

# THE CHIPLEY BANNER.

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## ASIVE REPLY nt by Spanish Government PRESIDENT'S DEMANDS.

### Counter Argument That Herself, Be Allowed To Make Terms.

The official reply to President McKinley's last demand in the Cuban question was received in Washington yesterday night. An anxious party, consisting mostly of the cabinet and the close friends of the administration, waited until late in the evening for the arrival of the message. At 10 o'clock the message began to be deciphered, and the work of translation was begun at once. It was stated, however, that no intimation as to the nature of the reply was divulged at the time.

At the white house Senator Hanna, Secretary Alton B. Bliss, Assistant Secretary of State Day, who dined with the president, Assistant Secretary of State Root, whom was confided the transmission of the message; Senator Spooner and Senator Aldrich.

There was an intensely expectant atmosphere of newspaper correspondents, and than often gathered at the house at night, waiting in the hall outside the president's office. They were destined to disappointment, for after the telegraph instructions to the adjoining office had been scattered for half an hour Mr. Porter, the president's secretary, appeared with the announcement from the president that it was impossible to translate the message in time to make any statement at that hour.

All those who had been with the president were reticent on leaving the white mansion, most of them deeming that they had not seen any translation of the cipher dispatch, and that they had no idea of its purport.

A special dispatch from Washington to the New York World, timed 2 a. m. yesterday, gives the following outline to the message presented by Minister Woodford.

Neither accedes to nor declines to accept McKinley's Propositions. It makes counter argument that Spain herself be allowed to propose terms which should be done regarding her territory; that the United States do not do so.

With committees of congress dealing with foreign affairs were in session yesterday. The senate committee considered the examination of the report on the Cuban question and the house committee by a vote refused to take any action on the bill Monday.

The senate committee agreed to and the house reported a bill appropriating \$5,000,000 to purchase one or more of the Danish West India islands for use as naval purposes.

## SPAIN GIVEN LIMIT

To Answer President's Note Demanding Cuban Independence.

A Washington special says: The president assured a committee of senators who waited on him Wednesday afternoon that he had given Spain sixty hours to make reply to his note demanding independence. Spain certified her intention of responding within the prescribed time, thus allowing us to intercept the Spanish flotilla should the answer be unfriendly. The Spanish government wired Wednesday afternoon asking this government if it would consider any other proposition to cease hostilities save by the plan of total independence. The president has wired that this country would not.

In anticipation of Spain's reply McKinley begged the republicans in congress to wait one more day. Republicans in the house promised him to do so on his pledge that the matter would be brought to a focus.

## THREE MORE WARSHIPS

Leave Spanish Naval Station Headed In the Direction of Havana.

A matter that caused a great deal of excitement among the officials at Washington Wednesday was the information that had been received from United States Minister Woodford of the departure westward of a formidable Spanish fleet of three vessels. Naturally there was a disposition to criticize the action of Spain in this particular in view of the many peace protestations that have been made by that country, and such action was regarded as anything but a friendly move.

The ships sailed from Carthagena, a Spanish naval station on the Mediterranean sea, and according to the minister's dispatch they were headed "westward." This, it is said, is undoubtedly the most formidable array of vessels that has departed from Spain in this direction during the present crisis, and the presumption generally held by the navy department officials is that they are headed ultimately for Havana, and will be first heard of at the Canaries.

## SPAIN IS ALL ALONE.

Not Probable That Any of the Powers Will Intervene.

It was stated Wednesday in a high diplomatic quarter at Washington that the Spanish government within the last ten days had addressed a note to the great powers of Europe fully setting forth the grave aspect of the controversy with the United States and, at least inferentially, suggesting that the time was now opportune for European influence to be exerted.

It is said this note has been the cause of activity at European capitals within the last few days in connection with Spanish American affairs. Up to the present time, however, no actual step toward mediation or intervention has been taken by any of the great powers, although there is little doubt that France stands ready to take the initiative if there is the slightest evidence that the United States government will view such a move with favor.

