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NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 7, 1898. My Dear Friend: The following letter will bring rejoicing to the hearts of our home people everywhere.

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY Dead as a Result of the Cruiser Maine Disaster. How the Explosion Occurred no One is Yet Able to Explain.

A Halifax Man Among those Killed—The Funerals of the Victims Largely Attended

HAVANA, Feb. 15.—At a quarter of 10 o'clock this evening a terrible explosion took place on board the U. S. cruiser Maine in Havana harbor.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—After a day of intense excitement at the navy department and elsewhere, growing out of the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor last night, the situation at noon today after the exchange of a number of cablegrams between Washington and Havana, can be summed up in the words of Secretary Long, who, when asked, as he was about to depart for the day, whether he had reason to suspect that the disaster was the work of an enemy, replied:

"I do not. In that I am influenced by the fact that Captain Sigbee has not yet reported to the navy department waiting to write a full report. So long as he does not express himself, I can certainly not. I should think from the indications, however, that there was an accident—that the magazine exploded. How that came about I do not know. For the present, at least, no other warship will be sent to Havana."

The appalling nature of the disaster and the gravity of the situation that would arise should investigation give a bias for the undercurrent of suspicion of treachery and foul play that ran through all minds, has a sobering effect on public men of all shades of political opinion.

Public men expressed their opinion with reserve when approached for interviews, but everywhere there was a demand for an investigation and full details, in the light of which the horror may be justly viewed.

It is said at the navy department that this disaster is the greatest of the kind in naval history since the sinking of the big British warship Victoria by collision with the Camperdown in the Mediterranean sea, off Malta, in June, 1893.

and that the crew were unable to extinguish it. The first explosion is said to have been caused by over 600 pounds of gun cotton and the subsequent explosion is alleged to have been caused by shells and cartridges.

The passengers of the City of Washington gave up their staterooms to the navy department the afternoon after the explosion of the City of Washington, breaking the tabernacle of the steamer.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The members of the Spanish legation called at the navy department this afternoon to express their sympathy and condolence. Up to 2.30 p. m. the legation had not heard from Madrid. It was stated that the delay doubtless was due to the fact that in a matter of this gravity the Queen Regent herself would send a message of sympathy and regret, and that this measure would come later.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The following cablegram was received by the state department from Consul General Lee at 2.15 tonight:

HAVANA, Feb. 15.—Profound sorrow expressed by the government and municipal authorities, consists of foreign nations, or the U. S. state department, which generally flags at half-mast on governor-general's palace on shipping in harbor and in the city.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The government has settled back into waiting attitude in respect to the terrible marine disaster in Havana harbor, the great shock caused by the news has given way to a calmer and more judicial state of mind, and realizing from the events of the day that the court of enquiry is the sole dependence in the search for the cause of the disaster, the naval officials are now resigned to await the results of that inquiry by a court named by the navy department.

There was little new to add to the sum of information as to the disaster during the forenoon. No telegram came, and all that could be gleaned was a denial of some absurd story or other that had crept into print or become current gossip.

The officials at the navy department devoted the day to the effort to correct the lists of living and dead, to receive frantic appeals from relatives of men on the battleship Maine, and last, but not least, in meeting with unwavering courtesy and patience the exacting demands upon their time of the press representatives.

As for the Maine herself, notwithstanding discouraging reports from Lieut. Hood as to her condition, the navy department will make the effort to raise her. While this is required by every credible sentiment, they say that they are bound to remove the hull from the small harbor in any case, and it may be as easy or easier to raise her as it would be to destroy the hull and machinery by the use of divers and dynamite.

At the navy department specific denial was given of the report emanating from Madrid that the Maine had been about to leave Key West for Cuba. It was stated that only two torpedo boats, the Cushing and the Ericsson, are at Key West, and these have not been ordered and will not be ordered, according to present plans, to Cuba. It was strongly asserted that no present purpose existed of sending any warships there.



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(Continued on Page Four.)

PARLIAMENT.

The Drummond Counties Railway Investigation.

Hon. Mr. Blair Moves Second Reading of Mackenzie-Mann Bargain.

