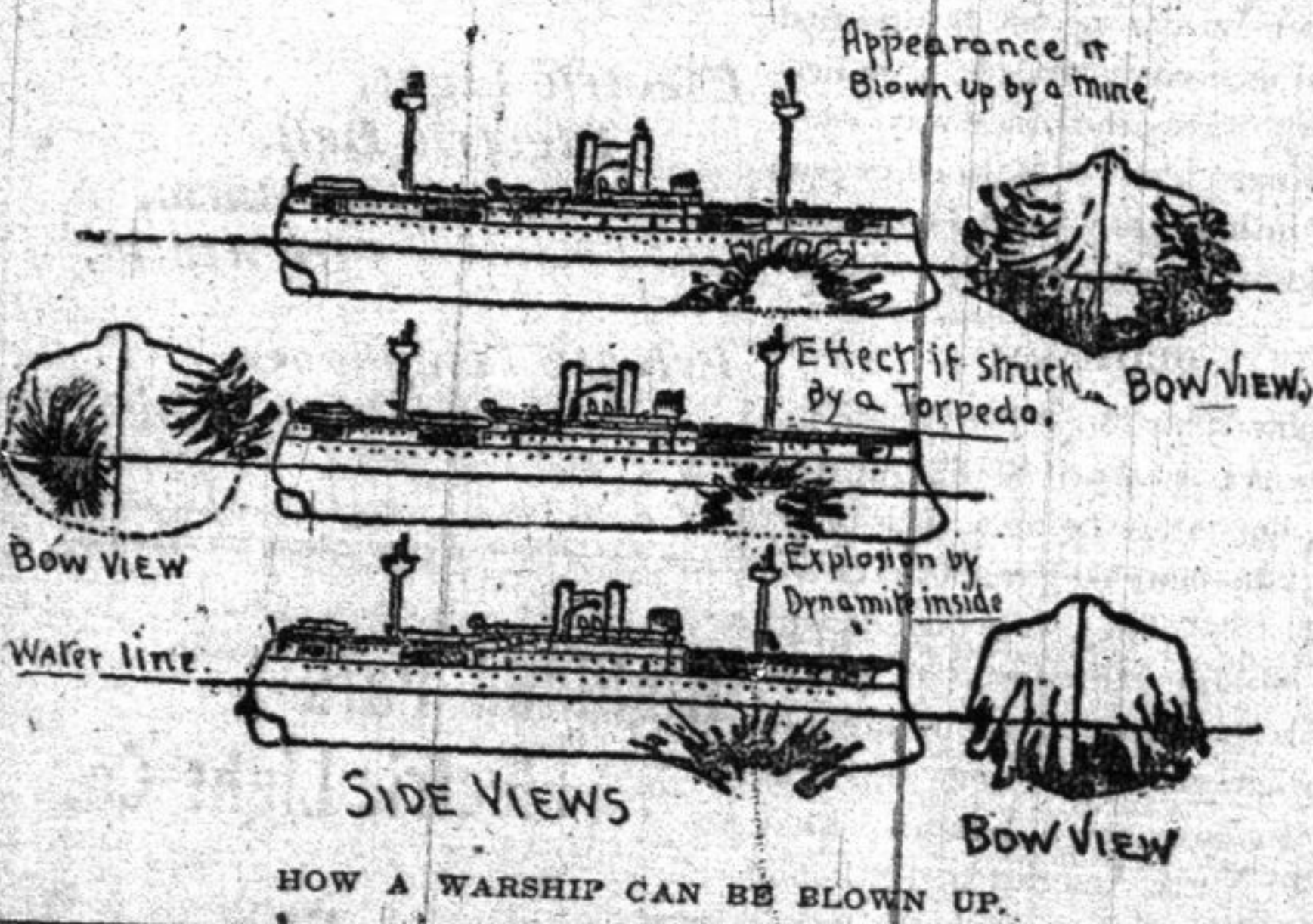


**MAKING SLOW PROGRESS**

**Report of Board of Inquiry Not Expected for Weeks.**

**Court Goes to Key West to Get Testimony of Wounded Survivors—Difficulties Experienced by the Divers.**

Key West, Fla., March 1.—The United States court of inquiry into the loss of the battle ship Maine in the harbor of Havana on February 15 began its sessions here Monday morning. Those officers and civilians here who believed the reports from Havana saying that the court had already decided that the loss of the Maine was due to treachery have apparently changed their minds, for Monday the universal question was: "What has the court found out?" While Sunday one heard all around: "When will war be declared?" Brought face to face with the court,



HOW A WARSHIP CAN BE BLOWN UP.

men realize for the first time how unlikely it will be for the court to allow any inkling of its conclusions to be known out of due season.

