

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL

Bank of Commerce at Dawson Will Take Gold Dust for Drafts Payable at Par.

Applications for Charters for Yukon Lighting, Telegraph and Banking Enterprises.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA, March 12.—In the arrangement with the Bank of Commerce regarding the branch at Dawson, the government does not assume any responsibility. The bank's officers may travel under police protection in and out not less than three times a year and an escort will be furnished for gold remittances of not less than a thousand. In cases where full royalty is paid the bank will handle the gold dust and issue drafts therefor, which will be payable at par at any bank in Canada, or at New York, San Francisco or Chicago.

ONTARIO WEST AFLOAT

Most Extensive Floods in Forty Years Sweeping Over Brant and Middlesex.

Great Damage in Several Towns and Railway Bridges and Tracks Carried Away.

[Special.]

GALT, March 14.—(Special)—The river has overflowed and there are disastrous floods here. At Paris and at Brantford the Grand Trunk tracks were washed away. Families have fled from their houses and bridges are destroyed. Not such extensive floods have been seen since 1857. The costly iron bridge at Main street and another bridge are partially demolished. The basement of the central church is flooded two feet deep. The English church school room is inundated to a similar extent. The Salvation Army barracks floor was raised while the soldiers were at knee drill. The mills at Paris lose heavily.

THE GERMAN POLICY.

Emperor William Alleged to Have Spoken Against United States Intervention in Cuba.

NEW YORK, March 12.—The Madrid Correspondence, according to a despatch to the World, prints to-night the following telegram from Berlin, received last night:

"I know from a sure source that last night at a family dinner party in the palace at which was present Princess Irene, wife of Prince Henry, the Emperor's brother, who is now in command of the German squadron in the Far East, William II uttered the following really startling words in consequence of a conversation having arisen in regard to Cuban affairs. The Emperor, placing the hilt of his sword on the table, said: 'What I declare is that as long as William II is Emperor of Germany, the Yankees shall not take possession of Cuba.'"

BERLIN, March 12.—The Berlin foreign office has instructed the press to deny emphatically that Germany will aid Spain in its case against the United States. It has instructed the newspapers to point out that the United States is too good a customer for Germany, and that Spain has repeatedly shown unfriendliness to Germany.

ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

Allegation of a Settlement Favorable to the United States Contention.

NEW YORK, March 11.—The Press has the following from Ottawa: Sir Julian Pannefote has informed the Canadian ministers officially that he has arranged a convention with the United States whereby the Alaskan boundary dispute has been settled. Under the terms of the convention the British government has conceded the claim of the United States that the three marine leagues should be measured from the shore of the mainland, and should proceed along the shores of the inlets which are thus recognized as arms of the ocean, and not as rivers. The contention of the British and of the Canadian side is that the line should be measured from the inlets which are thus recognized as arms of the ocean, and not as rivers.

GALIANO ISLAND.

The New Spanish's Constituents Proud of the Promotion He Has Received.

GALIANO, March 12.—The honor recently conferred by the members of the legislative assembly on the Hon. J. P. Both came as a surprise to the majority of his constituents, inasmuch as they had not surmised the true worth of his services to his constituents, and merits of their member, and friends and opponents alike are pleased to think that their representative has proved himself worthy of the respect and confidence of a whole body of legislators. "If you seek my monument, look around you" was the simple inscription on the commemorative tablet in honor of the renowned architect Wren, whose remains rested beneath the great monumental pile the creation of his own genius; and whilst it is admitted that Mr. Both until now has kept himself in the background as regards provincial affairs, his most intimate friends and those with whom he has come in contact during the course of a long public career, have always predicted for him a great parliamentary future. Governed by a strong desire to do what is fair to his constituents, acting with impartiality in all matters apart from the good of the community and meeting his opponents in a spirit of friendly argument, he has always commanded the highest respect of the people. His sound judgment and good common sense displayed at all times, apart from the conscientious way in which he has discharged the various duties devolving upon him, will, without a doubt, serve him well at the forthcoming election, when, it may be reasonably anticipated, he will be returned to parliament unopposed.