## SENATOR EARLE EULOGIZED.

Glowing Tributes Paid By Senators McLaughlin and Chandler.

The tributes to the late Senator Earle in the senate were of an unusual character. Senator McLaughlin made the opening memorial address.

He was followed by Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, whose eulogy to the dead South Carolinian was one of the most beautiful delivered in recent years. Senator Tillman closed. Other senators who spoke were Spooner, of Utah, Kenney, of Delaware, and McEnery, of Louisiana. Senator Clay, of Georgia, spoke for a half hour and his eulogy to Earle was full of pathos and a beautiful tribute to his life and character.

## WOULD KILL LEE FIRST.

Threat of Wholesale Butchery of Americans in Havana Reported.

The Ward steamer Vigilancia arrived at New York Wednesday from Havana. The Vigilancia brings no news of a special nature except that it was commonly reported in Havana that on a declaration of war on Spain being made by the United States a wholesale murder of Americans in Havana will take place and Consul General Lee would be the first to be assassinated.

## GAR LINES CONSOLIDATED.

Knoxville Has Now Only One System For Future Operations.

It is stated definitely that C. C. Howell, who has been manager of the Knoxville Street Railway Company, will remain as manager of the Knoxville Traction Company, formed by the consolidation of three street railways and two electric light systems of the city.

The deal was consummated at Baltimore Tuesday and consideration was \$881,450. The purchaser was a syndicate organized by Hamilton & Sons, of Baltimore, Baltimore Trust Company, and Kautz Bros., of New York, interested.

## M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE

### Reviews Report of the Court.

### IS READ IN THE CONGRESS.

A Concise Statement of the Views of This Government Given By Our Chief Executive.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The president today sent the following message to congress:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:  
For some time prior to the visit of the Maine to Havana harbor our consular representatives pointed out the advantages to flow from the visit of national ships to the Cuban waters, in accustoming the people to the presence of our flag as the symbol of good will and of our ships in the fulfillment of the mission of protection to American interests, even though no immediate need therefor might exist.

### Maine's Visit Friendly.

Accordingly, on the 24th of January, last, after conference with the Spanish minister, in which the renewal of visits of our war vessels to Spanish waters was discussed and accepted, the peninsular authorities at Madrid and Havana were advised of the purpose of this government to resume friendly naval visits at Cuban ports, and that in that view the Maine would forthwith call at the port of Havana. This announcement was received by the Spanish government with appreciation of the friendly character of the visit of the Maine and with notification of intention to return the courtesy by sending Spanish ships to the principal ports of the United States. Meanwhile the Maine entered the port of Havana on the 25th of January, her arrival being marked with no special incident besides the exchange of customary salutes at ceremonial visits.

The Maine continued in the harbor of Havana during the three weeks following her arrival. No appreciable excitement attended her stay. On the contrary, a feeling of relief and confidence followed the resumption of the long interrupted friendly intercourse. So noticeable was this immediate effect on her visit that the consul-general strongly urged that the presence of ships in Cuban waters should be kept up by retaining the Maine at Havana, or in the event of her recall, by sending another vessel there to take her place.

### Destroyed By Explosion.

At 40 minutes past 9 in the evening of 15th of February the Maine was destroyed by an explosion, by which the entire forward part of the ship was utterly wrecked. In this catastrophe two officers and two hundred and sixty-four of her crew perished, those of her crew who were not killed outright by her explosion being penned between decks by the tangle of wreckage and drowned by the immediate sinking of the hull.

Prompt assistance was rendered by the neighboring vessels anchored in the harbor, aid being especially given by the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alphonso XII and the Ward line steamer City of Washington, which lay not far distant. The wounded were generously cared for by the authorities of Havana, the hospitals being freely opened to them, while the earliest recovered bodies of the dead were interred by the municipality in a public cemetery in the city. Tributes of grief and sympathy were offered from all official quarters of the island.