Minister Consents to Providing a Clause for a Majority of Canadian Directors.

OTTAWA, Feb. 15.—The first motion today was proposed by the premier, who asked that a special committee be appointed to inquire into the expenditure granted by parliament in connection with the Drummond Counties railway and into the negotiations between the Drummond company and the Dominion government. He named as the committee Messrs. Lester, Carroll, Molson, Morrison, Haggart, Ebdon, Heston, and Powell.

Sir Charles Tupper pointed out that the investigation proposed in the senate was much broader than the one suggested by Premier Laurier. He thought the resolution should be widened so as to cover all transactions in the Drummond matter. The first suggestion he made was that the inquiry should cover the subsidies given by the provincial and municipal governments. This was accepted.

Sir Charles Tupper asked that the inquiry should take in such questions as would determine the value of the road, and the offers by the company to sell the road for less than half what Hon. Mr. Blair proposed to pay would be proper subjects for inquiry.

Sir Louis Davies protested against the inclusion of the question of the wisdom of the government policy, but desired to confine the inquiry to the charges of turpitude against the government.

Hon. Mr. Tarte referred to Hon. Mr. Foster's speech in Toronto, in which reference was made to the purchase of La Patrie by Greenfield for Tarte's sons. Mr. Tarte worked himself into a furious passion, denying the charge, and challenging Foster to proof. He was proud of his sons and hoped to see one of both of them in parliament.

Mr. Casgrain reminded Mr. Tarte of his own speech last year. It was the minister himself who introduced his sons into the controversy and it was his admission more than anything else which led up to the present inquiry.

The motion passed without further enlargement of the resolution.

the Yukon. Mr. Sifton also denied that there was unnecessary delay in sending in supplies. Mr. Walsh had stipulated that if he were to be shipped not leave before September. Since then the commissioner had been struggling with difficulties of which the house and country had no conception.

Mr. Sifton gave eloquent praise of Mr. Walsh, whom no one had attacked. He went on to argue that there might be great areas in the Yukon district with no gold in them, and the contractors were apt to get some of them. Hon. Mr. Sifton fiercely attacked Sir Charles, who had declared that hostile legislation of the United States should be met with similar legislation.

The London Exploration company, by Hamilton Smith has submitted to the government an offer to build a railway over the Dalton Trail to Yukon, 288 miles, for a subsidy of five thousand acres per mile, and to be taken in alternate blocks along the line of railway. It is said that the company has offered to build a railway by the Sticks, or the same subsidy, which is one-fifth that to be given Mackenzie and Mann.

Roberts, patron, gives notice of motion that the maintenance of government house should be abolished. The senate has adjourned for a fortnight.

Today Senator MacDonald of British Columbia asked for the exclusion of Japanese persons from owning and holding Yukon claims.

Hon. Mr. Sifton said that the Japanese were a civilized people and a powerful nation. He thought it unwise to treat them different from other nations.

Senator Almon put in a word for the Japanese, who were Great Britain's allies in the east.

Notes: The address was passed in the senate today. Hon. Mr. Ferguson completing his address, discussed the Yukon deal with energy and force.

N. B. LEGISLATURE.

Bill Amending the Rural Cemetery Company Act.

Mr. Chipman of Charlotte Makes a Speech on the Address.

No Evening Session Owing to the Meeting of the Farmers' Association.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 14.—Dr. Stockton introduced a bill amending chapter 95, consolidated statutes, of laws of watchmakers and jewellers. Mr. Black made his motion, seconded by Mr. Howie, for particulars of warrant and other expenditure from the close of the fiscal year up to the opening of the present session, the return to include the statement of debentures issued since October 31st last.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said no debentures had been issued since the close of the fiscal year. The other information would be furnished without address.

Mr. Black made his motion, seconded by Mr. Flinder, for particulars regarding the public works expenditure, the return to include drafts accepted by the department.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said the department never accepted drafts in connection with work done or to be done. All payments by the department were made by check. The other information would be furnished.

