Spain Asks What Our Object Is in Purchasing Warships.

Her Question Is Looked Upon as the Same Sort of Bluff as Was the Lee Incident-May Receive a Curt Answer.

Washington, March 16.-Spain has again ventured on dangerous ground. Another step has been taken that may increase the irritation in this country. The case in point is a question directed to this government as to what construction is to be placed on its purchase of foreign war vessels. Rumors touching the question of the Sagasta ministry have been going the rounds here and it has proved impossible to get any of the cabinet officers to deny them. Assistant Secretary Day said he would speak if it were proper for him to do so, but under the circumstances he was unable to discuss the subject.

Regarded as a Bluff.

from Cuba.

What Will the Answer Be? -

hardly be made to Spain. A prominent | time for 22 years.

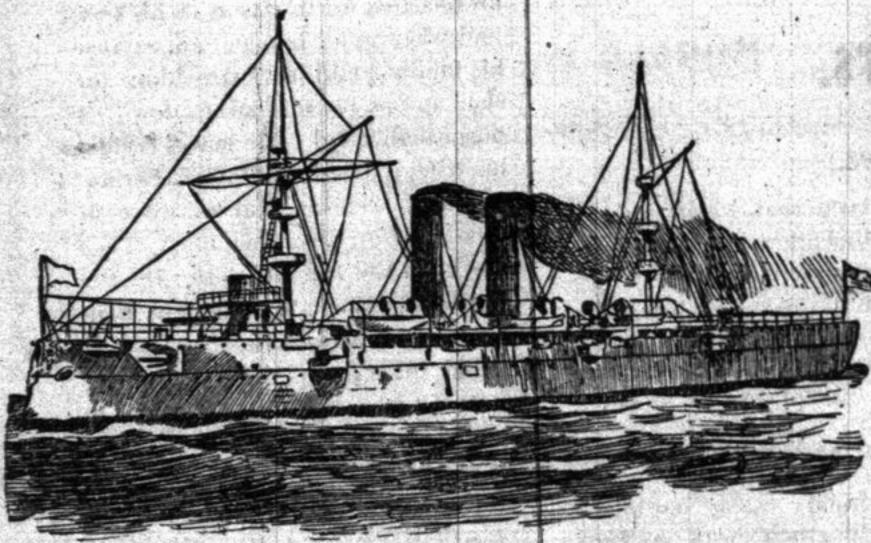
FLOOD AT GRAND RAPIDS.

Rise in the River Fills Basements with Water-Several Factories Shut Down,

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 16 .-Basements of a few factory buildings and many residences are flooded. The river below the rapids is less than a foot below high water mark, but above the city it lacks several feet of the height reached in former floods. The connections, and are as yet in working consequences may be. order. Factories on the canals depending on water power have been shut Spain's bluffs, like the one she made change in the weather a fall is not exwhen she suggested Gen. Lee's recall pected here until Thursday or Friday. The rise is about half an inch per hour.

Saginaw, Mich., March 16. - The There is some curiosity to know steam fire engines have been busy what answer the United States will pumping out cellars of business blocks. make to this rather searching question. On the low ground between here and Everybody knows that the ships were Bay City many families have moved bought because this country wanted to from their homes. The interurban be ready for war in case it was forced track is washed out in a number of into it, but an answer to this effect can places. The river is higher than at any

THE LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY



THE AMAZONAS. The Amazonas and the Admiral Breu, the two new warships which have been bought of Brazil by the United States, and which are now in our navy, are receiving their final touches in the English shippard where they were constructed. The two boats are sister ships-images of each other in every respect, and are the best products the skill, ingenuity and experience of the Armstrongs can turn out They are cruisers, but in the naval technology they are called battleships of the second class. The Amazonas, which was begun a little later than her sister, has a few improvements over the Breu in her armament, but in other respects the boats are just alike. The Amazonas has a displacement of about 8,600 tons. She is therefore about 2,000 tons heavier than the defunct Maine. Her length is 330 feet, her beam 43.9 feet, and she has a mean draft of 20 feet. Each of the new warships has a threeinch armored deck extending from stern to bow, and both hulls are heavily armored and protected. These boats are fleet upon the water. Each of them can speed at the rate of 20 knots per hour for a considerable time. In armament the Amazonas and the Breu are able to cope with any vessel of their class on the seas. They have six six-inch, four 4.7-inch, ten 2.2-inch and four 1.4-inch rapid fire Maxim guns

member of the foreign relations committee said:

and three torpedo tubes.

