IN OUR GREAT STATE.

THE HAPPENINGS IN MICHIGAN BRIEFLY RELATED.

State Insurance Commissioner Prohibits Underwriters' Policies Being Issued —Dying Man Confesses to Being a Murderer, and Then Recovers.

Underwriters' Insurance Policies Illegal.

Insurance Commissioner Campbell has decided to prohibit the business of underwriting in Michigan, as a violation of the anti-compact and standard policy laws of the state. It is not questioned that such underwriters' agencies and such policy contracts have the effect to prevent open and free competition between such companies at least, and with such concession, the so-called underwriters' or joint policy is clearly unauthorized and illegal in this state. Mr. Campbell says, therefore he finds that such contracts are: 1. Misleading, and deceptive, (though possibly not so intended) and against public policy. 2. Contrary to the standard policy law of the state; and 3. A violation of the anti-compact law. Companies employing such joint contracts are therefore respectfully notified that if their use is continued it will become my duty to revoke their certificates of authority to write insurance in this state.

Confessed a Murder; is now Getting Well

E. G. Veeley, of Bloomingdale, was very ill and his doctor told him he could live but a few days at most. Then Mr. Veeley said: "I have a confession to make." The confession was as follows: "Thirty years ago myself and another man whose name I will not reveal, killed a man at Scott's mill, south of Bloomingdale, for his money. We got only $20 for our trouble and buried the money and have never used a cent of it. After that we took the body of the man and put it in the furnace of the mill and burned it up." Soon after this Veeley began to recover and may now get well.

Murder and Robbery Near Pembine.

Wm. H. Somers, aged 29, an employe of Holmes & Son, was found in a pool of blood near the St. Paul road, at Pembine. A big club, covered with blood, lay three feet away. Somers' skull was crushed in and physicians say he was murdered. He had $300 on his person, which is missing.

MICHIGAN NEWS ITEMS.

The school and Sunday school children of New Haven have donated $8 to the starving Cubans.

Congressman Sam Smith has decided to leave the choice of a postmaster at Holly to a postal card vote.

John Huling, a woodcutter living at Hinchman village, died from injuries received by a tree falling on him.

Wm. Bell, of Ypsilanti, who was bitten by Charles Reinhart's dog at Ann Arbor has recovered $165 damages.

John Crisp, a G. R. & I. passenger brakeman, was instantly killed at Wayland by falling under his train.

Mrs. Sarah Russell, aged 106, of Sterling, has made a large patch work quilt this winter, besides doing household duties.

The body of A. C. Dunton, of Battle Creek, who disappeared from West Branch, Jan. 31, has been found in the woods.

The contract for the new U. of M. law building has been let to Carew & Co., of Detroit, at $49,000. Work begins at once.

W. H. McEnally, a G. A. R. veteran of Williamston, has organized a company of 114 men who are ready to go to war at any time.

Navy department agents visited Bay City to secure options on several of the large tugs there, to be used in towing coal barges in case of war.

The C. & W. M. has a bad washout between Coloma and Watervliet. The Big Four and M. B. H. & C. tracks have been under water near Benton Harbor.

Capitol grange is arranging to call a mass meeting of farmers of Ingham and Eaton counties to induce capitalists to establish a beet sugar factory at Lansing.

Wm. King, aged 30, an unmarried farmer near Hillman, went to town to see a doctor. He got out of his buggy, stepped upon the sidewalk and tumbled over dead.

An unknown dead woman was discovered in the Bruce bayou at Spring Lake. The body had no clothing, except black stockings, and was badly decomposed.

A 3-year-old son of Harry Wright, of Hanover, fell into a cistern and was drowned. The cistern is located beneath a porch, entrance to it being gained through a door near the floor.

Rev. O. D. Taylor, a former Baptist preacher of Saginaw, who was convicted some time ago on charges of embezzlement and fraud, has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment and hard labor at the Jackson state prison.

While pastor of a church in Oregon Taylor inveigled a number of Saginaw people, including several widows, into a land swindle.

The miners at the Monitor and Bay mines in Bay county have reached a settlement with the operators and will return to work at the old scale. The ringleaders in the strike have left for other parts, and the best of feeling prevails between the men remaining and their employers.

Railroad Commissioner Wesselius has asked every railroad company in the state for the number of persons carried on passes during the past year and the number of miles they were carried, his purpose being to show how the average passenger fare might be reduced if there were no deadheads.