Hon. Mr. White, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Dunn, introduced a bill amending the game law. Mr. White introduced bills amending the law relating to the appointment of Queen's counsel and providing for the appointment of provincial constables.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said it was agreed between both sides of the house to let the order of the day, further consideration of the address, stand till evening. This arrangement was made to suit the convenience of hon. gentlemen who had been called away. The understanding had been that the address was adjourned that it should be continued today.

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FREDERICTON.

York County Contractor Sent Back by United States Officers.

John H. Reid Asks the Adoption of Three Propositions.

MARYSVILLE, York Co., Feb. 14. There was a large crowd in attendance at the rink on Thursday evening to witness the hockey match between the Sackville team and the home team. The game ended, Marysville, 3; Sackville, 1. George H. Ferguson was referee and A. Barker and E. Thompson goal judges, and the officials gave entire satisfaction.

Maryville Lodge, No. 18, Knights of Pythias, were organized Friday evening, with twenty members joining by transfer from the Fredericton lodge. Nineteen candidates were then initiated, which ceremony took place last night.

Mr. Reid asked that the order of the day, further consideration of the address, stand till evening. This arrangement was made to suit the convenience of hon. gentlemen who had been called away.

Mr. Speaker appointed Mr. Robinson, the mover of the address, Mr. Porter, the second, and Hon. Mr. Farquhar, the mover of the motion.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill amending the law relating to the appointment of Queen's counsel and providing for the appointment of provincial constables.

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THE ORAL

Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of the New Brunswick Lodge.

The Report of Grand Master, Over Alder David Hipwell of Woodville.

The fifty-fifth anniversary of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick was celebrated in the Orange hall last Tuesday. Great numbers of brethren were present, and the evening was spent in a most enjoyable manner.

Grand Master Phipps, in his report, stated that the lodge had prospered during the year, and that the number of members had increased. He also mentioned the various social and charitable activities of the lodge.

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Grand Master Phipps concluded his report with a prayer for the prosperity and well-being of the lodge and its members.

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COSTLY JUSTICE.

A Country that Seems Anxious to Keep Other Countries' Criminals.

The trial and execution of Butler, the notorious Australian murderer, will no doubt be generally recalled by those who read the news. Butler explained his numerous crimes so long ago as July 16, at Sydney, but the New South Wales government seems to be far from having heard the last of the criminal.

It will be remembered that Butler shipped as a convict from Australia for New South Wales, where he was arrested and detained until the Australian detectives should arrive to receive him. Almost ever since then the New South Wales government has been in constant receipt of claims for his maintenance.

The extradition proceedings in America occupied nearly four months. In this country the examination of twenty-seven witnesses, the testimony of the coroner's jury, the extradition of Butler, the granting of the warrant, securing of the extradition of the murderer, to these demands, some of which have been made by ordinary police officers, the attorney general of New South Wales has sent the following urgent reply:

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RUTHENIANS IN MANITOBA.

Colonists in Shepshin Who Economy is Painful to the Neighbors.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 9.—About a year ago a colony of Ruthenians, commonly known as Galicians, arrived in Winnipeg for settlement in the new county of Western Manitoba. They came almost without funds, and were supplied with a few necessities by the government.

There are now about 6,000 of these people from East Central Europe, in colonies of about 1,000 each, in Manitoba. They all have cattle and crops, food enough to last till next season, farm machinery, warm dwellings, and barns. The immigrants are no longer penniless peasants, but landowners, and within a few years will be well-to-do.

They are economical to a degree painful to the surrounding Canadians, and apparently live on nothing; indeed, it has been seriously debated whether they have not actually been a loss to the country, they spend so little. Not only are their farms in shape and houses their machinery, while all over the province wheat is being raised, but they are even a plague or a harvest will be seen out of cover on the farms.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said no debentures had been issued since the close of the fiscal year. The other information would be furnished without address.

Hon. Mr. White, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Dunn, introduced a bill amending the law relating to the appointment of Queen's counsel and providing for the appointment of provincial constables.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said it was agreed between both sides of the house to let the order of the day, further consideration of the address, stand till evening.

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