swer this question in any way that Spain for several miles. Unless the water can possibly interpret as a casus belli. We shall probably say that our navy has lost a battleship, the Maine, in an unexpected fashion, and that we are replacing it as best we can. The Amazonas and her sister ship together are not equal to the Maine either in cost or in fighting ability. It is possible that the administration may answer more curtly, and will simply say that we bought them to increase our navy, which is ob-

viously true. A Protest from Spain.

An unofficial protest has been made by representatives of Spain that the presence of American warships near Cuba and active preparations for war in the United States exert an unfair influence. It is claimed the insurgents are encouraged in their rebellion and the plan of autonomy cannot have a fair trial. It is also claimed that if the Washington government made known indirectly to the insurgents that it meant to have peace in Cuba and that peace in Cuba may be had with autonomic government under Spain the insurrection would certainly die out. If later the Weyler party wanted to interfere it would be time then for the United States to take action. It would be then justifiable. Now to make war on Spain would be a crime, and for that crime to civilization and humanity the United States would be responsible.

#### MURDER AT WASHINGTON. Dennis J. Canty Shoots Down and Kills George S. Rye on

the Street.

Washington, March 16 .- Dennis J Canty, formerly a clerk in the interstate commerce commission and later a partner with Herman Vansenden, private secretary to Secretary Carlisle in the last administration in the stock and grain brokerage business, Tuesday shot and killed George S. Rye, a speculator whose home is in the west, in Utica, N. Y., March 16.-Lillian Kennear Fourteenth. It is assumed that apople y during a performance of the killing grew out of some stock that the Utica opera house transactions, and perhaps may have transactions transactions. The private life Miss Kennedy was Mrs. The product the following the performance of the unit of the perhaps may have transactions that the Utica opera house in this country the cities of Bessemer, Ala., and Bessemer, Mich., with several places of less importance were named after him in recognition of the value of his invention. The private life Miss Kennedy was Mrs. The product the private life Miss Kennedy was Mrs. The private life Miss Kennedy was Mrs. The p eral months ago of Canty & Vansenden, Charles Hassenford.

Princeton, Ill., March 16 .- The Ill. nois river rose three feet Tuesday, flood-"The United States will certainly not an- ing the farms in the river bottom lands soon subsides much damage will result,

## THE CHINESE QUESTION.

Sir William Robinson Says Interests of United States and Great Britain Are Identical.

London, March 16 .- Sir William Robinson, who has just arrived in London from Hong Kong, of which colony he has been governor since 1891, in an interview warmly advocated an understanding with the United States on the Chinese question, saying the aims of the United States in regard to China were identical with those of Great Britain. He added: "There is a feeling at Hong | hopeful that there may be no war. Kong and Shanghai that the Chinese provinces cannot hold together much longer. They are already partly independent, not only of each other, but 'also of the imperial government."

## TRAGEDY IN DUBUQUE.

W. O. Lavake, a Well-Known Lawyer, Shot Dead in His Office-Suposed Murderer Arrested.

Dubuque, Ia., March 16 .- W. O. Lavake, a prominent attorney, was shot dead in his office in the business center of the city at 5:30 o'clock Tuesday evening. Four shots were fired, all taking effect. Though the streets were crowdcd at the time, the murderer escaped recognition. There is nothing positive

to lead to a clew. The police late at night arrested John McGarry on suspicion of being the murderer of Lavake. He refused to make a statement, but has been partially identified. He had trouble with

Lavake over some property.