New York—William J. Koerner, the newspaper artist, was sentenced to prison for life for the murder of Rose Redgate, his sweetheart, on Sept. 23, 1896. Koerner's attorney will appeal from his conviction.

San Francisco, Cal.—James Curtin, better known as "Spider" Kelly, was seriously, but not fatally, stabbed by "Solly" Smith, the pugilist.

Capetown—Woolf Joel, trustee of the estate of the late Barney Barnato, the South African millionaire, was shot and killed in his office of Johannesburg by a former soldier, named Von Veltheim.

After being on a big spree for a week at Hamilton, Chas. Helmer and Anthony Thompson were found dead, from alcoholism. Helmer's body was found in the road and that of Thompson in Frank Helmer's barn.

It is now said that the proposed aqueduct to supply all the towns from Port Huron to Detroit with pure water from Lake Huron is entirely impracticable. A pipe 20 feet in diameter and 60 miles long would be required.

James E. McBride was convicted in the superior court, at Grand Rapids, of embezzlement in cashing a draft for a client and keeping the money. He is secretary of the middle-of-the-road Populist state central committee.

Archie Mayotte, a Lake Linden saloonist, has returned from Alaska, and says Skaguay is a veritable death trap. From scurvy and spinal disease the death rate is 25 a day. The day prior to his departure 25 deaths occurred.

Twenty men quit work at the Wilkinson mine, near Marquette, as they had not received their pay for some time. This is the new copper mine which is owned by Wallace Kirk, of Chicago. The outlook was very promising.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Carter died at their farm home, near Dimondale, within a few hours of each other. The old couple were 88 years old. They were among the first pioneers of the township and had been married 67 years.

Chas. Montgomery, a clerk in the drug store of Dr. Bunting, of Attica, was found guilty of selling intoxicating liquor and sentenced to pay a fine of $200 and $35 costs or 100 days in the county jail.

Peter Drolet, a Frenchman who was found beside the Chicago & Grand Trunk railroad near Flint with his limbs terribly mangled and in an unconscious condition, has died from his injuries. He was 70 years of age and his home was at Grand Haven.

F. C. Horton, aged 77, and wife, aged 76, of Montgomery, had been married 55 years, and prayed for years that they might not be separated in death. Their prayers were answered, the wife dying in the morning and the husband in the afternoon of the same day.

The Michigan Central and C. S. & M. tracks between Bay City and Saginaw have been submerged and washed out in several places by the floods and will require large sums for repairs. The mines also will have to spend a lots of money pumping out water from shafts.

The body of an unknown woman was found in Grand river, near Grand Haven. The body had apparently been in the water several months. Both arms were gone as well as a part of the head. The only clothing worn were shoes and stockings and a black corset.

The action of the Warren M. E. Sunday school board in deposing Miss Mio Chipchase as a teacher, because she danced, is stirring the whole town not only in Warren, but around the state. Letters offering support and praising her stand have come. The presiding elder will be appealed to.

A man killed by a Grand Trunk train at Charlotte was identified as Geo. Phillips, a painter and paper hanger. Phillips had worked in Grand Ledge nearly all winter. He was addicted to the drink habit, and was intoxicated on the evening of the accident. When found he had five cents in his pocket.

Some more new Michigan postmasters: Arbela, Tuscola county, Geo. W. Mathews; Hammond, Presque Isle county, Catherine Violintine; Melita, Arenac county, Jesse A. Hamlin; New Baltimore, Macomb county, Robert A. Heath; Pomona, Manistee county, Leo L. Duppey; Richie, Alcona county, Robert Hastings.

The U. S. Senate has passed a resolution introduced by Senator Burrows, calling on the secretary of war for information as to the cost of improving the Saginaw river with a view to securing a 16-foot channel 150 feet wide from the head of the river to Third street, thence a channel 200 feet wide to the Saginaw bay.

The state military board has received a request from the war department that each company of Michigan troops be divided into squads of eight men each, in charge of a corporal, and that complete lists of these divisions be reported at once to the secretary of war, thus insuring getting the troops out in the shortest possible order.

The supreme court has decided that the law of 1893 which empowered each prison board to control its own institution, prevents the interference of the joint prison board and Gov. Pingree with the contract made by the Ionia prison board to furnish the services of 300 convicts for 10 years to Alfred Wallerstein & Co., shirt manufacturers.

