

## GALLERIES CROWDED.

Such Interest in the President's Message to Congress.

IS REFERRED WITHOUT DEBATE.

Spain Decides Not to Relinquish Her Claims Upon Cuba for a Cash Consideration, Nor Will She Consider Any Claim for Damages by the United States—Maine's Position Not Changed Just Previous to Explosion.

Washington, March 29.—Except on the occasion of the inauguration of a president no such crowds as surged through the corridors and stormed the galleries for admission have been seen in the Capitol in a quarter of a century. Public interest in the findings of the board of inquiry appointed to investigate the disaster which sent one Uncle Sam's noblest vessels to the bottom of Havana harbor and sacrificed the lives of 260 brave American sailors, was at white heat. Admission to these galleries was strictly by card. Any distinguished personages were in the galleries. The hall buzzed like a hive with the sound of myriads of voices. On the floor there was almost as much excitement as in the galleries, although the full synopsis of the report which was printed by the Associated Press in the morning had taken the keen edge off the anxiety with which the members awaited the reading of the official finding of the board.

Not a Seat Was Vacant.

Fifteen minutes before the house convened the floor was cleared. The diplomatic and executive galleries shortly afterward were opened and before the gavel fell at noon not a seat was vacant. At exactly 12 o'clock the speaker ascended the rostrum and called the house to order. Amid the impressive silence that followed the blind chaplain delivered a solemn prayer which rang through the hall like a warning. He referred to the storm clouds that hung above the country threatening to break at any time. He prayed to God to interpose his power that these clouds might pass away, leaving us in peace and tranquility. "Yet, if war must come," he prayed, "in vindication of the truth and justice, mercy and aid, help us to be prepared with brain and heart and brawn to meet it. To this end be with the president and the cabinet, our counsellors and all officially connected with the affairs of state."

Arrival of the Message.

There were no preliminaries. While the journal was being read Chief Executive Clerk Pruden appeared with the message, which was announced as soon as the reading of the journal was concluded. The thronged galleries were pushed as the clerk carried the document down the main aisle and placed on the speaker's table. Speaker Reed himself broke the large red seal of the envelope and without so much as looking at the message handed it to the clerk at the same time, announcing in a clear, distinct voice, "A message from the president of the United States."

No presidential message was ever entered to with such breathless interest. Members sat with intense faces straining to catch every word. When the reading of the message was concluded a wave of enthusiasm swept over the floor and galleries. The speaker immediately announced the reference of the message to the committee on foreign relations, under the rules.

Bailey Asks a Question.

Bailey, the Democratic leader, arose and said he understood the message would take that course without debate under the rules, but asked if the report of the board of inquiry had not accompanied the message. The speaker replied that a footnote to the message contained the information that the report and testimony had been transmitted to the senate.

"Would it not be in our power to ask unanimous consent to set apart Wednesday for the consideration of the message," asked McMillan, Dem.

"The chair thinks not," replied the speaker.

Meantime Walker, Rep., was on his feet and when recognized he announced the death of his colleague, Representative Simpkins. The usual resolutions were adopted and then at 12:18 p. m. the house as a further mark of respect adjourned.

WILL NOT PAY AN INDEMNITY.

Spain Will Refuse to Consider Any Claim for Damages.

Madrid, March 29.—Spain has decided that she will not accept a cash consideration to relinquish her claims on Cuba, nor will she permit the president of the United States to carry out his plan of so-called friendly intervention. This decision has been communicated to the representatives of the United States. Minister Woodford was also informed that Spain would not consider any claim for the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana. Any demand for damages would be regarded as derogatory to Spanish honor and dignity.

This practically closes the correspondence between the two governments. Nothing remains but for the United States to decide whether she will take a step which will be resented by Spain. The whole government backs the Sagasta government in its firm stand. The ministry remains calm on the surface and awaits the results. There are no political divisions in the country. All are unanimous in their opposition to American interference in the affairs of Spain in Cuba.