Victim of Apoplexy. front of the Ebbitt house, on F street nedy, the actress who was stricken with near Fourteenth. It is assumed that apoplexy during a performance of "The and Steel institute of Great Britain; and enjoyed the novelty of an ice bridge

WILL DO HIS DUTY.

If Worst Comes to Worst the President Will Not Shirk.

Anxious, However, to Avert Hostilities-The Court of Inquiry Sails for Key West-Cannot Fix Date of Making Its Report.

Washington, March 16 .- President wires supplying the city lights are McKinley told a senatorial caller he flooded in the basement of the power | would "rather have his administration house and the city was in darkness called a failure than to bring on an un-Tuesday night. Commercial wires holy war." Nevertheless he is resolved used by the same company have higher to do his duty regardless of what the Court Leaves Havana.

Havana, March 16.-The Mangrove, down since Monday. None of the resi- with the court of inquiry on board, dents in the lower sections of the city sailed Tuesday night for Key West. have had to abandon their houses or Capt, Sampson, president of the board, remove their effects, though 30 or 40 assured the correspondents that the deare surrounded by water, which sets cision to leave Havana was not reached back from the flats below the city. The until Tuesday afternoon after a conwater has been rising steadily since sultation of the members. It was de-Sunday morning, and reports show this | cided that, while further testimony same condition at all up-river points | might be obtained here, this was not As a general thing such a query is a below the state capital. At Lansing sufficiently likely to justify a longer prelude to more vigorous measures, but and Grand Ledge the river was reported | stay. The court can return if the divers in this case it is believed in govern- stationary, and at Jackson a fall of a or wreckers make discoveries that add ment circles that it is merely another of few inches was recorded. Without a to the stock of knowledge now gathered. The plans of the submerged wreck, in the preparation of which Ensign Powelson has had a large share, are very elaborate, and Capt. Sampson says the testimony and records of the divers are very full. Capt. Sampson hopes the court will be allowed to re- in 1880, there were but three establishments lows, now near Key West with the New sons and producing an output valued at York. All the officers of the court except Judge Advocate Marix are stationed on the Iowa or the New York, and on the former the court could be absolutely free from interruption. The greater part of the investigation that remains will consist, unless the court returns here, of a careful study of the plans. It is not thought that it will be necessary again to summon the survivors of the Maine, officers or men, now at Key West or scattered throughout the fleet. Capt. Sampson said, however, that any such would be summoned if the revision of the testimony showed missing links in the chain that they

> could supply. The court has no prophecy to make as to the further duration of its sittings or as to when or where the findings will be promulgated. Capt. Sigsbee will probably remain here with Lieut. Commander Wainwright to superintend the wrecking on behalf of the government. Chaplain Chidwick is expected to remain to care for any bodies that may be recovered. At least no orders had been received to the contrary

when this dispatch was sent. Activity in the Departments. Washington, March 16 .- Tuesday 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 bureaus. These bureaus had not been able to conclude any contracts for the procurement of war supplies because no allotment had been made, but Tuesday afternoon the ordnance bureau was given \$2,500,000 and business went forward with a rush. It is true that this sum is already moregaged under provisional arrangements made during the past week, but with the assurance of more funds to come the work of the bureau is now moving rapidly.

Militia Officers Make Inquiries. Inspired by the war sentiment prevailing in many parts of the country, officers of state militia organizations ment as to allotments of arms, ammunition, etc. There is an annual ap-000 allotted among the militia of the several states, according to their numerical strength, and the money granted may be expended for any branch of

the service desired. Hopes There Will Be No War. Princeton, N. J., March 16 .- Former President Cleveland says all loyal citizens should support the government in any exigency that may arise, but he is

SIR HENRY BESSEMER.

Death of the Inventor of the Proce for Making the Steel Which Bears His Name.

London, March 16 .- Sir Henry Bessemer, the celebrated inventor of Bessemer steel, died Tuesday evening.