Mrs. Elizabeth Babcock, residing near Scandon, died, aged 100 years. In December she celebrated her 100th birthday by entertaining at dinner a host of friends. She was a pensioner of the war of 1812 and had a vivid recollection of that affair. Mrs. Babcock was a very small woman, but all her children are giants. Her eldest son weighs 300 pounds, measures six feet six inches in hight and wears a number 14 boot.

Some new Michigan postmasters: Oxford, A. Sunderland, 2d; Vassar, W. H. Stark; Mendon, W. P. McCoy; Leslie, G. W. Stevens; Milford, Chas. Crawford; Mason, C. W. Browne; Mancelona, C. L. Bailey; Fremont, Geo. E. Hilton; Marine City, W. Baird; Carsonville, Colin C. McGregor; Evart, G. W. Minchin; Plymouth, L. C. Hall; Palmyra, Wm. H. Rogers; Houghton, Richard B. Lang; Manistique, Elmer N. Orr; White Pigeon, Fred C. Hotchin; Waucedah, Louis N. Lanthier; Baraga, Maggie McIntosh.

Oren Conklin, of Oxford, became stone blind while asleep.

Marion, Ind.—The stamping department of the Wilson & McCulloch fruit jar factory burned, throwing 300 people out of employment. Loss $35,000.

Grand Forks, N. D.—The Minneapolis and Northern Elevator Company's large grain elevator at Lakota burned. The contents included 18,000 bushels of wheat and 5,000 bushels of flax.

Carlinville, Ill.—William Clark of St. Louis was run over and killed by a train.

Danville, Ind.—The flouring mill of C. A. Garrison & Son burned. Loss $10,000.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

The president has asked the House naval committee to report a bill for the reorganization of the personnel of the navy, the intention being to increase the number of naval officers; to remove the cause of strife between line and staff officers; making engineering officers line officers, and training line officers in engineering duties, and also shortening to four the years the term for naval academy cadets at the school when they afterwards take two years' cruise training.

Republican leaders in the House are pressing for an early adjournment, and it is said that their present course meets full approval of the president. All save three of the appropriation bills have gone to the Senate. The post-office bill has been taken up in the House and the appropriations and naval committees are working daily to get the last two bills, the general deficiency and naval, ready to report. The Democrats generally favor an early adjournment, although there is not unanimity among them on this point. Neither is there complete harmony on the Republican side of the House. Many of the Republicans believe congress should remain in session until the Cuban question is finally and effectually cleared. But they would hardly go to the extent of opposing the wish of the leaders and administration. It is admitted that the question of carrying out this program will depend entirely upon the attitude of the Senate.

The House naval affairs committee has voted unanimously to authorize the construction of six new torpedo boats and three torpedo boat destroyers.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of T. V. Powderly as commissioner of immigration.

A resolution to provide for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, was reported to the Senate by the commit ee on foreign relations and was placed on the calendar without debate.

The House Democrats agreed in caucus that congress must not adjourn until it is known what the administration intends to do about Cuba.

Nearly a Score of Lives Lost at a Fire.

The worst fire that has occurred in Chicago in several years destroyed the building at the corner of Wabash avenue and Jackson boulevard, and nearly a score of lives were lost.

The death list will reach 19, and may exceed that figure. The injured number about 30.

The Conover Piano Co. occupied the first, second and third stories of the building, the other tenants including the Presbyterian Board of Publication and the Sweet, Wallach Co., dealers in photographic supplies, the latter firm on the sixth floor. It was here that the fire broke out. The floor was stored with chemicals and according to some who escaped the entire floor was swept with flames in five minutes after the fire broke out. Nearly 300 girls were employed by this firm and when the fire broke out a panic ensued, many of the unfortunate women being trampled under the feet of their comrades in their frantic efforts to escape. Cut off from escape by the elevators and the stairways, people penned in the burning building began jumping from the windows, and though the firemen and others held nets and canvas, many were crushed on the stone sidewalks. According to eye-witnesses, as many as 10 jumped from the top floor and others were seen shortly after to fall back into the flames. The entire six-story building and contents was a mass of ruins within 20 minutes after the fire was discovered.

THE NEWS CONDENSED.

The London Pall Mall Gazette states Mr. Gladstone is suffering greatly and that "his physical powers and heart's action have become gravely enfeebled."

Rep. Grosvenor, of Ohio, denies that the President desires an early adjournment of congress and brands as ridiculous the statement that he has fixed a date for adjournment, or that he wishes to do so.

Preparations have been made by Director Walcott, of the U. S. geological survey, for an extended exploration of the geological, topographical and other features of Alaska. Congress has appropriated $20,000 for the purpose.