CLEARING FOR ACTION.

Women and Children Being Removed from the Sandy Hook Forts—Rushing Armament.

Spain Shows No Anxiety to Fight but United States is Rushing Preparations.

[Special.]

WASHINGTON, March 15.—This was another busy day in the war and navy departments. Secretary Alger was enabled to make an allotment of funds from the appropriation of \$50,000,000, which will greatly facilitate the work of the bureau, which had not been able to conclude any contracts for the procurement of supplies. This afternoon when the ordinance bureau was given \$2,500,000 business went forward with a rush. The secretary also spent a good deal of time at intervals during the day in consulting over the long distance telephone with naval officers in New York and it is believed much of this consultation concerned the procurement of suitable vessels among the auxiliary navy for war purposes. The Colombian iron works at Barranco has notified the department that it will be able to turn over the torpedo boat Rodgers next Saturday. The new cruiser Amazon, according to present plans, will be completed in about a month and will be ready to start for the Atlantic. That vessel sailed at 6 o'clock this morning from Lisbon, and will arrive at the Tyne about Friday.

THE LOST BALLOONIST.

Another Daring Expedition Planned to Search for Him.

[Special.]

NEW YORK, March 14.—According to advices received from Paris the largest and best equipped balloon ever constructed is being made ready for a trip to the north pole and the rescue of Andre. It will be in charge of the famous French aeronauts Louis Godard and Edouard Surcouf. The most original feature of this balloon will be a system of 10 small reservoir balloons. It will be much larger than that used by Andrieu and will be capable of staying in the air. The whole party will consist of seven persons. These will be made up of the chief of the expedition, three aeronauts, one meteorologist, one explorer and one observer. Louis Godard will be chief, Edouard Surcouf its first aeronaut and M. Cordt second aeronaut. M. Godard has the following to say: "I believe Andre lives and may be in need of help. That he has not been heard from for six months does not dishearten me, and the example set by this worthy son of the intrepid Vikings should open us to action. His provisions in the balloon will probably soon become exhausted, and if we can avert it, the crime of allowing this heroic man to endure the torturing hell of a lingering death by starvation must not occur. It is our duty to compose the expedition will be stronger and bigger than Andre's. We will go to Spitzbergen by sea. Then we shall religiously investigate every foothold in the firm hope of finding the missing brother. In our search for Andre we mean to pay particular attention to the coast of Greenland and to Franz Josef Land."

REGULARS FOR YUKON.

They Expect to Start About the Middle of April.

[Special.]

KINGSTON, March 15.—(Special)—Preparations are making for the departure of a section of "A" battery for the Klondike. Surgeon Lieut. Foster of the 88th King company battalion has been called upon to look after the medical equipment. Major Evans of Winnipeg will command the corps, assisted by Captain Burdett, of "A" field battery. These officers have been in consultation with the minister of militia, and are now leaving for home to prepare for departure during the second week in April.

MONTELEONE AND NORTHWEST.

Debate on Address Put Through in One Day—No Provincial Authority for Prohibition.

WINNIPEG, March 15.—(Special)—Northern Pacific announces a cut in passenger rates to Toronto, Montreal and New York. The rate from here will be \$28.20 first class.

HAMILTON SMITH ANGRY.

Says the Government Could Have Made a Far Better Bargain and That Their Policy is All Wrong.

MONTELEONE, March 15.—(Special)—The Montreal Star prints a signed statement from Hamilton Smith, now in New York, in which he discusses the proposition he had submitted on behalf of himself and his associates to build a railway in Yukon. He says the offer was limited to the Yukon, that being the latest date possible to agree to build such a railway during 1893. He continues: "As events have shown my overtures to the government last year were not made in the best manner to secure their assent it was even possible for me to secure it. As far as any question of personal veracity is concerned in regard to these negotiations, I am quite content to rest upon my general reputation, which is unimpaired. It is for very much with certain circles in Canada is pretty well known in other parts of the world. "Whether or not the ministry were aware that people of undoubted financial standing were desirous of building a railroad to the Yukon is really immaterial in view of the action of the ministry in giving, without asking for competition, a railway charter to a firm of contractors coupled with concessions of mineral lands unprecedented in the history of civilized nations. "The offer which I lately made was a bona fide one. Myself and associates had ample means to build many such better than the contract without competition entered into by the government as to quite clearly show a far better bargain could have been made, had other bidders been asked to open up all this in this past history so far as my offer is concerned." He then unfavorably criticizes the government's policy in general in regard to the development of the country, concerning the exaction of royalty, and the Yukon route, and denounced the government as pursuing a more illiberal policy than that of Kruger in the Transvaal.

