

The Lowell Ledger.

"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE AND CHARITY FOR ALL."

VOL. IV NO 36.

LOWELL, KENT COUNTY, MICH., FEBRUARY 26, 1897.

WHOLE NO. 192.

When Values
Are Inducements
We will sell you

SHOES.

Our Prices are Right.
Our Goods Well Selected.

GEO. M. WINEGAR.
SHOE DEALER.

Call round; we will fit you with comfort, to foot and purse.

TAKE COMFORT.

All this life is worth is the pleasure and comfort there is in it. One way to keep comfortable during cold winter weather is to use and wear

**GALLOWAY ROBES, COATS
AND MITTENS,**

Which you can buy at prices to correspond with the times of

H. NASH,

Dealer in Agricultural Implements, Wagons, Carriages, Sleighs and Cutters, Lowell, Mich

How about that Spring Suit?

I can fit you out, giving you a choice of all the best goods in the market. An endless line to select from and prices very low. Best workmanship and latest styles. Don't make a mistake, for my prices are lower than ever. Call on the old stand-by merchant tailor,

B. C. SMITH.

LOWELL PLANING MILL,

W. J. ECKER & SON, PROPS., AND DEALERS IN

Lumber, Lath, Shingles and Cedar Fence Posts,

MANUFACTURERS OF SASH, DOORS, BLINDS, DOOR AND WINDOW FRAMES AND SHREDS, MOULDING, EXHIBITION AND SHIPPING COOPS, DRIED APPLE BOXES, ETC., MATCHING, RESAWING AND JOBWORK, WOODEN EAVE TROUGHES.

ECKER & SON, Lowell, Mich.

CANDY CATHARTIC Cascarets CURE CONSTIPATION REGULATE THE LIVER

10¢ 25¢ 50¢ ALL DRUGGISTS

CANDY CATHARTIC
Cascarets are a purely vegetable and contain no mercury or other mineral poison. They are made of the latest vegetable discovered and are a scientific combination of never before put together in any form.

PURELY VEGETABLE
Cascarets are purely vegetable and contain no mercury or other mineral poison. They are made of the latest vegetable discovered and are a scientific combination of never before put together in any form.

ANTISEPTIC LAXATIVE
Cascarets are antiseptic. That means they stop undigested food from souring in the stomach, prevent fermentation in the bowels and kill disease germs of any kind that breed and feed in the system.

LIVER STIMULANT
Cascarets tone the stomach and bowels and stimulate the lazy liver, making it work. They strengthen the bowels and put them into a normal, healthy condition, making their action easy and natural.

Don't judge CASCARETS by other medicines you have tried. They are new, unlike anything else that's sold, and infinitely superior. Try a 10c box to-day, if not pleased get your sample back! Larger boxes, 25c or 50c. Simple and booklet mailed free. Address
The only genuine. Beware of imitations!
STERLING REMEDY CO., CHICAGO, MONTREAL, CAN.; NEW YORK, 238

NO-TO-BAC cures Tobacco Habit or money refunded. Makes weak men strong. Sold and guaranteed by all druggists. Get booklet.

THE OLD FOLKS

THEIR ANNUAL REUNION AND DANCE AT

Music Hall and Train's Opera House, March 4.

The eighteenth annual re-union and party of the Old Residents of the Grand River Valley association will be held in Lowell on Thursday evening, March 4. Ample arrangements, not yet completed, are being made to make this the most enjoyable and successful gathering the old residents have ever held.

Profiting by the experience of former years, both Music hall and Train's opera house have been secured for this occasion and the reunion and speech making will be held at the former place and the dance at the latter. Thus there will be plenty of room at both places and no conflict as to hours.

Picnic supper at Music hall at conclusion of the exercises. Everybody bring baskets.

At the hour of going to press, we are unable to give further particulars. Watch for cards of announcements and make ready to have a good time with the old folks.

Death of George Bechtler.