The Holland submarine torpedo boat has proven a success. She ran a quarter of a mile beneath the waters of Staten Island sound at a speed of 10 knots an hour. She behaved splendidly and responded to every movement of her rudders.

Nine indictments for embezzlement were returned against John J. Shipherd, of Cleveland. They charge him with having embezzled about $150,000 from Frank De Haas Robison. Shipherd was formerly well-known as a capitalist and street railway promoter.

In consequence of the direct appeal of the sultan of Turkey Russia has consented to withdraw the demand she had made for the $4,750,000 arrears in the Russo-Turkish war indemnity which his majesty at first insisted to be paid from the Graeco-Turkish war indemnity. This fact, it is alleged, foreshadows Turkey's acceptance of Prince George of Greece, the candidate of the czar, as governor of the island of Crete.

Hon. Blanche K. Bruce, register of the U. S. treasury, died at Washington. He was of African descent and was born in slavery, but he received a college education and next to Frederick Douglass has been regarded for years as the leader of his race. He was elected U. S. senator from Mississippi in 1875, has been a member of every national Republican national convention since 1868, and has held several responsible positions under state and national governments.

Sir Henry Bessemer, the celebrated inventor of Bessemer steel, has died in London.

Findlay, Ohio—"Butch" McCoy killed his brother, "Red" McCoy.

Columbus, Ohio—Charles Baldwin stabbed his brother William to death.

Charlton, Iowa—O. Redburg, a merchant, committed suicide by cutting his throat.

St. Louis, Mo.—Rev. K. Jackson, a Baptist minister, well known in the Creve Coeur district, brutally assaulted his wife because she refused to accompany him to church.

Montgomery, W. Va.—Miss Chloe Shrewsburg of Maldon committed suicide.

WAR CRY IS HEARD.

PRESIDENT WILL INTERVENE IN CUBA VERY SOON.

Spain Will Have to Fight or Back Down —Report of Maine Court of Inquiry Complete and Shows the Disaster was Caused by an External Explosion.

The weary weeks of waiting, in a state of nerve-trying patience, which has been the recent lot of patriotic Americans seems about to be rewarded by a definite move on the part of the administration to bring the Cuban situation to a head. The indications at Washington are that President McKinley has outlined a plan of action looking to intervention on behalf of the poor Cubans to bring them the independence for which they have so long prayed, suffered and fought. It is also apparent that the President's plans are meeting with opposition in his own cabinet. The financial end is using all its influence to moderate war spirit and preserve friendly relations with Spain, while other departments appear willing to meet quite another issue. Despite this the President has determined not to be led aside from his orig inal purpose. He is provoked by the tactics of the Spanish legation in spreading the story in subsidized papers that the United States is regarding the autonomy proposition favorably. Nevertheless it is a fact that some members of the cabinet are for autonomy or peace at any price. If the President decides to go before congress taking such a stand, he is assured of the support of congress. Intervention would naturally mean war, and it is the only pretext yet apparent upon which we are likely to come to blows with Spain, and both nations are preparing with furious haste for a final and fatal conflict. Spain is a noisy, good-natured old fellow and slow to anger. When she is busily engaged in forging thunderbolts it is reasonably surmised that lightning may strike at any time.

If a nation has the right to intervene in the affairs of a neighboring state and one of its colonies, in the name of humanity, the United States has such a justification in the present case. The United States is in undisputed supremacy on this side of the Atlantic and no European power would gain anything but hard knocks by joining Spain against us.

The Maine disaster is an incident by itself and it must be considered separately from the causes which seem to justify a forcible intervention to end the war in Cuba. Hence, the government of the United States must establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the Maine was blown up by outside agencies. When that is proven the charge of hostility must be laid against the Spanish government. If Spain disavows the dastardly outrage, an attempt to discover the guilty person or persons, the Maine incident is not a pretext for war, but it will justify a claim for damages. Spain would undoubtedly prefer to pay any reasonable indemnity rather than resort to a war which is sure to be disastrous in the end.

From what is known, and divested of all the technicalities, the report of the court of inquiry first will deal with the testimony of officers and the surviving members of the crew of the Maine on the possibility of an accident. It will be shown that Capt. Sigsbee and his subordinates exercised every precaution known to experts in the care of modern men-of-war and are entirely blameless. Complete exoneration of the officers of the Maine will set aside the accident theory of the Spanish investigations. It will be shown that the explosion which destroyed the Maine primarily was from the outside. The breaking in two of the vessel and her listing to starboard will locate the original blow on the port side. The quantity of explosives used so destructively cannot be known, having all been brought into Havana harbor surreptitiously, yet the connection of Spanish officials with the disaster has not been established. The report will be free from comment or speculation as to the direct responsibility for the catastrophe. Following the finding of facts will be the testimony upon which the administration may base conclusions not ventured by the board. The failure to discover the guilty persons will be an embarrassment in handling the question.