The appalling calamity fell upon the people of this country with crushing force, and for a brief time an intense excitement prevailed, which, in a community less just and self-controlled than ours, might have led to hasty acts of blind resentment. This spirit, however, soon gave way to the calmer processes of reason and to the resolve to investigate the facts and await material proof before forming a judgment as to the cause, the responsibility, and if the facts warranted, the remedy due. This course necessarily recommended itself from the outset to the executive, for only in the light of a dispassionately ascertained certainty could it determine the nature and measure of its full duty in the matter.

### The Court of Inquiry.

The usual procedure was followed, as in all cases of casualty or disaster to national vessels of any maritime state. A naval court of inquiry was at once organized, composed of officers well qualified by rank and practical experience to discharge the onerous duty imposed upon them. Aided by a strong force of wreckers and divers,

the court proceeded to make a thorough investigation on the spot, employing every available means for the impartial and exact determination of the causes of the explosion.

Its operations have been conducted with the utmost deliberation and judgment, and while independently pursued, no source of information was neglected and the fullest opportunity was allowed for a simultaneous investigation by the Spanish government.

The finding of the court of inquiry was reached after 23 days of continuous labor, on the 21st of March, instant, and having been approved on the 23d by the commander-in-chief of the United States naval force on the North Atlantic station, was transmitted to the executive.

It is herewith laid before the congress, together with the voluminous testimony taken before the court.

Its purpose is, in brief, as follows: When the Maine arrived at Havana she was conducted by the regular government pilot to buoy No. 4, to which she was moored in from five and one-half to six fathoms of water.

The state of discipline on board and the condition of her magazines, boilers, coal bunkers and storage compartments are passed in review, with the conclusion that excellent order prevailed and that no indication of any cause for an internal explosion existed in any quarter.

### Vessel Suddenly Destroyed.

At 8 o'clock on the evening of February 15th everything had been reported secure and all was quiet.

At 40 minutes past 9 o'clock the vessel was suddenly destroyed.

There were two distinct explosions, with a brief interval between them. The first lifted the forward part of the ship very perceptibly; the second, which was more open, prolonged and of greater volume, is attributed by the court to the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines.

The evidence of the divers establishes that the after part of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the explosion. The forward part was completely demolished.

Upon the evidence of the concurrent external cause the finding of the court is as follows:

"At frame 18 the outer shell of the ship, from a point eleven and one-half feet from the middle line of the ship and six feet above the keel when in its normal position, had been forced up so as to be now about four feet above the surface of the water, therefore, about 34 feet above where it would be had the ship sunk uninjured.

The outside bottom plating is bent into a reverse V shape, the after wing of which, about 15 feet broad and 32 feet in length (from frame 17 to frame 25), is doubled back up in itself against the continuation of the same plating extending forward.

At frame 18 the vertical keel is broken in two and the flat keel is bent into an angle similar to the angle formed by the outside bottom plates. The break is now about six feet below the surface of the water and about 30 feet above its normal position.

In the opinion of the court, this effect could have been produced only by the explosion of a mine situated under the bottom of the ship at about frame 18 and somewhat on the port side of the ship.

### Court's Conclusions.

The conclusions of the court are; The loss of the Maine was not due to negligence on the part of any of the officers or members of her crew.

That the ship was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused the partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines, and that no evidence has been obtainable showing the responsibility of the destruction of the Maine upon any person or persons.

I have directed that the finding of the court of inquiry and the views of this government thereon be communicated to the government of her majesty, the queen and I do not permit myself to doubt that the sense of justice of the Spanish nation will dictate a course of action suggested by honor and the friendly relations of the two governments.

It will be duty of the executive to advise the congress of the result, and in the meantime deliberate consideration is invoked.

### WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Executive Mansion, March 28, 1898.

In neither senate or house was there any debate on reference of president's message and other documents to committees having charge of our Cuban relations.

### PERMISSION REFUSED.

Captain Sigbee Not Allowed By Spaniards to Blow Up the Wreck.