Last Sunday, occurred the funeral of George Bechtler, a former Lowell business man, who died February 19, at his Ionia home at the age of 54 years. He was a soldier in the late war, enlisting in 1862 and serving three years.

Joseph Wilson Post, G. A. R., of which deceased was a charter member, conducted the funeral rites, Rev. S. P. Dexter assisting; and the remains were interred in Oakwood cemetery on the family lot.

Program of Teachers' Reading Circle.

The Lowell Teachers' Reading Circle will meet in the high school room, Saturday, February 27, at 2 p. m. The program is as follows:

Music.
Roll call responded to by educational quotations.

Reading of minutes of last meeting.
Quiz on King's Interests and Duties by A. R. Buck.

Music.
Discussion of Child Study, opened by Mrs. Minnie Martin.

Report of Executive Committee.
Lesson in Physics conducted by Robert White.

A large attendance is expected and some lively and interesting discussions are looked for. All live and up-to-date teachers should be present, as these meetings are what they need to strengthen and stimulate.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by L. H. Hunt & Co.

Fox Corners.

Died, in Vergennes, February 19, Mary Opal, daughter of Seth VanWormer and wife, aged two years and three months.

Misses Botzen returned Tuesday, from a two months' visit with relatives and friends in Muskegon.

Ab. Richmond of Otisco visited at L. J. Lee's Monday and Tuesday.

Alonzo VanWormer and wife, Mrs. Emily VanWormer, Alton VanWormer and Ozro VanWormer and wife of Grand Rapids attended little Opal VanWormer's funeral last Sunday.

Vergennes was well represented at the Silver club party Monday evening.

Frank McKelvie, wife and mother of Grand Rapids were guests of W. Long and family a few days last week.

Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away.

Death of Mrs. Antone Killinger.

Anna, wife of Antone Killinger, died at her home at the plant of the Lowell Water & Light company, in Vergennes township, 10 miles north of this village, Saturday evening, February 20. Friday afternoon, Mr. Killinger went to his work, leaving his wife in her usual health, but on returning home at 9 in the evening, found her in bed unconscious, from which condition she never rallied, though she lived twenty-four hours longer.

Mrs. Killinger was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Beck of Bloomington, Ill., who arrived in time to attend the funeral services which were held at the Congregational church, Tuesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Mr. Mauge. She leaves one child, a babe of a year and a half.

Mr. Killinger, superintendent of the plant of the Lowell Water & Light company, is respected by all who know him. He has the sympathy of all in his affliction.

THE SILVER PARTY.

Most Successful Dancing Party of the Season.

Such is the verdict concerning the splendid ball conducted by the Silver club at Music hall, Monday evening. One hundred and thirty-four numbers were sold and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all. Miss Wood sang some appropriate silver songs in her most charming manner as usual carried her hearers by storm.

The supper at the Waverly was of course A. No. 1, and nothing was lacking to make the Silver club party, the most successful affair of the kind for the season of '96-'97.

Net proceeds, for benefit of club: \$32.80.

Something to Depend On.

Mr. James Jones, of the drug firm of Jones & Son, Cowden, Ill., in speaking of Dr. King's New Discovery, says that last winter his wife was attacked with Grippe, and her case grew so serious that physicians at Cowden and Pana could do nothing for her. It seemed to develop into Hasty Consumption. Having Dr. King's New Discovery in store, and selling lots of it, he took a bottle home, and to the surprise of all she began to get better from first dose, and half dozen dollar bottles cured her sound and well. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds is guaranteed to do this good work. Try it. Free trial bottles at L. H. Hunt & Co's drug store.

Grattan-Vergennes.

Mrs. M. Denton of Coral is visiting her parents, P. Houlihan and wife.

The youngest child of D. Malone is dangerously ill with croup.

Mrs. T. Doyle is very ill.

John Weeks' mill has been moved from John Hessler's to Williams' woods.

John McGee visited at Frank Flanagan's one day last week.

