

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading

CANADA.

The New Brunswick Legislature is in session.

The Hamilton Horticultural Society has been incorporated.

It is reported that the G.T.R. will build a mammoth hotel at Quebec.

Considerable improvements are to be affected at the Royal Military College.

Mr. G. M. Rose, the well-known Toronto publisher, died Thursday, aged 69 years.

Mr. R. K. Hope has received his commission as Registrar of Wentworth County.

The Manitoba Legislature will meet on March 10. The session will probably be short.

Imports from Canada during January increased \$17,582, compared with January, 1897.

The life insurance companies doing business in Montreal are accepting risks on Klondikers.

An electric railway between Ottawa and Metcalfe is proposed. The distance is 20 miles.

Hamilton temperance people are petitioning the City Council to reduce the number of liquor licenses.

The C. P. R. Telegraph Company will string a large copper wire between Montreal and Vancouver.

The Toronto City Council has appointed Mr. Chas. H. Rust as City Engineer in succession to Mr. E. H. Keating.

The fancy and staple dry goods firm of Boisseau Frères, Montreal, has suspended payment. The liabilities are \$110,000.

American secret service detectives are still at Montreal, hunting for counterfeitors, with the aid of the local force.

News has come to Edmonton that Inspector Moody's police party crossed the Peace River Pass of the Rockies on December 22.

Reports received at Victoria from Dawson state that five men have been frozen to death near Skagway, and three near Dyea.

There is a probability of the Montreal Park and Island Railway being consolidated with the Montreal Street Railway Company.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee of Montreal proposes to start a huge civic lottery for the purpose of paying the city's debt.

Lieut. March, who had the base of his skull fractured by falling from his sleigh while tandem driving at Kingston, died from his injuries.

A syndicate is being formed in Quebec to purchase Lord Mount-Steven's property opposite the Governor's gardens, to build a large block there.

By the treaty with Abyssinia Great Britain secures another open door and the most-favored-nation treatment in respect to imports and local taxation.

The Montreal Cotton Company intends to extend its plant by the erection of a spinning mill for the manufacture of goods which are now imported.

Evangelist Moody, who is addressing large meetings in Montreal has received a letter enclosing \$395 from a man who had defrauded the Customs of that amount.

Hon. C. H. Mackintosh will leave shortly for England, and during his absence will arrange for the development of properties purchased by the British American Corporation.

The Lang Tanning Company will shortly begin the erection of a tannery in Brierley, which will be the largest in Canada. Three hundred hands will be employed.

A well-made one-dollar American certificate was discovered in Montreal. There is reason to believe that a clever gang of counterfeiters is working in the district.

Mr. H. J. Beemer has asked the Hull City Council for a bonus of \$70,000 for the interprovincial bridge and the Toronto Rubber Co. asks \$40,000 as a bonus for establishing its rubber factory in Hull.

Japan is going to invade the Klondike. It is stated that an army of 5,000 able-bodied laborers is being got together for the gold fields and in a month it will make a descent on Dawson City.

A landslide occurred five miles below the Town of Queenelle, B. C., and buried three miners named Wm. Allen, Joe Rice and Alexander McLean. The slide is 1,000 feet wide, 900 feet long and 25 feet high.

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The Customs Department has decided to send two officers to Skagway and Dyea to furnish information to Canadians going through to the Yukon by that route, and to assist in the carrying out of the customs regulations there.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Barnes, the unsuccessful Liberal candidate in the recent Parliament election in York, has petitioned for a re-count of the votes.

UNITED STATES.

Eighteen dead bodies and 88 missing is now the record of the Pittsburg fire.

The population of Greater New York is 3,438,899, according to an official estimate.

During the last fiscal year the United States exported domestic merchandise to the value of over \$1,032,000,000.

The Luettgen jury at Chicago has brought in a verdict of guilty fixing the penalty at life imprisonment.

The Spanish Minister at Washington is likely to be recalled for having in letters savagely attacked President McKinley.

Kate Gassett, who was arrested in Toronto, charged with stealing a silk dress, etc., has been convicted at Rochester, N.Y., and sent to a reformatory.

Edward Hodgman, the abiding treasurer of the Chicago Building Trades Council, has been arrested in a remote part of the North-West and will be taken back to Chicago.

A court at Topeka, Kas., has decided that a bicycle was exempt from execution under a judgment, being a "tool" essential to a man's profession or occupation.

The New York Municipal Council and Board of Aldermen have passed a resolution condemning the expenditure of \$9,000,000 on State canals, and calling for an investigation.

The Treasury Department at Washington have given a ruling on the importation of furs as wearing apparel. Hereafter muffs, boas, etc., will be duty-free when out of season.

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The result of the Transvaal elections was the return of President Kruger by a majority.

A telegram from San Jose, Guatemala, announces the assassination of President Barrios.

The Spanish Government has decided to send the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII to Havana and thence to New York.

Despatches received from Manila, capital of the Philippine Islands, announce that 200 buildings, some of them of importance, have been destroyed by fire.

GENERAL.

Excellent rains in Northern and Central India have ensured successful spring crops.

British troops have occupied Berekouen and Basbene, in the Borgu country of West Africa.

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BATTLESHIP BLOWN UP.

U. S. WARSHIP MAINE EXPLODES IN HAVANA HARBOR.

The Dead Number About 200 — Sailors Drowned Like Rats — The Explosion Took Place Forward Under the Men's Quarters — Summarizing as to Cause of Catastrophe.