**Divers Work Slowly.**

Havana, March 1.—The difficulty experienced in recovering the bodies of victims of the Maine disaster is not understood by any but the divers. The latter Sunday worked for three hours trying to bring out one body intact, and one of the divers had a bad fall and several got their air tubes tangled. Even then they could not extricate the remains. The principal efforts of the divers are now directed toward clearing the upper wreckage, smokestacks, decks, guns, hatches, bridge, cranes and gratings. Then, if not before, all the dead can be removed.

**May Not Get Report for Weeks.**

Washington, March 1.—At the close of office hours a telegram came to the navy department from Admiral Seward at Key West saying it would be necessary for the court of inquiry to resume sessions at Havana to obtain evidence of divers after further work upon the wreck. One important deduction to be drawn from the message was that the report of the court of inquiry can scarcely be expected for several weeks to come. Upon the return to Havana it is expected that a good deal of time must elapse before the divers can get through the mud which now encompasses the

**TEN VICTIMS OF EXPLOSION.**

**Awful Disaster at Kalamazoo, Mich.—Fire in a Laboratory.**

Kalamazoo, Mich., Feb. 28.—While firemen were trying to extinguish a fire in the second story of Hall Bros' laboratory Saturday night a terrific explosion took place, blowing the roof and the walls of the building into the street. Ten men were killed and fourteen injured as follows:

DEAD—George Halliday, engine driver; Pat McHugh, policeman; John Hastings, Jr., hoseman; Charles Whiting, spectator; James Quigley, spectator; William Waser, fireman; L. L. Holloway, drugist; Frank Auwers, fireman; Eugene Dole, fireman; Joseph Clifford, telephone lineman.

INJURED—Will Hastings, scalp badly cut and right foot blown off, necessitating amputation; James Utter, driver, both legs broken; John McDermott, fireman, leg broken, face badly burned; Ordway Knight, fireman, head badly cut; George Chatterton, back broken, leg injured; Victor Velle, scalp badly cut, skull injured; Fred Stohrer, hip injured; John McAllister, fireman, leg broken; six others received lesser injuries.

Firemen were perched upon ladders

**PREPARING FOR TROUBLE**

**Work on War Ships at Navy Yard Is Being Hastened.**

**Spain Is Also Pushing Work of Naval Construction and Armament—Fleet Ordered to Be Held in Readiness.**

Washington, Feb. 28.—Activity is seen at the military posts, and men by the thousands are announcing their readiness to serve the country in the event of a conflict with Spain. In order to hasten work on war ships at League Island navy yard large forces of men were kept at work all day Sunday. Many clerks were also kept at the navy department for Sunday work, something that is very unusual.

According to a report laid before President McKinley, 10,073,576 able-bodied men are now available for military duty in the United States. Of these 112,089 are already in the militia.

**Spain Prepares.**

Ferrol, Spain, Feb. 28.—The work of naval construction and armament is being pushed by the government with the greatest activity at the arsenal and dock yard.

A former captain-general of Cuba (presumably Marshal Martinez Cam-



ADMIRAL SICARD AND SOME OF HIS AIDS.

pos), interviewed by a representative of Correspondencia Militar, is reported as saying:

"I never entertained a doubt that if the rebellion were not suppressed before 1898 war with the United States would become an established fact. Unhappily my prophecy will be fulfilled. I have the consolation of having done all in my power to avert it, and therefore I do not regret the blame which has been heaped upon me. All that is now possible is that we should all unite to meet the danger that threatens the country."

The Correspondencia Militar, organ of the army, says: "The prevailing impression is that war between Spain and the United States will break out in April."