Whether a demand for reparation will follow the report of the court of inquiry or not, the recognition of Cuban independence, or armed intervention, must be decided upon. Congress and the people already are impatient with the delays of diplomatic negotiations. It is feared that too much time has been frittered away in considering promises of reform, offers of enlarged autonomy and pledges looking to pacification. The complete retirement of Spain from Cuba and the recognition of the justice of our demands for independ ence from the people of the island of Cuba would avert war in their judgement, but they have no idea that Spain will be tractable in either case.

President McKinley has called in one of the ablest international lawyers in congress to aid him in preparing his messages on the Cuban situation, and on the Maine incident. The lawyer is Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the senate. This unusual course would indicate that President was due to his desire to cover every possible point of international custom, and to avoid all chance of giving other nations a reason for protesting against American intervention. Senator Davis is recognized as one of the foremost international lawyers in the country. It is safe to assert, therefore, that the briefs which he is preparing for the President will make the President's position impregnable and one which he can hold against the world.

A high officer of the navy who has intimate knowledge of its affairs, said: "The greatest difficulty is being experienced by the government in procuring ships from abroad, but it is hard at work. Spain is rushing work on her war vessels. The Pelayo, its largest and best battleship, is practically ready for sea, and its second biggest ship, the Carlos V., will be ready in a fortnight or three weeks. The officials of the navy department are doing everything in their power to prepare for any possible conflict."

The cruisers bought of Brazil have been named New Orleans and Albany.

Court of Inquiry Report Completed.

After a month's investigation the causes responsible for the destruction of the American warship Maine in the harbor of Havana, on the night of Wednesday, Feb. 15, the court of inquiry convened by Rear-Admiral Sicard to ascertain the facts, has finished its work. The full report was brought ashore at Key West, from the Iowa, on the torpedo boat Dupont, in custody of Judge Advocate Marix, accompanied by an orderly from the Iowa and formally turned over, in accordance with naval regulations, to the officer who had convened the court. Lieut.-Com. Marix went to Admiral Sicard's room with his orderly, bearing a canvas bag 20 inches long, 8 inches wide and 8 inches deep. It weighed not less than 40 pounds. Rear Admiral Sicard, Lieut.-Com. Marix and Commander West spent over three hours behind closed doors and then the report was taken to the gunboat Vesuvius for safe keeping until it should be conveyed to Washington the next day.

Will Not be Made Public This Week.

Secretary Long received a telegram from Admiral Sicard this morning saying that the report of the board of inquiry reached Key West, and that it would be forwarded at once to Washington. It is expected to reach there by Thursday. The President desires to have reasonable time to consider the facts set forth in the report, which is a voluminous document, containing a transcript of all the evidence secured by the board. To enable him to fully digest for himself the testimony he wants at least three days.

The President is extremely anxious that every phase of the findings and the evidence shall be carefully considered before he submits to congress any of the information contained within it. To this end he consulted some of the leaders of the Senate and asked their aid in an informal way. He pointed out that if both houses of congress were in session when the report reached him it would be difficult to explain any delay in sending it to congress. If, on the other hand, there was no session of the Senate on Friday or Saturday, it would accompanying it may matter to withhold any information concerning its contents until Monday. Senators consulted by the President promised to bring about an adjournment from Thursday to Monday in order that he might not be embarrassed by having his hand forced before he was ready.

Another Attempt at Autonomy.

News has been received from authentic sources that the autonomist government, backed by many municipalities at Havana and the government at Madrid, is now playing its last card to secure peace in Cuba and prevent intervention on the part of the United States.