A despatch from Havana says:—The shattered and torn bulk of the United States battleship Maine lies at the bottom of Havana harbour, a tomb for at least 250 of her crew.

She was blown up at 9.40 o'clock on Tuesday night by an explosion well forward under the men's quarters. Her magazine is further back between the coal bunkers. Some of the watch and a few of the officers and crew who were on shore escaped. The explosion which shook the city from end to other created the wildest excitement. All the electric lights were put out by the shock. Fire engines rushed from one direction to another, and no one knew for certain from which direction the explosion came. Some started the report that it was the arsenal others said it was a shell, and it was not until 11 o'clock that the real cause was known.

VESSEL'S APPEARANCE NOW.

The Maine at the time of the explosion, was at anchor about 500 yards from the floating dock. Her steel upper deck forward has been completely lifted and turned over on her starboard side. None of the big guns in the turrets are visible. She is slightly listed to port, and all forward of her massive cranes for unloading ship's boats have completely disappeared. The big funnels are flat upon the twisted and gnarled iron braces and pieces of steel deck. From the funnels aft the ship seems to be intact. She has settled until the water has covered the top of her superstructure, and the stern searchlight and one rapid-firing gun look over the water just below them.

CAUSE OF THE DISASTER.

It is reported that the disaster was due to the explosion of the boiler of the dynamo machine on board the Maine. The first explosion is said to have been caused by over six hundred pounds of gun cotton, and the subsequent explosion is alleged to have been caused by shells and cartridges.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

All the navy, the fire brigade, and the navy physicians were immediately ordered on duty. Stretchers for the use of the wounded were sent to the scene by the fire brigade, the headquarters of the Red Cross Society was called upon to send four stretchers, and men were sent to patrol the scene of the disaster, and pick up the dead and wounded. The Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII, which was anchored close to the Maine, lowered her boats and saved 37 of the crew of the American warship.

WORSE DISASTER PREVENTED.

Lieut.-Commander R. Wainwright, of the Maine, was half undressed at 9.30 o'clock, p.m., and was walking in his cabin, next to that of Captain Sigbee, when the explosion occurred and put out the electric lights. Lieut. Wainwright then lit a match and went to Captain Sigbee's cabin. The captain, it appears, had been thrown from his bed, but was uninjured. They both went on deck, and ordered men to flood 2,500 pounds of gun cotton which were on board. The order was carried out. The men never returned, but Havana was saved from a still more terrible explosion. The large number of deaths reported among the crew is said to be due to the fact that many of them were asleep below at the time of the explosion.

At Union street crossing, while the snow was swirling around the moving company, Carey, and a fellow-convinced, W. O'Connor, from Hamilton, made a dash for liberty. They hurried along Union street, followed by several guards, the balance of the staff hastening with the gang to the prison and giving the alarm. The fleeing men were run down by Officer Gibson on the property of the Sisters of St. Mary-of-the-Lake.

FIRING IN SELF-DEFENCE.

The felons carried an axe and a club, and as Gibson came close upon them they turned and put themselves in defensive attitude. Gibson, in self-defence, pulled his rifle and blazed away, a bullet piercing Carey in the abdomen, and in an instant fellow-guards arrived, and both of the liberty-seekers were secured, and transferred to the prison.

ESCAPED IN THE SNOW.

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MAY BE FATAL.

Carey is seriously, if not fatally, wounded. He had been in prison since June, 1894. His companion, O'Connor, aged 27, was put in prison in July, 1896, for five years, for robbery and assault. Both were robust fellows and would have fought hard for liberty had not Gibson used his gun so effectively.

SPANISH CRUISER IN PERIL.

The Spanish cruiser, Alfonso XIII, was for some time after the explosion in great peril, and her mooring tackles were slackened away, and she was anchored at a greater distance from the burning warship. She then lowered her boats and took part in the work of rescue. The first of the American sailors to reach the Ma-china wharf were swimming. Three sailors who escaped fell senseless just as they reached a place of safety. One of the Maine's officers, who is being cared for at the sanitary headquarters, is seriously wounded. He is very young, and is believed to have been the officer on guard at the time of the disaster.

FLYING PIECES.

Some of the wreckage of the Maine fell on board the City of Washington, and knocked two holes in her deck. The chaplain of the Maine, Rev. Mr. P. Chadwick, went on board the Alfonso XIII, in order to minister to the wounded. A Spanish naval officer said that Captain Sigbee was the last man to abandon the sinking ship, and he remained alongside the wreck as long as it was possible to do anything in the way of rescue.

THE CAPTAIN INTERVIEWED.

Captain Sigbee, interviewed this evening by the correspondent of the Associated Press with reference to the cause of the explosion said:—"I cannot yet determine the cause, but competent investigators will decide whether the explosion was produced from an interior or exterior cause. I cannot say anything until after such an investigation has been made. I will not, and cannot, conscientiously anticipate the decision, nor do I wish to make any unjust estimate of the reason for the disaster."

SURVIVORS AT KEY WEST.

The steamer Olivette, with 62 survivors of the Maine on board, arrived at Key West, Fla., at 10.10 on Wednesday night, seven and a half hours from Havana. Of the number, twenty are wounded—ten seriously and one fatally. Captain Merrill, with Company "A," First Artillery, took possession of