The dance at John Edward's Tuesday was a failure.

Marion Weeks is home from Grand Rapids on a visit.

Elderly Mrs. Sueie is on the sick list.

Mike McAndrews and Dick McGee and wives attended the dance at Cook's corners Monday night.

Peach Hill Grove.

Last Friday evening a load of young people at the home of Allie Weitz and gave her a pleasant surprise. They arrived at the house about 9 o'clock and Allie had retired, as she supposed, for the night; but she soon joined them in the parlors and the evening was very pleasantly spent in visiting and games. Refreshments were served and next came a sleighride, which none but young people know how to enjoy.

Miss Allie is going to Kalkaska with her parents, in the near future, and the best wishes of her many friends go with her.

J. N. Hubbel and son Roy were in Canaan one day last week.

A load of young people from Alton enjoyed a very pleasant evening at Allen Godfrey's last Tuesday.

E. K. Wright of Greenville was the guest of J. N. Hubbel and wife last Thursday.

Mr. Perkins and family of Sheridan have moved to this place.

The people in this vicinity would just as soon have their paper printed Thursday as Friday.

Messrs. and Mesdames Cary D. and M. Gilbert visited friends in Berlin last week.

WINTER MEETING.

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION AT DETROIT.

Monday and Tuesday, A Grand Success—The Closing Banquet.

The meeting of the Michigan Press Association at Hotel Cadillac, Detroit, Monday and Tuesday, was one of the most profitable in the history of the association. Many interesting papers pertaining to the craft were read and much profitable discussion was aroused. Three sessions held and the meeting terminated with a grand banquet in the elegant new dining hall of the Cadillac tendered without money or price to the association by Swart Brothers, proprietors of this first class house.

The elaborate bill of fare required two hours consideration and the feast was accompanied by the music of a professional orchestra.

The banqueters were agreeably surprised by the unceremonious entry of a newsboys band whose renditions were heartily enjoyed.

The midnight hour marked the conclusion of the banquet; and speech-making, under the leadership of Postmaster Theo E. Quinby of the Detroit Free Press, was the order for the following three hours, numerous notables among Michigan newspaper men participating.

Altogether, the winter meeting of 1897 is one long to be remembered by the members of the Michigan Press Association.

Keeno Center.

Mr. Brier's family, who have lived on Sherman Kennedy's farm for the past year, moved to Otisco last Wednesday.

James Tredenick and wife visited Mrs. H. S. Lee at Potter's corners last Wednesday.

Mesdames Chad Lee and Charles Lampkins returned Friday, from a week's visit at Elsie.

Horace Hatch and wife were called to attend the funeral of their son's wife, Mrs. Orrin Hatch, northwest of Green-ville, Sunday, Feb. 14.

Mrs. Hattie Sparks and son Floyd, Norm and Myrtle Ogilvie and Allie Monks took dinner with Mrs. B. F. Wilkinson Sunday.

The Ladies' Aid society will meet the first week in every month hereafter. The next will be at Mrs. Williams Higgins, March 3.

The social at Mrs. T. Daniels was a success. A big crowd, lots of fun, plenty of music and a fine time.

Don Lambertson is home on a visit.

Mrs. Grace Brimmer of Lakeview visited her uncle, B. F. Wilkinson, Thursday.

Flora Wheaton is home from Belding on a visit.

Mrs. H. S. Lee will entertain the mite society of Potter's corners, March 3. All are invited.

Mrs. James Beattie of Saranac is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. F. Lee.

A family reunion was held at Mitt Trask's last Sunday.

Mrs. M. B. Wilkinson was the guest of her parents at Saranac a few days last week.

Levi Watson and wife of South Lowell are visiting friends in Keene this week.

Clark VanDusen, Myrtle and Norm Ogilvie visited Florence Hale Saturday night.

Joseph Holderman of Grand Rapids and Libbie Tredenick of Lowell visited James Tredenick and wife.

Surprise on Frank Abbott and wife last Thursday. Fifty were there.