Gen. Pando's great effort to subdue the insurgent forces in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Puerto Principe has proven a failure of the worst kind. He was not only not able to win a decisive battle, but the insurgents under Gens. Gomez and Garcia passed through the famous Jucaro-Moron trocha and into Santa Clara province and finally turned Gen. Pando's flank. This caused the Spaniards to give up the campaign in disgust and it is now proposed to try to coax the insurgents to accept autonomy. Gen. Gomez, Gen. Garcia, President Masso and his cabinet and a large portion of the insurgent army are all within a comparatively small territory in the eastern portion of the island and Pando has ordered a practical armistice in that section and is endeavoring to have a personal conference with Gen. Garcia. President Masso and his cabinet are there, and even with Gen. Gomez, if possible, and to make them a formal offer of autonomy, according to the program drawn up by the left or radical wing of that party. This offer includes, in return for the ending of the insurrection, the disarmament and shipping of all volunteers, commercial treaties to be concluded without Spanish interference; a maximum sum of $2,000,000 annually to be paid to Spain by Cuba, as the latter's nominal suzerain; no insurgents to be shot or imprisoned on account of the past, the release of the testimony upon which the administration may base conclusions not ventured by the board. The failure to discover the guilty persons will be an embarrassment in handling the question.

While the Spanish officials seem confident that this offer will be accepted, it is believed by those who know the Cuban leaders and the motives which actuate them that they will refuse point blank to consider them. The general opinion seems to be that the Pando conference will in any event be the end of autonomy and the most sanguine assert that it will make the intervention of the United States impressive. Even those who favor autonomy admit that the intervention of the United States will be necessary to prevent outrages which will disgrace civilization and also to protect American citizens in Cuba. Under the circumstances news from the scene of the conference is awaited with the greatest anxiety.

A regiment of troops to be called "The President's Own" is being formed at Canton, O., McKinley's home.

The Fern has returned to Havana from Key West to relieve the Montgomery as a home for the officers engaged in supervising the wrecking operations on the Maine.

The Spanish government has made strong representations to the state department against the assembling of a large fleet of American warships at Key West, the war preparations, and the influence with these might have on the approaching elections in Cuba.

The cruiser Amazonas was formally transferred to U. S. naval officers at Gravesend, Eng., the Brazilian flag being hauled down and the Stars and Stripes run up; after which she was coaled, took on a portion of the crew of the San Francisco and the two war dogs then prepared to sail for American waters.

[6A friend of President McKinley who has talked with him repeatedly in the past week declares that the President expects war. He anticipates developments during the week which will force the issue. The President, according to this gentlemen, does not desire war, but he knows that peace without dishonor is a remote probability.

Uncle Sam has purchased the big steamyacht Mayflower at New York. She was taken immediately to the Brooklyn navy yards, and will be armed with rapid-fire guns and will be used as a torpedo boat destroyer, should occasion arise.

THE WAR SITUATION.

The government has made no further purchases of warships, but its negotiations in that line have been productive of at least one important result, namely, in establishing that unless the battleship Gen. O'Higgins becomes the property of the United States it will not be sold at all. Practically the same conditions prevails as to the Argentine armored cruiser San Martino.

It is said the Washington authorities are stirred up over Spain's intention to reinforce her squadron in Cuban waters and the sending of a second torpedo boat flotilla from Cadiz. This government will, it is understood, give intimation that the ordering of the flotilla cannot be regarded as a friendly act and if the boats are sent to Porto Rico or Cuba Uncle Sam will send a flying squadron to the coasts of Spain.

A semi-official statement has been given out at Madrid advancing the government view that a demand for indemnity based on Spanish responsibility for the Maine explosion would be indignantly repelled by Spain. The report of the court of inquiry into the Maine's wreck shows that it was caused by an internal explosion, and Spain will stand by that report.

A new squadron has been formed to be stationed at Hampton Roads which is considered one of the best strategical points on the Atlantic coast. The battleships Massachusetts and Texas and three cruisers, probably the Brooklyn, Columbia and Minneapolis, will comprise the squadron at present. The splendid monitor Puritan is to be sent to Key West together with the Mainard steamer Dixie, and will still give Admiral Sicard one of the greatest fleet assembled in American waters since the civil war. The Helena and the Bancroft are now on their way to Key West and the big battleship Oregon will be hurried from San Francisco around the Horn as quickly as possible.

Uncle Sam has purchased two more foreign war ships. One is the Carlo Alberto as an Italian armored cruiser of 6,500 tons, 325 feet long, 59 feet in the beam, and with a maximum draught of 22 feet 11 inches, and was built in Genoa in 1896. She has a speed of 20 knots; her Italian complement is 464 men; carries 12 65inch quick firing guns, six 4.7 inch, two 2.9 inch, 10 2.2 inch, 10 1.4 inch guns and two Maxims; and has five torpedo tubes. The other is a torpedo corvette built for Brazil and recently launched by the Krupps at Kiel, is of the most modern make, both in construction and armament; is estimated to steam 22 knots; 1,030 tons displacement; 259 feet in length; 10 feet 2 inches draught; the armament consists of two 4inch quick firing guns, six 2.2-inch guns, four 4-inch guns, with three torpedo tubes.

