

THE MAINE DESTROYED!

She Was Blown Up in the Harbor At Havana.

Many Were Wounded and More Killed and Drowned.

dard, have also made a report and promulgated a bill, the provisions of which are so strikingly like the propositions of the Secretary of the Treasury in all material particulars, as to suggest that they were compared and harmonized before either was given to the public. This report and bill are somewhat more bold in the assertion of the purposes entertained than is even the proposition of Mr. Gage. These distinctly propose that silver dollars shall not hereafter be coined; that standard silver dollars shall be redeemed in gold; that the silver bullion on hand at present shall be sold, and suggest that silver dollars may also be melted down and sold as bullion. We are assured that the notes of the banks "cannot fail to be safe because, being based upon all the resources of all the banks issuing them, they are based upon the whole business of the country."

Certainly no bank will become liable for the notes issued by another bank over which it has no control or supervision, hence this scheme must contemplate the establishment of some central bank authority having the absolute control of the issue of all paper money—a great bank trust, pool, or syndicate, with powers such as no man ever before had the audacity to suggest. This committee has called upon commercial bodies all over the country to assemble and endorse their report. Thus the people are put upon full notice of what is intended and of the means of its accomplishment.

Considering all this, is it any wonder that The Spectator, one of the great English newspapers, should say, as it did some months since: "Being audacious beyond any old world experience, the great capitalists of America are determined to capture free opinion and to prevent criticism. They subsidize pulpits, they buy the press, they use at their will paid attorneys in the United States Senate and at length they stretch their hands over the colleges, which it is easy to capture by examples of generosity. Thus, their design is to prevent any effective action which shall in any way weaken their authority or undermine their position. Their object cannot be mere wealth making, for they already enjoy wealth beyond the dreams of avarice. Apparently their intention is first to convert the United States into a powerful oligarchy and then to extend the sway of that oligarchy over other lands."

"It is reserved for the 'free' West to dismiss from academic service tried and competent teachers at the bidding of rings of millionaires who will not hear one single criticism or questioning of the justice or necessity of their doings, or of the character and tendency of the trusts they have built up with the aid and at the expense of the public. The divine right of kings is to be succeeded by the divine right of millionaires who are to run everything, including the American Senate and the conscience and intellect of university professors."

"It is none of our duty to say how the American people shall deal with the portentous growth of that money power which overshadows the institutions of the Republic. But we think that the rich men of America are revealing such a deadly plot against all genuine public freedom that unless we are mistaken the opening years of the new century will witness an outburst in the West which will amaze the civilized world."

In view of the great principles involved and of the danger so close at hand, we urge the people everywhere to arouse themselves and at once to take steps to save themselves and their children from the fetters now being openly forged to bind them. In recent years there have been a number of instances of Congressional districts where the advocates of gold and monopoly were largely outnumbered by their opponents and where, nevertheless, by failure to unite and act together friends of the gold standard have been successful. This, as the result of a personal or partisan wrangle, the cause of truth and justice has been overshadowed, the interest of humanity ignored and the greatest good to the government subordinated to an ignoble strife. We appeal to you to let this not be the case again. Our only danger is in division. If we are in earnest we must have harmony amongst ourselves. If there should be those who would divide us, let them be summarily and emphatically rebuked by the people, who have none but high and patriotic motives.

After the bold declaration of the administration in favor of the gold standard no sincere bimetalist can ever again or encouragement to the Republican Party.

The issue is joined. We cannot avoid it if we would. Either the friends of bimetalism or the advocates of the gold standard trusts and monopolies, must succeed. Who is not for us is against us. We ask no man to abandon his party or change his politics; we ask no one to yield any principle; but in this great contest we do appeal to all good men to stand solidly together for liberty and humanity and strike down forever this conspiracy of gold and monopoly.

James K. Jones,
Chairman Democratic National Committee.

To Arbitrate Railroad Strikes.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor today decided by a unanimous vote to report favorably the bill prepared by the trainmen of the country and recently introduced in the Senate by Senator Kyle, providing for the arbitration of railroad strikes by a board of arbitrators, to be chosen by the strikers and the Interstate Commerce Commission. Before deciding to report the bill the committee heard arguments from Secretary Moseley of the Interstate Commerce Commission and Messrs. Hines and Edon on behalf of the trainmen. All of them supported the bill. They agreed in the opinion that the passage of the bill would put an end to railroad strikes.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 15.—The constitutional convention today elected Lieutenant-Governor H. Snyder and J. G. S. McC. Lawrason vice-presidents. The Committee on Suffrage is still holding two sessions daily.