Assertions that the Carlists will seize the opportunity to attack the government are unfounded. The supporters of the pretender are as loyal as any other Spaniards in this emergency. Sagasta is cool and reserved, like one who has done all in his power. Qullon, while firmly believing in upholding the dignity of the nation, is still busy racking his brains to suggest some peaceable solution. He is the most optimistic member of the cabinet. He said: "I do not think the cause of peace is entirely lost."

Lee Expects a Crisis.

Havana, March 29.—Secretary General Congosto asked Consul General Lee to permit him to furnish him with a personal bodyguard. General Lee declined this offer and General Con-

gosto contented himself with increasing the detail of plain clothes detectives which for weeks have kept a careful eye on General Lee at all times about the city. Consul General Lee, believing that a serious crisis in affairs is likely to occur now at any moment, is preparing a revised list of all Americans now in Havana, together with their addresses, so that in case of emergency they may be communicated with at short notice. There is an extra guard now around the American consulate.

Maine's Position Not Changed.

Washington, March 29.—One of the main points brought out by the testimony in the Maine case which was sent to congress with the report of the board of inquiry corrects an important impression which has prevailed all over the country. The testimony proves that the battleship's position was not changed after she entered the harbor. She was moved to a buoy and remained there until blown up. The statement has been made repeatedly in the press that her position was changed thenight before the explosion by the direction of the master of Havana.

The Spanish Elections.

Madrid, March 29.—The elections for the popular branch of the cortes passed off, on the whole, quietly. The indications are that the government of Sagasta has secured an enormous majority, estimated at 300 of the 432 seats. The elections in the capital were without special incident. The elected deputies include five Liberals, one Independent, and two Conservatives. The Orden Publico guards, armed with rifles, stood ready to prevent any disorders and the polling was peaceful.

## Naval Court Report.

(Continued From Page 1.)

WALSHAM testified that the regulations in regard to paints and inflammables and all other precautions were strictly carried out on board ship. Every possible care was taken to avoid accident. All visitors were scrutinized before being allowed to come on board the ship. Nobody was allowed unaccompanied. Special lookouts were required at night. No unauthorized boats were allowed to approach the ship.

There was fine discipline, obedient crew, quiet men. He was in the captain's office at the time of the explosion; felt a very heavy shock, and heard noise of falling objects on deck. Thought the ship was being fired upon. Was told by the captain to see the boats were lowered. He saw few men coming, mostly officers. He saw no reason to flood the magazines because water was coming up. He saw fire forward. Boats began to crowd around the wreck.

He induced boats to take the wounded to different vessels. He ordered a list taken of the saved and wounded. There was excellent discipline after the explosion. Orders were followed with promptness of a drill. The only order not obeyed was the one to leave ship.

He first examined the wreck at daylight the following morning. He took a gig, with Lieutenant Hood and a few men, and attempted to board the wreck. He was warned off by an armed boat's crew of Spaniards and then pulled around the wreck. There were still some burning fragments.

Testimony of Chief Gunner's Mate.

Chief Gunner's Mate Olsen of the U. S. S. Iowa, told how he had been sent to Havana for the purpose of doing diving duty on the wreck. He had de-

## SEALERS DIE ON THE FLOES.

Forty-Eight Men of the Steamer Greenland Dead or Missing.