Norman and Myrtle Ogilvie of South Boston were at the social at Mrs. Daniels' Friday evening. They stopped all night with Florence Hale.

Harvey Brown and wife visited Mrs. B. F. Wilkinson last Wednesday.

A progressive game party at Will Corbett's last Friday evening. Fine supper and music.

The Aid will give a poverty social at the Grange hall, March 5. Fried cakes and coffee will be served. All are invited to come.

Wanted.

A man and wife, no children, to work on farm by the year, for reference call on H. Nash, Lowell, or J. A. Jones, Bowne, Mich. 193.

DRESS GOODS SALE

COMMENCING SAT. FEB. 13TH

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY

DRESS GOODS CHEAP

Novelties,

Henriettas,

Mohairs,

Serges,

including the celebrated

Jamestowns,

WHICH OUT LASTS ALL OTHERS.

The prices will be lower than you ever saw them.

Largest and most complete stock in Lowell.

WE CUT WIDE AND DEEP. DO NOT MISS THIS SALE.

E. R. COLLAR.

BLACK BLOOD

is a good thing to be rid of, because bad blood is the breeding place of disgusting and dangerous diseases. Is your blood bad? You can have good blood, which is pure blood, if you want it. You can be rid of pimples, boils, blotches, sores and ulcers. How? By the use of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It is the radical remedy for all diseases originating in the blood.

Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla was recommended to me by my physician as a blood purifier. When I began taking it I had boils all over my body.

BONNER CLARY, Wesson, Miss.

Take Ayer's Sarsaparilla

behold in esteem, you must admit that it is the best medicine to know about each other the way to do it.

LETTER TO MOTHERS, who in the course of their duty as mothers, are called upon to read to their children, the following is the best of all the books that have ever been written. It is the best of all the books that have ever been written. It is the best of all the books that have ever been written.

Valuable Stones Discovered Recently in Canada.

Last week a company was organized at Berlin, Germany, with a capital of 2,000,000 marks, for the exploration of a quarry of lithographic stones, which were found in the Caucasus not long ago. The Philadelphia Record, herefore Solenhofen, a little town in Bavaria, had the exclusive monopoly of the lithographic stones, and from there the supply of the entire world had to be obtained. A German engineer employed in Caucasus stumbled across the quarry and, having had some experience with lithographic stones, sent a specimen to a German friend for examination. The friend found out that the stone was of even finer grain and better quality than the Solenhofen stones, and a syndicate was formed to purchase the territory where the quarry is located. This has been done with the assistance of the Russian government and Princes Sombors of Ananov.

Hopeful Words to Childless Women.

The darkest days of husband and wife are when they come to look forward to a childless and desolate old age. Many a wife has found herself incapable of motherhood owing to some great lack of strength in the organs of generation. Such a condition is nearly always due to long continued neglect of the pelvic warnings. Frequent backache and distressing pains accompanied by offensive discharges are generally by themselves and security of menstruation, indicate a nerve degeneration of the womb and surrounding organs, that unless promptly remedied will result in barrenness.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup

is especially adapted to the needs of the children. Pleasant to take, soothing in its influence. It is the remedy of all remedies for every form of throat and lung disease.

IRONING MADE EASY.

HAS MANY IMITATORS, BUT NO EQUAL.

This Starch is prepared on scientific principles, by men who have had years of experience in fancy laundering. It restores old lines and summer dresses to their natural whiteness and imparts a beautiful and lasting finish. The only starch that is perfectly harmless. Contains no arsenic, alum or other injurious substance. Can be used even for a baby powder.