FOUR ALABAMIANS ON BOARD

Spanish Officials Extend All the Aid Possible.

Captain Sigsbee Asks a Suspension of Public Opinion Until a Further Report—He Asks For Assistance For Himself and Men, as They Were Left Without Clothes.

Havana, Feb. 15.—At a quarter of 10 o'clock this evening a terrible explosion took place on board of the United States cruiser Maine in Havana harbor. Many are killed or wounded. All the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII are assisting. As yet the cause of the explosion is not apparent. The wounded sailors of the Maine are unable to explain it. It is believed the cruiser is totally destroyed.

The explosion shook the whole city. The windows were broken in all the houses.

The correspondent of the Associated Press says he has conversed with several of the wounded sailors and understands from them that the explosion took place while they were asleep, so that they can give no particulars as to the cause.

THE VESSEL AND CREW.

Four of the Officers Were from Alabama—Hood, Blandin, Boyd and Crenshaw.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Maine is a battleship of the second class, and is regarded as one of the best ships in the new navy. She was built at the Brooklyn navy yard and is 318 feet long, 57 feet broad, 21.6 mean draught, and 6,682 tons displacement. She carries four 10-inch and six 6-inch breech loading guns in her main battery and seven six-pounders and eight 1-pounder rapid fire guns and four gatlings in her secondary battery and four Whitehead torpedoes. Her crew consisted of twenty-nine officers and 370 men.

The officers of the Maine besides Commander Sigsbee are

- Lieutenant Commander Richard Wainwright.
- Lieutenant George F. W. Holman.
- Lieutenant John Hood (Florence.)
- Lieutenant Carl W. Ugen.
- Lieutenant, junior grade, Blow, John T. Blandin, (Ala.) Friend W. Jenkins.
- Naval Cadets, Jonas H. Holden, Watt T. Cluverius, Amon Bronson, David F. Boyd, Jr. (Ala.)
- Surgeon, Lucien G. Hengberger.
- Paymaster, —Ryan.
- Chief Engineer, Charles P. Howell.
- Passed Assistant Engineer, Frederick C. Bowers.
- Naval Cadets (engineer division), Washington, Arthur Crenshaw (Greenville.)
- Assistant Engineers, John R. Morris, Darwin R. Merritt.
- Chaplain, John P. Chidwick.
- First Lieutenant of Marines, Albertus W. Catlin.
- Boatswain, Francis E. Larkin.
- Gunner, Jos. Hill.
- Carpenter, George Helms.

The commander of the Maine, Capt. Sigsbee, is a favorite in the Navy Department. For four years he was chief of the hydrographic office and his energy brought the office up to a high standard. He was lucky to get so important a ship as the Maine considering his actual rank, which is that of a commander, but he immediately justified the Department's judgment in their selection by running his ship straight into a dock in New York harbor to avoid running down a packed excursion boat. This was a display of quick judgment, nerve and pluck that pleased the department so highly that the captain was sent a complimentary letter.

REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN.

No Particulars—Nothing But a Mere Statement of the Disaster.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Secretary of the Navy received the following telegram from Capt. Sigsbee:

"Maine blown up in Havana harbor at 9:40 and destroyed. Many wounded and doubtless more killed and drowned. The wounded and others are

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THE MAINE DESTROYED

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on board a Spanish man-of-war and Ward line steamer. Send light-house tenders from Key West for crew and few pieces of equipment still above water. No one had other clothes than those upon them.

"Public opinion should be suspended until further report. All officers believed to be saved. Jenkins and Merritt are not yet accounted for. Many Spanish officers, including representatives of General Blanco, now with me and express sympathy. Sigsbee."

The officers referred to in the above dispatch are Lieutenant Friend W. Jenkins and Assistant Engineer Darwin R. Merritt.

From the reading of the dispatch the Navy Department thinks it possible that they were on shore at the time of the accident.

The Secretary of the Navy received another dispatch from Key West at the same time with the above, but its contents were not made public.

The orders for the light house tenders were at once sent to Key West in plain language, thus avoiding the delay that would have resulted from the use of cipher.