A Washington special says: At a cabinet meeting at which the Cuban situation was discussed from every point there was much controversy over Minister Polo's proposition for the amplification of the autonomy plan. This arrangement contemplates the withdrawal of Spains' troops from the island, full pardon of the insurgents, the election of a native Cuban legislature, and in fact the complete surrender of Spanish dominion in nearly ever respect except the withdrawal of Spanish sovereignty. In favor of the concessions in this plan were Secretaries Long and Bliss, Atty.-Gen. Griggs and Postmaster-Gen. Gary. Against it were Secretaries Alger and Wilson. Secretary Gage was absent. When this division in the cabinet became known several prominent Republican members of congress called on the President to protest against further consideration of the autonomy plan. Any compromise with Spain, it was held, would result only in continued revolutions and disorder, and Cubans would accept nothing short of independence. The President did not commit himself. It is expected the developments of the day will cause a general commotion throughout the country, and that the cabinet officials favoring autonomy, in response to public sentiment, may yield to the President's original desire for the recognition of Cuban independence.

THE MARKETS.

LIVE STOCK.

	Cattle	Sheep	Lambs	Hogs
New York—				
Best grades	$4 80@5 10	$4 75	$6 25	$4 45
Lower grades	3 50@4 80	4 00	5 25	4 20
Chicago—				
Best grades	4 85@5 10	4 75	5 65	4 10
Lower grades	3 50@4 75	3 50	4 40	3 85
Detroit—				
Best grades	4 00@4 25	4 75	5 60	4 00
Lower grades	3 00@3 80	3 25	4 50	3 80
Buffalo—				
Best grades	3 75@4 00	4 80	5 80	4 20
Lower grades	2 75@3 60	3 50	5 00	4 00
Cleveland—				
Best grades	3 75@4 00	4 40	5 25	4 00
Lower grades	2 50@3 65	3 25	4 00	3 60
Cincinnati—				
Best grades	4 00@4 00	4 50	5 50	4 00
Lower grades	3 50@4 25	3 25	4 25	3 80
Pittsburg—				
Best grades	4 70@4 95	5 00	5 85	4 10
Lower grades	3 50@4 50	3 65	4 75	3 95

GRAIN, ETC.

	Wheat, No 2 red	Corn, No 2 mix	Oats, No 2 white
New York	$1 01 @1 01½	36 @36¼	32 @32¾
Chicago	1 02@1 02½	28 @28¾	30@30½
***Detroit**	97 @ 97	29 @29¾	30@30½
Toledo	94 @94½	37 @37¾	28 @28
Cincinnati	96@ 96¾	31 @31¾	29@29¾
Cleveland	97 @ 97	29 @29¾	29@29
Pittsburg	98 @ 98	32 @32	30@30
Buffalo	98 @ 98	32 @32	30@30

*Detroit—Hay, No 1 timothy, $8.00 per ton. Potatoes, 70c per bu. Apples, $2.50@3.00 per bbl. Dressed poultry—Turkeys, 8c; chickens, 8c; ducks, 8c. Eggs, strictly fresh, 10c per doz. Butter, dairy, 14c per lb; creamery, 20c.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Neither peace nor war reports have changed the course of business. Orders for more than $21,000,000 gold from Europe have blocked any drift toward stringency in raising the treasury reserve. Receipts of about $1,100,000 per day have kept up check any unusual demand for currency. While exports of products have continued at a rate considerably above 1897, and the demand for products of the great industries shows steady expansion. Prompt action by congress has removed all fear of embarrassment through conflicting purposes at Washington. The country is thus practically ready for war, while ready for peace, and without waste of time, while frankly assuring everybody that it is ready for peaceful settlement and hopes that its preparations may prove unnecessary. The best reports as to distribution of spring lines come from the central west and northwest.

Washington—The receipts from customs March 16 amounted to $1,319,737. This is the highest point by nearly $365,000 that the customs has reached since the new tariff act went into effect about eight months ago.

Sioux City, Iowa—James Doughty has been appointed receiver of the Home Savings Bank. There exists some uneasiness among the bank officials, caused by the threatened withdrawal of $50,000 school funds.

Waterford, Pa.—The Benson Bank, established by the late Judge William Benson, has suspended business.