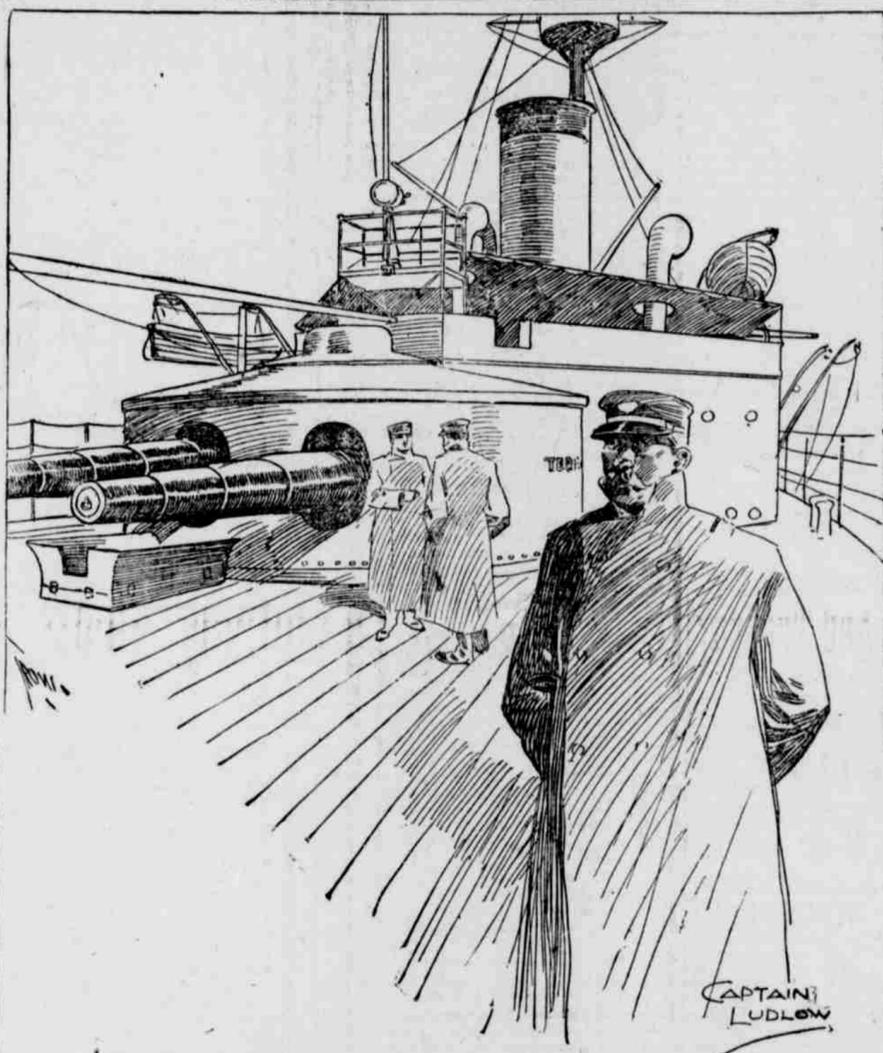
St. Johns, N. F., March 29.—The steamer Greenland, returning from the seal fisheries, put into Bay de Verde and reported a terrible disaster. Last Wednesday while her crew was traveling about the floes in search of seals a storm arose, accompanied by a blinding snow, which drifted rapidly, and a severe frost. The members of the crew who were on the ice could not regain the vessel, and were exposed to the terrible weather throughout the night and all the next day.

Forty-eight men perished or are missing and sixty were so badly frostbitten that the amputation of one or more of their limbs will have to be suffered by all of them. The Greenland succeeded in recovering the bodies of twenty-five of the victims. From the circumstances of the disaster it is feared that other steamers have suffered in a similar manner. The city is in a state of great excitement. The disaster is the worst recorded in the history of the sealing industry.

## MANY RENDERED HOMELESS.

Eastern Portion of Petersburg, Ill., Is Entirely Overflooded.

Springfield, Ill., March 29.—Two hundred and fifty people have been rendered homeless at Petersburg, Menard county, by the overflow of the Sangamon river, which passes through the eastern portion of this city. The river is raging with unprecedented fury and destruction and loss of property has followed hard upon the awful floods. No lives have been lost, owing



SCENE ON BOARD THE MONITOR TERROR.

## Calls the President Names.

Madrid, March 29.—The Duke of Veragua, who knows President McKinley personally, is reported as saying: "Mr. McKinley does not inspire with confidence. He thinks himself the first statesman in the world. He is proud and vain, and his great vanity makes him believe himself a Napoleon, when in reality he is an ignorant suttler." The Duke of Veragua was, as the descendant of Christopher Columbus, the guest of the United States during the World's fair.

## Uncle Sam Warns Spain.

Washington, March 29.—The United States government has presented, through Minister Woodford at Madrid, a carefully prepared note dealing with the distressing condition of affairs in Cuba, and making clear that this government cannot much longer withhold such definite action as will bring the present struggle and the suffering it is occasioning, to a close. The note was submitted to the Spanish government the latter part of last week.