**Fleet for Cuba.**

Key West, Fla., March 1, 3:30 a. m.—The fleet here, made up of the New York, Iowa, Marblehead, Montgomery, Nashville, Cushing and Ericsson, as well as three battle ships, Indiana, Texas and Massachusetts, now at Dry Tortugas, at three o'clock in the afternoon received orders to hold themselves in readiness to start for Havana at the tap of the drum. The Detroit left here Monday for Dry Tortugas, where she will join the squadron. The orders came from Long in Washington to Admiral Sicard, and are said to be based on information wired from Havana by the captain of the Bache, United States coast survey boat, which left Key West for Havana Monday. The captain of the Bache told such a story of the heated state of the Havana public and the probability of riot at any moment, and danger to Americans now in Havana to flow therefrom, that Long at once made the order indicated.

**England Won't Support Spain.**

London, March 1.—The Daily News, commenting editorially on the relations between the United States and Spain, says: "Spain can expect no support, moral or otherwise, from England against the United States. She has ruined Cuba, as she has ruined or lost every other colony, by the grossest corruption, cruelty and maladministration, and she must be left to settle the account for it with those whom it may concern without any aid or sympathy on our part."

**Promoted.**

New York, Feb. 25.—Francis M. Bunce, commandant of the navy yard here, has received from Washington his commission as rear admiral. His official rank up to Thursday was that of commodore.

**WARDS OF THE NATION.**

**The American Indian Shows Very Rapid Advancement.**

Washington, March 1.—The twenty-eighth annual report of the board of Indian commissioners, of which Merrill E. Gates is chairman, has been submitted to Secretary Bliss. An abstract of the report follows:

In the general condition of the Indians no important changes have occurred, but there is evidence of steady progress in industrial pursuits and in education.

The board views with satisfaction the "firm stand of the president in support of civil service reform," and the application of the order prohibiting removals without cause to the Indian service. Belief is expressed that the placing of the Indian agents themselves under the civil service would be a great boon to the service.

The board thinks the agreements of the Dawes commission with the Choctaws and Chickasaws in the Indian territory have one serious defect. They make no provision for some thousands of Chickasaw freedmen whose rights as citizens the government is bound to protect. If this defect can be remedied prompt ratification of the treaties by congress is urged.

Mention is made of the enlarged and improved facilities for Indian education inaugurated during the past year and figures are given showing that the enrollment in the 288 schools of all grades including contract and mission schools for 1897 was 22,964, as against an enrollment of 23,672 for 1896. The statistics presented are regarded as highly significant and full of hope for the Indian race. It means, the board says, that in a few years a generation of Indians will be raised up very different from any that have lived before—a generation educated

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HOW A SUBMARINE MINE IS PLACED AND OPERATED.

lower part of the wreck of the Maine and examine the bottom. After this is done the court must deliberate in order to secure an agreement upon their findings. The prevalent belief at the navy department is that up to this moment the court has not once undertaken to compare notes and endeavor to reach such an agreement.

Opinion prevails among members of congress that the president and his advisers have positive information regarding the destruction of the Maine, but that facts are kept secret and the official inquiry is being delayed to give the administration needed time to prepare for threatened war.

**Daughters of the Revolution.**

Washington, Feb. 25.—The election of officers of the Daughters of the American Revolution assembled in congress here, was not finished Thursday night. The vice presidents-general and historian-general remain to be elected. Mrs. Daniel Manning was elected president-general, she receiving 396 votes.

of those persons anxious to incite the evil passions of both nations for their own miserable ends. I consider the very suggestion of such a thing an insult to Spain."

**Verdict Causes Surprise.**

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 28.—The jury in the case of the state against the bondsmen of ex-State Treasurer Bartley returned a verdict for the defense Sunday evening. The amount sued for was \$555,000. The case was on trial 19 days, and was given to the jury Friday evening. The court's instructions were in effect that a verdict for the full amount should be returned in favor of the state.

**Can't Be a Senator.**

Washington, March 1.—Hon. Henry W. Corbett was on Monday denied admission to the senate as a senator from Oregon, on the appointment by the governor, by the decisive vote of 50 to 19. Speeches were made against the admission of Mr. Corbett by Senators Bacon (Ga.) and Burrows (Mich.), and in favor of his admission by Senator Morgan (Ala.).

WAS A MISCONSTRUCTION OF THE PUBLICITY NOT AN OCEANIC CO.

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