WOMAN'S FATE.

From the Record, Bushnell, Ill.

No woman is better able to speak to others regarding "woman's fate" than Mrs. Jacob Weaver, a well known and highly respected lady resident of this city. She had suffered, recovered from the illness which kept her for months much of the time during the last few years past, and says her recovery is due entirely to the well known remedy, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Mrs. Weaver is fifty-six years old, and has lived in Bushnell nearly thirty years. She is of unquestioned veracity and well established reputation. The story of her recovery is interesting. She says:

"I suffered for five or six years with the trouble that comes to women at this time of my life. The suffering I endured was unbearable much of the time to do my own work, and suffered beyond my power to describe. I was downhearted and melancholy.

"I took many different medicines, in fact I took nearly all that were, but nothing seemed to do me any good. One day I read about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and decided to try them. Friends recommended them highly. I made up my mind to try them, and sent to Lennox in March for a box and was benefited before I had taken a box and half. I used three boxes more and was entirely cured. I have not been bothered with any troubles since I began taking the pills."

Mrs. Jacob Weaver.

"I have recommended the pills to many women who were afflicted as I suffered. They are the only thing that helped me in the trial that comes to so many women at my age."

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of October, A.D., 1897.

O. G. Wilcox, *Notary Public.*

When woman is passing beyond the age of motherhood, it is a crisis in her life. Then, if ever, proper medical advice should be exercised. The attendant sufferings will disappear and buoyant health will follow if Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are used.

These pills exert a powerful influence in restoring the system to its proper condition. They contain in a condensed form all the elements necessary to give new life and blood to the blood.

Electric Moonlight.

In the new library of Columbia university, New York, a large hall several feet in diameter is suspended in the rotunda, directly under the center of the cupola or dome. Around the perihery of the upper part of the rotunda a number of electric arc lights are placed, and their light is thrown directly upon the great ball, which is painted white. The lamps are so placed that their light does not directly reach the lower part of the room. The hall acts like the moon, and diseminates the light through the room. The effect is very fine, but it is, of course, far from economical.

STOP IT NOW!

Stop It Quickly, Just the Same as Did Mr. Charles H. Hoffman, of 132 Ten Eyck Street, Jackson.

If you have a pain in your back, stop it! A lame back, stop it! An aching back, stop it! Do you want to know how? Let us tell you! In the first place, never stop to rid yourself of pain without knowing the cause. If pain or ache exist there is reason for it. Find out the reason and get rid of it. Strike at pain as will blow with the right weapon, and its allies, pain and ache, will flee like chaff before the wind. To get right down to fact, backache is indicative of kidney trouble. Many spy placed there by nature; listen to his warnings and take up the weapon, strike before disease is reckoned with allies that cure not be conquered by it, such as Bright's disease. Let us introduce to you this weapon! Let us prove its superiority to all others! Here is a blow it struck:

Mr. Charles H. Hoffman is a fireman on the M. C. R. R., and resides at 132 Ten Eyck Street, Jackson, Mich. He says: "I have suffered for a long time from a kidney and bladder disorder which has at times rendered me incapable of work; have been at the hospital for my complaint and discharged from there as cured, but the old complaint has invariably come back again. Some time ago I heard of Doan's Kidney Pills, and after taking them, with a most gratifying result. Urinary complaints which bothered me greatly are very much improved, and the pain I suffered in my back has entirely left me, my general condition is much improved. I would not be without Doan's Kidney Pills. I think others should know what a valuable remedy it is."

For sale by all dealers, price 50 cents. Mailed by Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the U. S. Remember the name, *Doan's*, and take no other.

Artist—How much do you think that picture of mine is worth, visitor? I have no idea of the cost of artist's materials.

Visitor—Oh, about a dollar and a half out: it is necessary to "blow in" a good deal.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our trade mark.

Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has been used done now for the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is "the kind you have always bought," and bears the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the Wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company, of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897. SAMUEL PITCHER, M. D.

Englishman—I have no time to waste fighting a duel, Frenchman—It will only take two seconds.

$100 Reward, $100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials.

Address F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists 75c.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

The Bible offers no premium on laziness or improvidence.

Beauty is Blood Deep.

Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascarets, Candy Cathartic cleans your blood and keeps it clean, by stirring up the liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin today to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sallow complexion by using Cascarets—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10c, 25c, 50c.

It's a hard blow to a town to have a systems strike it.

Smoke Sledge Cigarettes, 10c per box.

Painting is now done by compressed air.