## Murder Over Spain Argument.

Louisville, Ky., March 29.—In an argument in a saloon over war with Spain, William C. Gates, a well-known young man of this city, was murdered by Louis Burges, a tramp carpenter. A knife was the weapon used. The murderer was arrested.

## Buying Mules for Spain.

Kansas City, March 29.—Senor Julian Azcue, an agent of the Spanish government from Havana, and Antonio Maestre of St. Louis, are in the Kansas City market purchasing mules for the Spanish army.

## Famous Architect Dead.

Alameda, Cal., March 29.—Augustus Laver, the architect, died at his home in Alameda. Among the notable structures he designed was the Canadian parliament buildings, the state capitol at Albany, N. Y., the new city hall and the Flood mansion in San Francisco, and the Coleman and Flood residences at Menlo Park.

## scended four times, making about eight or nine hours of total examination.

Olsen told how on his first descent he went over the forward part of the ship. To use his own expression, he said: "I found the wreck all blown up. I found a lot of grate bars down there. The second time he went down further forward and there located a lot of 16-inch shells. Forward of these the plates were bent inboard over them."

Asked if he imagined himself looking forward he stated that he did. Going over the plates he struck into a lot of 6-inch shells with the slings on them. Going to the right witness stated he found a lot of wreckage. It seemed to have been blown over the starboard. Olsen stated that he put his hand into the cranks and brought out several 6-pounder shells.

The next time he went down, Olsen testified, he went outside the ship, forward of the crane on the port side. He followed the bottom along and found that the ship's side was blown outboard and alongside the crane it could be walked on.

"At the part where she is blown up completely," witness said, "part of her bottom plates are turned up. Then you follow the bottom from there up and the plates are blown outboard. At the top and underneath the bottom they are bent inboard and bent in. About three feet forward of that spot there is a piece of iron laid along the bulkhead. The skin of the inside of the double bottoms is curled like a sheet of paper inboard from stem to stern.

Amidships on the same place there is an armor plate, one plate complete. The plate is inclined over the starboard completely. It stands up with the thick part of the plate down.

## Approves the Curfew Law.

Albany, N. Y., March 29.—The adoption of a curfew ordinance in the cities and towns of this state as a means of keeping children off the streets at night is advocated by Superintendent Charles R. Skinner of the state department of public instruction. "The work of the curfew ordinances in many cities is attracting attention," he says in his annual report. "Over 300 cities and towns in the west have adopted a curfew ordinance. The result has been a decrease of from 50 to 75 per cent. in the number of arrests of children for crime."

to the precaution taken by the residents of the ill-fated portion of the city, but many narrow escapes were reported by the citizens, who were compelled to leave on short notice. The entire territory east of the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis tracks is entirely under water from two to six feet deep.

The inhabitants of the flooded district have sought shelter in other parts of the city. Both opera houses and all the vacant storerooms are filled with people. Citizens in all parts of city have thrown open their homes and many people have thus been provided for.

## STREET CAR RIOT.

State Militia Called Out to Preserve Order at Houston, Tex.

Houston, Tex., March 29.—The street car strike assumed serious proportions. No violence was offered on the part of the street car strikers, but their sympathizers were uncontrollable until the military appeared. The company's efforts to run cars were met with stones and clubs from the crowd, numbering 1,000 persons. All of the car windows were broken and the property otherwise damaged. Between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon Mayor Rice marched to the scene at the head of the Houston light guards, backed up by the Houston cavalry, and with the light artillery and Emmett rifles at their armories awaiting orders. All these companies slept on their arms at night. The city was in total darkness, the electric light company's plant having been destroyed by an explosion.

## Luetgert Still Lives.

Chicago, March 29.—Joliet was excited over a report that Luetgert, the condemned wife murderer, had committed suicide. Inquiry at the prison revealed the fact that there was no truth in the rumor. Luetgert is well and is performing his daily task in the leather department with as much cheerfulness as could be expected. He has hopes of eventually being released, and the prison officials do not think he would attempt suicide.

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