Two Reports Over.

TORONTO, March 15.—(Special)—Reports in South, Perth and West Huron are over save for appeals. Both seats were taken by the Conservative, with a majority over Garrow, Liberal, in West Huron.

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American people. One is whether the Maine inquiry shall become a diplomatic incident between the two governments, subject to the usual course over facts. The other phase is the military and political condition of the island with reference to intervention. Captain Sampson and his associates, by prolonging the investigation for weeks, might find much further cumulative evidence of an external explosion. The comparatively narrow space in which the divers are now working continues to furnish proof of an explosion from without; but this leading fact was established two weeks ago. The clearing away of the debris had added little to the knowledge of the disaster of the Maine. The belief that the Maine was blown up by a torpedo is held by experts who have watched the progress of the inquiry. This brings the naval court to the most difficult part of its task.

Under Admiral Sicard's instructions the board is to report what persons are connected with the navy, are responsible for the loss of the Maine. With what is conclusive evidence to the minds of the members that the loss was due to foul play, there are still without conclusive proof of the identity of the conspirators. That the explosion was not the work of a single fanatic is pretty well established. Beyond this the board may not be able to do. It is believed that the Spanish government cannot be had so long as Spain holds the theory of an accident.

Since Captain Peral, the president of the Spanish board, gave up his interest in the case, that is accepted as the official view, no help could be expected from the authorities in discovering the conspirators while they are claiming that there could have been no conspiracy, because the Maine was blown from a starboard, along with other incidental evidence of an external explosion. Nevertheless no admission of the possibility of foul play will come from the Spanish board. The matter as now presented is that the American court, while probably not feeling justified in indicating suspicion as to the parties to the conspiracy, have sifted the evidence, which its members are ready to submit to the world in support of the claim that the Maine was destroyed by foul play. When that evidence shall be made public it can be judged better in Washington than in Havana.

General Blanco's autonomist government, so far as an autonomist government exists, is reflecting the instructions from Madrid in encouraging the resistance of American intervention on the grounds laid down in the president's message. An abstract of Minister Moré's speech is published here and one and all classes are exhorted to unite. No result follows, because while Spain might be deceived by the colonial minister's pretensions, the people of Cuba cannot be misled. The claim that the Spanish arms are making progress only draws attention to the failure of the military operations and to the knowledge that in what little fighting is now going on the insurgents are generally successful. Senator Proctor carried back some clear ideas regarding the military campaign. They may be useful to the administration and to his colleagues in the senate. Two months from now the conservative party to take part in the elections might have had influence. Now it is of little consequence, because, while the time the prospect existed that the autonomy might last till after the election of a Cuban congress, its possibility no longer exists. The government position was that it should have two-thirds of the congress, and the conservative party one-third. Notwithstanding the action of their central committee the mass of the intraneigents bitterly resent the scheme and exhort one another to refuse all participation in the government so long as autonomy is not restored. They denounce Apetsegula and his followers as traitors to the Spanish government. The intraneigent newspapers complain of the press censorship and ask General Blanco to modify it so that the question of military conditions in the elections may be freely discussed. They will not be granted. The autonomist cabinet, with its internal dissension, has sunk completely out of sight. The political and military conditions of the Spanish sovereignty in Cuba to-day is described in a single word. It is a condition of paralysis and the United States is feeding the starving inhabitants. Knowledge of a desperate situation apparently is serving the official classes to excite feeling against the United States as a means of covering up their internal weakness. The presence of the Spanish warships serve this purpose so long as autonomy is not restored. The honor of the officers of the Oquendo and Viscaya gives an opportunity for an exhibition of loyalty as intense as that shown by the populace when the ships arrived.

