maine, was examined March 31st. He repeated his opinion that the Maine was destroyed by a mine, either temporary or permanent.

In reply to a question, Captain Sigbee said he thought it possible that the explosion could have occurred without the knowledge of the higher officials. He said that the examination made by the Spanish board was absurd, as compared with that of the American board.

Commander Bradford, torpedo expert, stationed at Newport, was before the committee on March 30, and was asked to state the danger from the Spanish flotilla of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers. He said he was not impressed, as naval officials were with the dangerous character of these boats. In his opinion, their chief value is in preventing blockades, if in ports where such attempts are being made.

Commander Bradford, in answer to a question, said it would be an important advantage in case of war to dispose of the flotilla before it reached Havana.

Washington, April 14—Interest in the Cuban question centered at the Senate wing of the Capitol to day where the resolutions reported yesterday by the Senate committee on foreign relations were under consideration. The most significant event of the day was an attempt to fix a vote and the failure to do so on account of the desire of many Senators to debate the resolution at considerable length.

All day long conferences of Senators were held, looking to a possible agreement upon the form of resolution to be sent to the President. Great efforts were made for the House resolution which was known to be satisfactory to the President and which was supported by the conservative Senators. It is not believed that the House resolution can pass the Senate, and the prospects are that the committee resolution will have an amendment recognizing the Republic of Cuba before it is passed, the friends of recognition claiming a clear majority for it.

The conservative Senators believe the House proposition will win in conference, the impression being that the House will refuse to yield, and in order to prevent further delay the friends of Cuba in the Senate will accept the House proposition.

When the Senate adjourned tonight, Senator Davis, in charge of the resolution, repeated his intention to ask the Senate to sit continuously after the beginning of the session tomorrow, unless an agreement to fix a time for a vote can be secured. "I see no other way of bringing the matter to an issue," he said. "I, of course do not enjoy night sessions any more than other Senators, but I appreciate the importance of getting the speeches off and of securing a vote at the earliest possible hour."

Anxious as Senator Davis and others of his mind were for a speedy vote, the indications are for considerable delay. The Vice President already has received requests from about twenty Senators for recognition to speak, and others are expected to make similar application. All these insist that they have no intention of speaking for the purpose of causing delay, but nevertheless they will consume many hours of time. It would seem now that, even in case of a continuous session, a vote would not be probable before Saturday.

The list of those who have expressed a desire to speak includes the following: Senators Callom, Daniel, Frye, Tillman, Wolcott, Spooner, Chilton, Platt (Conn.), Cannon, Pettigrew, Proctor, Burrows, Bacon, Wellington, Stewart, Caffery, Hawley, White and Rawlins.

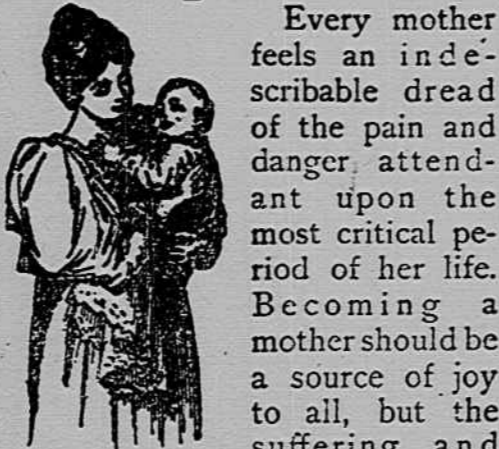
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TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: Dated April 10, 1897, No. 35, No. 23, No. 53, A.M., P.M., Le. Florence, Kingstree, Ar. Lanes, Le. Lanes, Ar. Obar't'n.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: No. 78, No. 32, No. 52, A.M., P.M., Le. Obar't'n, Ar. Lanes, Le. Lanes, Kingstree, Ar., Florence.

*Daily. †Daily except Sunday. No. 52 runs through to Columbia via Central R. R. of S. C. Trains Nos. 78 and 32 run via Wilson and Fayetteville—Short Line—and make close connection for all points North. Trains on C. & D. R. R. leave Florence 9:55 a.m., arrive Darlington 10:28 a.m., Cheraw 11:40 a.m., Wadesboro 2:25 p.m. Leave Florence, daily except Sunday, 8:00 p.m., arrive Darlington 8:25 p.m., Hartsville 9:20 p.m., Bennettsville 9:21 p.m., Gibson 9:45 p.m., leave Florence, Sunday only 9:55 a.m., arrive Darlington 10:27 a.m., Hartsville 11:10 a.m. Leave Gibson daily except Sunday 6:35 a.m., Bennettsville 6:59 a.m., arrive Darlington 7:50 a.m. Leave Hartsville daily except Sunday 7:00 a.m., arrive Darlington 7:45 a.m. Leave Darlington 8:55 a.m., arrive Florence 9:30 a.m. Leave Wadesboro, daily except Sunday 3:00 p.m., Cheraw 5:15 p.m., Darlington 6:29 p.m., Florence 7:05 p.m., Darlington 8:00 a.m., arrive Florence 9:30 a.m. J. R. KENLY, JNO. F. DIVINE, Gen'l Manager, Gen'l Supt. T. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager.

SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA RAILROAD.

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Table with columns: DAILY, DAILY, Lv Charleston, Ar Summerville, Pugnalls, Georges, Branchville, Orangeburg, St Matthews, Fort Motte, Kingville, Columbia, Lv Columbia, Ar Kingville, Fort Motte, St Matthews, Orangeburg, Rowesville, Branchville, Georges, Summerville, Charleston.

Table with columns: Lv Charleston, Ar Summerville, Bamberg, Denmark, Blackville, Williston, Aiken, Augusta, Ar Augusta, Lv Aiken, Williston, Blackville, Denmark, Bamberg, Branchville, Ar Charleston.

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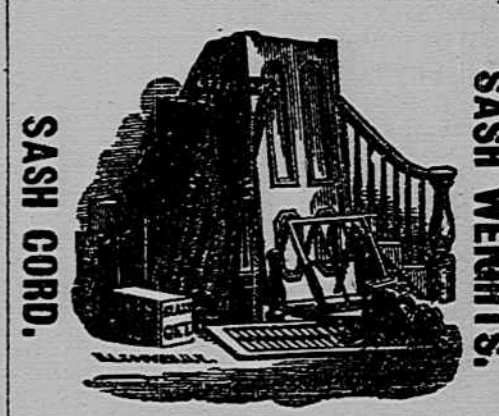
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THE REGULAR MONTHLY COMMUNICATION of Claremont Lodge, No. 44, A. F. M., will be held on Thursday Evening, May 5, at 7 1/2 p. m. Brethren will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly. L. S. CARSON, W. M. Attest—P. C. MOSES, Sec.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SUMTER COUNTY.

OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR OF REGISTRATION, SUMTER COUNTY, SUMTER, S. C., May 1, 1897.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, the books for the registration of all legally qualified voters, and for the issuing of transfers, &c., will be open at the court house, between the hours of 9 o'clock a. m., and 3 o'clock p. m., on the first Monday of each month, and for three successive days, until thirty days before the next general election. Minors who shall become of age during that period of thirty days, shall be entitled to registration before the books are closed, if otherwise qualified. E. F. BURROWS, Feb 1. Supervisor of Registration.

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