THAT WORKS EASILY, WORKS PERFECTLY. CLEAN HOUSE WITH SAPOLIO

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR IT AND TAKE NO OTHER.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

SOME GOOD JOKES, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

The Burrows of an American Winter—Bad Effects of the Strike on Bread—An Observing Son of Milton—Baking the Wind.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I was broken down in health and utterly miserable, said Mr. Camp to our reporter. I was unable to work much of the time and could not sleep at night. During the six months of my sickness I obtained no relief. I had always been a robust, healthy man and seldom rose heavily upon me. About two years ago I was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I purchased one box and received so much benefit that I bought two more boxes, and am now well. I have scarcely had an ache or pain since.

Walter Baker & Co's Breakfast Cocoa

Absolutely Pure, Delicious, Nutritious.

There are no other cereals, some liquid, some solid, some good, some after you have tried.

NEVER CRIP NOR CRIP.

There are no other cereals, some liquid, some solid, some good, some after you have tried.

FOR 30 DAYS MORE YOU CAN TRY IT FOR 25 CENTS.

Rheumatism, La Grippe, In Better Health Than for the Past Fifty Years.

WE HAVE NO AGENTS

DO YOU COUGH? DON'T DELAY TAKE KEMP'S BALSAM THE BEST COUGH CURE.

SEND FOR A BICYCLE

FOR THIRTY DAYS LONGER

Grain=0

It takes the place of coffee at the cost. Made from pure grains it is nourishing and healthful.

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g Medicine

FORGET OR LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS.

INTERNATIONAL PRIZES ASSOCIATION.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

America's Greatest Remedy, because it cures when all others fail. Be sure to get Hood's.

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Maine Disaster in Congress.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE NAVAL BOARD OF INQUIRY TRANSMITTED.

Accompanied by a Special Message by the Executive.—A Clear Case of Circumstantial Evidence Against Some Person or Persons in Sympathy With the Spanish Reign of Blood and Butchery in Cuba.—The President Sticks Close to Absolute Facts and Makes no Recommendations.—Enjoins Careful Consideration.—Some of the Direct Evidence.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

"The president on Monday 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 have noted the advantages to flow from the visit of national ships to the Cuban waters, in accumulating the people to the presence of our flag as the symbol of good will and our ships in the fulfillment of the mission of protection to American interests, even though no immediate need therefor might exist.'"

"MAINE SENT TO HAVANA. 'Accordingly, on the 24th of January last, after conference with the Spanish minister, in which the renewal of visits of our war vessels to Cuban 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 and 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 and ceremonial visits.'"

"The Maine continued in the harbor of Havana during the three weeks following her arrival. No appreciable excitement or feeling of relief and confidence followed the resumption of the long interrupted friendly intercourse. So noticeable was this immediate effect of her visit that the consular general strongly urged that the presence of our 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.'"

"BLOWING UP OF MAINE. 'At forty minutes past 9 in the evening of the 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 250 of her crew perished, those 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, and being especially given by the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII, and the Ward line steamer City of Washington, which lay not far distant. The wounded were generally 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 Cuba 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 retribution.'"

"CALMNESS OF OUR PEOPLE. 'This spirit, however, soon gave way to the calmer processes of reason and to the resolve to investigate the facts and await the material proof of a public calamity of this nature. The cause, the responsibility and, if the facts warranted, the remedy due, if this course necessarily recommended itself from the outset to the executive, was only in the light of a dispassionately ascertained certainty could it determine the nature and measure of its full duty in the matter. The usual procedure was followed as in all cases of casualty in the United States navy on 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 ascertaining the exact determination of the cause 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 authorities. The findings of the court of inquiry were reached, after three days of continuous labor, on the 21st of March, and having been approved on the 22d by the commander-in-chief of the United States naval force on the North Atlantic station was transmitted to the executive.'"

"SUMMARY OF COURT'S EVIDENCE. 'It is herewith submitted the official report, together with the voluminous testimony taken before the court. Its purpose is, in brief, as follows: 'When the Maine arrived at Havana she was in good condition and was ordered to call at the port of Havana, 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. At 8 o'clock in the evening of Feb. 15 everything had been reported secure and all was quiet. At 9:40 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 perceptibly the second, which was more prolonged, is attributed by the court to the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines.'"