The press censorship does not interfere with the Weyler and other papers exhorting Spaniards to be on their guard against the Americans and to forestall the blow which they say the United States intends to strike in the Philippines. This sentiment spreads while the mutual courtesies are exchanged between the commanders of the Montgomery and the Spanish ships. These courtesies do not prevent an official proclamation by the Spanish men-of-war in the harbor, nor do they result in giving the officers of the Montgomery shore leave.

The question has been raised whether when the consular reports are transmitted to congress a demonstration may not be made against the consuls. This is not thought likely. One reason is that some time may elapse before the Span-

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ish populace is allowed to know their full purport. The press censorship sees to that. The Lee incident was handled by permitting the publication of a few lines, including Sagasta's denial that a "demand" had been made for Lee's recall.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Three hundred artillerymen have been transferred from Fort Hamilton and Fort Wadsworth to Sandy Hook. Under the direction of the army engineers hundreds of soldiers and workmen are busy mounting guns, building ramps and laying other defenses at the Hook. Not since the civil war has such activity been seen there. A train of 21 cars loaded with 12 inch steel mortars, is lying on a siding near the fortifications. It arrived yesterday from the Waterville arsenal. The work of erecting mounts for the mortars is being rushed. Many mortars are already in place. They are out of sight in deep pits with batteries of 16 each, and cannot be reached by an enemy's guns except by shells. Dozens of 8, 10 and 12-inch steel rifles are at the Hook ready for mounting. When the engineers are through the fortifications will be the strongest in the world. All women and children have been ordered from the Hook. The wives of many of the workmen left yesterday.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Estimates to meet the cost of the recent addition of two regiments of artillery to the army have been sent to congress by Secretary Alger. The senate has given special precedence to a bill to authorize the construction of eight new revenue cutters not exceeding in cost the sum of \$2,250,000.

The bureau of ordinance of the war department has opened bids for a large supply of armor-piercing projectiles and cartridges. The bidding brought together a number of representatives of large steel and ammunition companies, some of whom took occasion to give assurances that in the present emergency government work would be given the preference over commercial orders. The bids varied only slightly on the various classes of heavy shot, varying from \$116 each for the 8-inch to \$138 each for the 1,000 pounders. Although the department intends to accept only one bid, or to divide the orders between bidders, it afforded satisfaction to the authorities to know that such large supplies could be obtained from so many sources on short notice.

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—For the first time landmen have been enlisted for the United States navy at League Island navy yard. Any able-bodied man answering the physical requirements is admitted. The reason for this action, one of the officers of the shipyard says, is that orders have been received from Washington to recruit as rapidly as possible 200 landmen to serve as seamen and coal passers.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Spanish minister, Senor Polo Y. Bernabe, has received a number of dispatches from the minister of state at Madrid and from Captain General Blanco. Those from General Blanco stated that the situation at Havana was quiet and satisfactory. The minister of state cabled in substance: "The uprising in the Philippines is so insignificant that it will be ended by the time you receive this." Senor Polo's attention being called to reports from Spain of the prospective sailing of the Spanish torpedo fleet for Havana and to the significance which had been attached to this movement, he said that the movement of the torpedo fleet had been long contemplated, and even before he left Madrid the Queen Regent had bidden good-bye to the captain of the fleet. Their coming had no relation whatever, he declared, to recent conditions, as they were wanted for work along the Cuban coast. Some of them, he said, were designed for use in the Cauto river, while others being sent could be used as dispatch boats between shore points in case land communication was interrupted.

The minister has received no intimations as to the findings of the Spanish naval commission investigating the Maine disaster. He said the commission is proceeding with the same formality and secrecy as the United States court of inquiry, and that any intimation of its findings will not be justified until its formal report is forwarded.

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