A semi-official note issued at Madrid Thursday says:

"At the cabinet meeting Senor Sagasta (the premier) read a telegram from Captain General Blanco saying that the captain of the Maine had requested permission to blow up the wreck with dynamite, and that permission to do so had been refused him.

"The cabinet empowered the minister of foreign affairs (Senor Gullon) to watch the situation with the view of seeing justice done and defending the rights of Spain.

## TWO DOZEN TORPEDO BOATS

ADDED TO NAVY THROUGH NEW APPROPRIATION BILL.

DOUBLE THE AMOUNT ASKED FOR.

Members of Both Sides Demonstrate That They Are in Hearty Accord In War Preparations.

In an exceedingly turbulent session of six hours the house, at Friday's session, passed the naval appropriation bill and then adjourned until Monday.

The war spirit was manifested in all the speeches and overrode the naval committee itself by increasing the number of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers to twenty-four, the bill as reported providing but twelve, and the appropriation to \$4,000,600 instead of \$2,300,000.

Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee, offered an amendment to reduce the number of battleships to one. It was buried under an overwhelming majority. The provision relating to armor plate, which, in ordinary times, would have precipitated a debate of several days, was disposed of in ten minutes, a proposition to decrease the price agreed to in the bill from \$400 to \$300 per ton being drowned in a perfect chorus of noes.

In speaking on his amendment reducing the number of battleships, Mr. Cannon said:

"Most gentlemen believe that within a week we will be at war with one of the countries of the earth. That will mean additional taxation and authorizations to borrow \$500,000,000. It means that these burdens shall be put upon the people. Let us double taxation if necessary, but let us not authorize a single dollar that is not necessary to meet the emergency just in front of us. Long before these battleships can be launched the war will be over, and I fear these battleships will be obsolete." (Applause on the floor.)

Mr. Boutelle, in a spirited reply, declared that the history of naval warfare showed that the naval battles of the world have been won by the ships of the battle line.

Mr. DeArmond, democrat, of Missouri, called upon the administration to take the aggressive. The Maine, he said, has been blown up in a harbor supposed to be friendly. There was great danger now, he declared, in trusting to diplomacy rather than to our own strong arm.

The great question now was to stop the hostile fleet now approaching our shores. If we were depending upon diplomacy, it would prove a broken reed.

The best protection at such a time, he urged, was aggression, not to wait, idly resting upon hopes that had no foundation. He declared that we should strike while we had the advantage. War between nations was not like a contest between equally matched gladiators. The victory belonged in war to the country that best and first prepared for it.

"Let us protect ourselves," continued Mr. DeArmond, "by striking before we are stricken. (Applause.)

"Let us not wait. We have waited too long. I hope the proper measures of energy are on foot, and that what I apprehend as danger will be avoided."

### Diplomacy Falls.

There is little doubt that the president and the members of his cabinet now regard a conflict with Spain as almost inevitable.

In his next message to congress it is understood that the president will review at some length the record as it stands between this government and Spain, but will not insist upon further time in which to continue negotiations looking to a peaceful solution of the Cuban problem.

The cabinet meeting Friday morning was unquestionably the most important held in many years. It received Spain's answer to the ultimatum of this government, and finding it unsatisfactory practically decided upon a policy which at present seems certain to involve hostilities.

The whole record will be laid before congress and the question is now under earnest consideration what shall be the particular form our policy shall take in bringing to an end the horrors in Cuba and securing the independence of the island.

### REQUEST TO GOVERNORS.

Asked to at Once Organize, Drill and Equip Naval Militia.

Supplementing the action taken by the navy department Thursday in requesting governors of states to drill and equip the naval militia so as to be ready for any emergency, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Friday sent letters to the governors of those seacoast states not having such organizations, to take steps looking to the formation of naval militia so far as possible under the state laws.

It is hoped by the naval officials that each of these states will be enabled to promptly acquiesce in the department's request, and be prepared to assist in the naval auxiliary work.