(Sir Henry Bessemer, whose name is inseparably connected with the development of the steel industry, was born in Hertfordshire, in 1813. His discovery of the means of rapidly and cheaply converting pig iron into steel by blowing a blast of air through the iron when in a state of fusion, was the result of costly and laborious experiments which extended over a long period, and in which the end was attained only after many disheartening failures. The invention revolutionized the whole iron trade of the

world in the short space of 30 years. From his earliest youth he was fond of modeling and designing patterns, and at the age of 20 he was an exhibitor in the Royal academy. Not until 1856, however, did he read before the British association, at Cheltenham, the paper on the manufacture of malleable iron and steel which first attracted attention to the very high character of his scientific attainments. He was the recipient of scores of distinctions from the crowned heads of Europe and from the scientific and learned socie-

MANY PATENTS ISSUED.

The Annual Report of the Commissioner Shows a Great Increase in Inventions.

Washington, March 15 .- The report of the commissioner of patents for the calendar year 1897 was laid before congress Monday. It is dated January 31 and was prepared by Assistant Commissioner A, P. Greely, who was acting commissioner for several months preceding the death of the late Commissioner Butterworth. An abstract of the report follows:

In 1897 there were received 45,661 applications for patents, and, in addition, a large number of applications for designs, trade marks, etc. Patents granted amounted in number to 23,729, including designs; 65 patents, were reissued, 1,661 trade marks registered and 14 labels and 16 prints. The number of patents that expired was 12,926. The total expenditures were \$1,122,843, the receipts over expenditures, \$252,798. The total balance to the credit of the patent office in the treasury of the United States January 1, 1898, was 4,791,438.

The influence of patented inventions is most strikingly shown in the creation of new industries of enormous magnitude since 1880-this is, within the term of patents now in force, but very recently expired. Of these new industries, the most noted are those connected with the development of agricultural inventions. The manufacture of electrical apparatus and supplies began to be of importance shortly before 1880, and in that year 76 establishments, employing 1,721 persons, and producing an output valued at \$2,655,036, were in existence. In 1890 the number of establishments had increased to 189, employing 9,489 persons, and producing an output valued at \$19,114,714. In the electric light and power industry, as reported sume its sittings on the battleship in the United States, employing 229 per-\$545,400. At the close of 1894 there were in the United States 2,124 central stations supplying electricity for light and power, and 7,475 isolated plants, a total of 9,599 establishments. The capital invested in these central stations is stated to have been \$258,056,265, and the capital invested in the isolated plants, though not stated, was probably not below \$200,000,000. A conservative estimate of the number of persons employed at that time in this industry would not be under 45,000.

The use of electricity for power purposes has found most noted development in the electric railway. The first electric street railway in the United States was put in operation little more than ten years ago. In 1880 of the 2,500 road miles of street railway in the United States nearly all used animal power. The total mileage of electric railways in the United States up to October, 1897, was 13,765 miles, out of a total mileage of 15,718, of which but 947 miles were horse car lines. The total capital invested

was \$846,131,691. The great development of the bicycle industry has come since 1890, as a pesult of the inventions in pneumatic tires made about that time. In 1890 there were reported as engaged in the manufacture of bicycles 27 establishments. In 1895 more than 200 establishments were engaged in the manufacture of cycles and the output of wheels for that year is stated to have not been less than 800,000. The production 1897 was over 1,000,000 wheels. In 1880 a large proportion of the cycles used were imported mainly from England. In 1897 the exports of cycles and parts of cycles o England amounted to a value of \$2,138,-491, and the total exports amounted to

Shot by a Soldier,

Cape Town, March 15. - Mr. Wolf Joel, the trustee of the estate of the late Barney Barnato, the South African millionaire, was shot in his office at Johannesburg by a former soldier. The murderer of Mr. Joel, a man named Felstein, has been arrested. Felstein entered Mr. Joel's office and demanded £3,500. Being refused, he snatched a revolver from a desk and fired. The bullet entered Mr. Joel's forehead and he fell to the ground and expired. His murderer attempted to commit sufcide, but failed.