"WAS FROM THE OUTSIDE. 'The evidence of the divers establishes that the afterpart of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the explosion. The forward part was completely demolished. At frame 17 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, has been forced up so as to be now about 15 feet above the surface of the water; therefore about thirty-four feet above where it would be had the ship sunk uninjured. The outside bottom plating is bent into a reversed 'V' shape, the after wing of which, about fifteen feet broad and thirty-two feet in length (from frame 17 to frame 25), is doubled back upon itself against the continuation of the same plating extending forward. 'At frame 18 the vertical keel is broken

in two and keel bent into an angle similar to the angle formed by the outside plates. This break is about six feet below the surface of the water and about thirty feet above its normal position. In the opinion of the court this effect could not 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.'"

"CONCLUSIONS OF THE COURT. 'That the loss of the Maine was not in any respect due to fault or 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 which caused the destruction of the Maine upon any person or persons. 'I have directed that the findings of the court of inquiry and the views of this government thereon be communicated to the government of her majesty, the queen, and that I do not entertain the least 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 was the duty of the executive to advise the congress of the result, and in the meantime deliberate consideration is invoked.'"

(Signed) WILLIAM McKINLEY, Executive mansion, March 25, 1898.

THE BOARD'S SUMMARY.

"FULL TEXT OF THE REPORT. 'This follows is a synopsis, covering all main points of the report, as transmitted upon which the United States naval court based its findings in the case of the Maine. 'U. S. Iowa, First-Lieut. Key West, Fla., Monday, March 21, 1898.—After full and mature consideration of all the testimony before it, the court finds as follows: 1. That the United States battleship Maine arrived at Havana, Cuba, on the 25th of January, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and was taken to buoy No. 4, in from five and a half to six fathoms of water, by the request of the Spanish minister. The United States consul-general at Havana had notified the authorities at that place, the previous evening, of the intended arrival of the Maine. 2. The state of discipline on board the Maine was excellent, and all orders and regulations in regard to the care and safety of the ship were strictly carried out. All ammunition was stowed away in accordance with instructions, and proper care was taken whenever ammunition was handled. 3. Nothing was stowed in any one of the magazines or shell rooms which was not permitted to be stowed there. The magazines and shell rooms were always locked after having been opened, and after the destruction of the Maine the keys were found in their proper place in the captain's cabin, everything having been reported secure that evening at 8 p. m. 4. The temperatures of the magazines and shell rooms were taken daily and reported. The only magazine which had an undue amount of heat was the after 16-inch magazine, and that did not explode at the time the Maine was destroyed. The torpedo war heads were all stowed in the after part of the ship under the ward room, and neither caused nor participated in the destruction of the Maine. The dry gun cotton primers and detonators were stowed in the cabin aft and remote from the scene of the explosion. The waste was carefully looked after on board the Maine or stowed away in accordance with orders in regard to this had been given by the commanding officer. Varnishes, driers, oils, alcohol and other combustibles of this nature were stowed in the ward room and could not have had anything to do with the destruction of the Maine. The medical stores were stowed aft under the wardroom, and remote from the scene of the explosion. No dangerous stores of any kind were stowed below in any of the other storerooms. 5. INSPECTION OF BUNKERS. The coal bunkers were inspected. Of those bunkers adjoining the forward magazines and shell rooms four were empty, namely, B, S, B, A, B, S, B, S. A 16' had been in use that day, and a 16' was full of New River coal. This coal had been carefully inspected before receiving it on board. The bunker in which it was stowed was accessible on three sides at all times, and the four sides at the time of the explosion. No dangerous stores of any kind were stowed below in any of the other storerooms. 6. CONDITION OF MAGAZINES. The coal bunkers were inspected. Of those bunkers adjoining the forward magazines and shell rooms four were empty, namely, B, S, B, A, B, S, B, S. A 16' had been in use that day, and a 16' was full of New River coal. This coal had been carefully inspected before receiving it on board. The bunker in which it was stowed was accessible on three sides at all times, and the four sides at the time of the explosion. No dangerous stores of any kind were stowed below in any of the other storerooms. 7. INSPECTION OF BUNKERS. The coal bunkers were inspected. Of those bunkers adjoining the forward magazines and shell rooms four were empty, namely, B, S, B, A, B, S, B, S. A 16' had been in use that day, and a 16' was full of New River coal. This coal had been carefully inspected before receiving it on board. The bunker in which it was stowed was accessible on three sides at all times, and the four sides at the time of the explosion. No dangerous stores of any kind were stowed below in any of the other storerooms. 8. THE HOUR OF THE DISASTER. The destruction of the Maine occurred at 9:40 p. m., on the 15th day of February, 1898, in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, being at the time moored to the same buoy to which she had been taken upon her arrival. There were two explosions of a distinctly different character, with a very short but distinct interval between them, and the forward part of the ship was lifted to a marked degree at the time of the first explosion. The first explosion was more in the nature of a report, like that of a gun, while the second explosion was more open, prolonged, and of greater volume. This second explosion was, in the opinion of the court, caused by the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines of the Maine. 9. EVIDENCE NOT DEFINITE. The evidence bearing on this, being principally obtained from divers, did not enable the court to form a definite conclusion as to the condition of the wreck although it was established that the after part of the ship was practically intact, and sank in that condition a very few