## NEGRO TROOPS MOVING.

Twenty-Fifth Regiment Ordered to Dry Tortugas.

The most warlike and important movement that has yet been made was the issuance of orders Tuesday for the transfer of the Twenty-fifth regiment of infantry from their post in Montana to Dry Tortugas, the island fort in the gulf sixty miles from Havana.

Negro soldiers compose this regiment entirely, with the exception of the officers, who are white. There are 450 negroes in the regiment, all of them well trained to the service and some of them having had experience in the Indian campaigns in the west.

Atlanta, Ga., will be the first stopping place of the negro regiment, after it leaves its present station in Montana. From there they will be sent to St. Augustine, where regimental headquarters will be established. Two companies will be left at St. Augustine and the six other companies will be sent to the Dry Tortugas.

That hostilities are expected by the government is certain, and is proven by the transfer of this regiment, which is by far the most significant action yet taken. It is said in Washington that the troops are being sent south so that they will be convenient should it be determined to land forces in Cuba.

The negro soldiers are sent because they are better able to stand the climate of the gulf than the white soldiers. It is said that the war department intends to use negro soldiers as far as is practicable in the southern campaign. There are at present 2,188 negro soldiers in the army, and this number will be increased by the addition of volunteers. Recruits of colored soldiers will be sought and the colored branch of the army made as large as possible. The negroes are proud to be soldiers, and they do their best.

There are three other regiments of negro soldiers, and it is expected that they will be moved forward to some point in the department of the gulf, under General Graham, in a few days. The officers at Washington have been making particular inquiries regarding the negro militia companies of the south, with a view to supplementing through them the duties assigned to those regiments at the extreme southern points on the Atlantic and gulf coasts.

## SOUTHERN PROGRESS.

Industrial Developments For East Week Very Encouraging.

The list of new industries reported the past week, though brief, shows great diversity.

New lumber mills are reported from Little Rock, Ark., Macon, Ga., and Greenville and Vinton, Texas; a saw mill at Chidester, Ark.; planing mills at Forest, Miss., and Ripley, Tenn.; a table factory at Greensboro, N. C.; special hardwood mills at Livermore and Paducah, Ky., and a barrel factory at Bristol, Va.

Orlando, Fla., Stuttgart, Ark., Marion, Ky., and Elizabethton, Tenn., will erect electric light plants, and Camden, S. C., is to have an ice factory. A glass factory at Sistersville, W. Va.; another phosphate works at Beaufort, S. C., are on the cards and Augusta, Ga., capital will develop some southern copper mines.

Cotton oil has attracted investors at Florence, Ala., and Saluda, S. C.; Staunton, Va., will have a new flouring mill; Willard, Tenn., a tobacco factory, and Alexandria, La., a sugar refinery.

Southern iron still worries the northern furnaceman; knowing Birmingham can always cut, he suspects cutting where there is none. The interior market for lumber has improved.

For the first week in many months, no new textile construction is positively indicated. An unfortunate tendency is manifest among idle Fall River workmen to come south and fill a demand that doesn't yet exist. Is it that the northern workman is accepting the pressing invitations that were intended only for his employer?—Tradesman (Chattanooga, Tenn.)

## ANNAPOLIS GRADUATES

Will Be Turned Out Before Finishing Their Terms.

A Washington special says: Orders have been given at the navy department to graduate the first class at Annapolis on the 9th of April and to graduate the second class a year before it is programmed to finish. It is stated that the second class has been advised to prepare for its final examination.

## A DEAL WITH DENMARK.

Report That Our Government Has Bought Islands and War Ships.

A special from Washington says that there is some reason to believe that the government has made a most important deal with a foreign nation which will have a most important bearing upon our relations with Spain.

It is said that negotiations have been concluded for the cession to this country of the three Danish islands in the West Indies—St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix.

It is also understood that Denmark sells to this country two cruisers and three torpedo boat destroyers.