Sympathy from Mexico.

Guadalajara, Mex., March 15 .- All have been inquiring of the war depart- classes of Mexican citizens sympathize with the United States in its controversy with Spain and the alleged blowpropriation aggregating about \$400,- ing up of the Maine, which is called a characteristic Spanish trick. All new pending matter is read and discussed in the smallest towns and the remarkable fact is that the Mexicans who have been hitherto cool in their manifestations of regard for the United States publicly declare the United States should punish Spain.

Defense of Pacific Coast.

Washington, March 14 .- In making preparations for the possibilities of the future, the navy department has by no means overlooked the strategic defense of the Pacific coast. To guard properly this important seaboard it has been found necessary to send an advanced guard some distance down the Southern Pacific ocean. The battleship Oregon, the sister of the Indiana, and one of the most powerful vessels in the navy, has been selected for this work.

America's Heavy Demand for Gold. London, March 14 .- The money market has tightened considerably and an advance in the bank rate is mooted. The American demand for gold has exceeded all expectation, and in addition to all the bar gold about £ 400,000 (\$2,-(000,000) in Japanese yen has been bought for New York. This, with the Is the only sure cure in the world for Chronic Ulwithdrawals of eagles, has induced the Bank of England to raise the price of Japanese, French and German gold coins to 76s. 5d. per ounce.

Ice Bridge Over Ningara.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., March 15 .- The immense masses of ice coming down the river during the last two or three days lodged in the gorge below the falls Sunties; in 1870 he was president of the Iron day night, and Monday Niagara Falls

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CREAT CLEARING SALE of '97 and '9 models, best makes, \$9.75 to \$18. Sent on approval without a cent payment. Free use of wheel to our agents. Write for our new plan "How to Earn a Bicycle" and make money. SPECIAL THIS WEEK—40 high grade "77 models [slightly shopworn], \$18.75 each. "Wanderings Awheel," a souvenir book of art, FREE for stamp while they last. J. W. MEAD CYCLE CO., CHICAGO.

SENATOR PROC Speaks Guardedly aster-Think

Washington, A Proctor, of Vermo ion, Col. Myron M been spending son turned to Washing 10:35. Senator Pro station by friends once to his residen said that he did no trip at present, and commend the goo Barton was doing nothing in the way The Post claims view with Senator

latter said: "Concerning the o ester I feel free to tion as I have Sota explosion was from not show that the any of its officials it pants in the crime, not think there we harbor. I have not of what the decision inquiry will be, or a ington. Such infor Col. Parker com

the action pursue Lee, who, he said his place in every had seen of his add there. "The me reached there ju contradiction and was denied that h try was wanted," the question as to sion prevailed in l was destroyed by Col. Parker spoke however, that the vailed there as little or no war 18

PERISHED I Bowery Mission New York Bu

New York, Mary their lives in 4 through the Box 105 Bowery early left it a blackens now at the morg most of them ma The dead are st Cuddah, 29 year known; John Fo Island; -- Mc address unknown years old, Philad 38 years old, Spo ies unidentified.

No. 105 Bower known lodging oughfare. It w ducted by the the basement of a cheap restaur floor was used purposes, Gospe four upper floo cheap lodging l tions for 150 m 25 cents each, a of the rooms.

No D Columbus, O., sition for the fense fund for t of America has the members of time ago a spe ted a plan for a then sent out i vote of the men now been rece National Secret lowing result:

Pennsylvania .... Vest Virginia ... Wyoming ....

Madrid, Mar financial circle that Spain is In view of th States, it is und ernment has policy toward ing the cooper tutional party. of the volunte the campaign thus giving t dominance change is due ical autonomic armament of the constitution conflict would the United Sta armed interve

Murd Manchester, town, Ky., a group of hou across the O place, Thomas to the home day and calle pretext that She came wi Robb fired th sion into her himself. Mrs upon her bal