minutes after the destruction of the forward part. The following facts in regard to the forward part of the ship, however, established by the testimony: That portion of the port side of the protective deck, which extends from about frame 20 to about frame 41, was blown up at its base, the explosion deck, from about frame 20 to about frame 41, was blown up, aft, and slightly over the midship, folding the forward part of the middle section of the protective deck to the after part. This was, in the opinion of the court, caused by the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines. 5. At frame 17, the outer shell of the ship, from a point 11 1/2 feet from the middle line of the ship, and six feet above the keel when in its normal position, has 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 reversed 'V' shape, the after wing of which is about 15 feet broad and 32 feet in length (from frame 17 to frame 25) is doubled back upon itself against the continuation of the same plating extending forward. At frame 18 the vertical keel is broken in two, and the keel bent into an angle similar to the angle formed by the outside plates. This break is about six feet below the surface of the water and about thirty feet above its normal position. In the opinion of the court this effect could not 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. CONCLUSIONS OF THE COURT. That the loss of the Maine was not in any respect due to fault or 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 which caused the destruction of the Maine upon any person or persons. I have directed that the findings of the court of inquiry and the views of this government thereon be communicated to the government of her majesty, the queen, and that I do not entertain the least 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 was the duty of the executive to advise the congress of the result, and in the meantime deliberate consideration is invoked. (Signed) WILLIAM McKINLEY, Executive mansion, March 25, 1898.

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Torpedo Boats to be Built on the Lakes. F. W. Wheeler, the Bay City ship builder, visited the navy department at Washington and had a long conference with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt and offered to throw his whole yard open to the government at any moment. He said that he would willingly undertake to make a complete 24-knot torpedo boat in four months and to turn out one every two months thereafter as long as there was necessity for it. Mr. Roosevelt said the department expected an appropriation for 30 torpedo boats, and that he expected to give rush orders for 10 of them to builders on the lakes. As soon as a bill appropriating the money passed he would take advantage of Mr. Wheeler's offer.

Two Killed by a Boiler Explosion. The whole city of Reed City was shaken by a terrific explosion of the boiler in the flour and feed mill of the Babcock Grain Co. Engineer Peter Young and Clark Grant, son of one of the proprietors, were both instantly killed. A bolt was blown through Grant's body and the engineer is disfigured beyond recognition. Young was a married man with a large family. Grant was a young man 23 years of age and unmarried. The mill was almost completely wrecked, and the loss will be heavy. Debris was thrown several hundred feet. A large number of windows were broken.

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