

demand for the payment of a small indemnity for the arrest of British Police Inspector Barnes, expired at midnight.

**HAVANA, Feb. 27.**—The following is a synopsis of the important and long anticipated proclamation of Captain General Weyler to the insurgents.

The captain general proclaims that he allows the rebels in the province of Pinar del Rio and Havana fifteen days from the date of the proclamation to surrender. Those who do so will not be subjected to molestation. But small bands of insurgents in these provinces which do not surrender within the given period, will, at the expiration of that period be treated as bandits. Detachments of civil guards, reinforced by the civil guards of the province of Santiago de Cuba and the province of Puerto Principe, have orders to form lists, at their respective towns, of all persons who have joined the rebels, and their property will be confiscated. The property of those who openly aided the rebels in raids will also be confiscated. Towns in the western part of the island are authorized to organize corps of guerrillas and all officeholders on leave of absence will be relieved, if, after eight days from the date of proclamation, they have not returned to their posts. Petroleum and other inflammable articles, after the date of proclamation, can no longer be sold in small unguarded towns.

Admiral Navarro has returned from a cruise of inspection along the coast, during which the gunboat *Alerta*, bombarded the insurgents at Cabañas and at Bahía Honda, two ports in the province of Pinar del Rio, recently attacked by the enemy.

Jose Detancourt, an insurgent leader, recently captured by the Spaniards, has been tried by court-martial and sentenced to death. The insurgents have destroyed two railroad culverts between Cabanas and Union de Reyes, the province of Matanzas.

According to official announcements Gomez and Maceo have been trying to effect a junction, but so far failed on account of being closely pressed by the troops. Maceo is said to be in the vicinity of the city of Matanzas. It is said he has planned to move southward in the same direction as Gomez, who is described as being south of Jovellanos (Bamba) between Colon and Matanzas.

**BROOKLYN, N. Y., Feb. 27.**—Two little girls lost their lives and two men were injured in a fire which partly destroyed the big double tenement at No. 158 Pruspect street, Brooklyn, last night. The origin of the fire is unknown. The loss will not reach more than \$2,500.

**ST. LOUIS, Feb. 27.**—A Republic special from New York reads: A cablegram from Havana says: A reckless massacre of inoffensive persons has occurred at Guatao, ten miles from here, and the county is in a state of abject terror. The people are fleeing from their homes in panic and in many cases are afraid of murder. They are leaving their homes uncared for and are taking sick members of their families out of their doors and hurrying them away. Every imaginable kind of vehicle is being utilized to reach Havana if possible. The refugees report a wholesale massacre in their village last Saturday. It followed im-

mediately upon the retreat of a small body of rebels, certainly not over forty men, who had met a considerable Spanish force at Punta Brava, and had retired after some firing. The insurgents withdrew along the road to Guatao, and without waiting to load any armed men, the Spaniards immediately began firing, promiscuously shooting down unarmed and peaceful citizens in all directions. They then proceeded to massacre the few inhabitants without mercy.

**LIMA, Peru, via Galveston, Tex.**— [Copyright 1896 by Associated Press.] The government has ordered the preparation of a resolution which will be submitted to congress, providing for the registration of Protestant marriages. This is the result of lengthy diplomatic action in which the United States government and the government of Great Britain have taken part.

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.**—The order of the postmaster general, issued in June, 1893, forbidding the use of the mails for the transmission of specimen germs of cholera or other disease tissues, was modified by Postmaster-General Wilson today so as to allow admission of such germs for transmission to a United States, state or municipal laboratory. This will be allowed, however, only when the germs are inclosed in mailing packages constructed in accordance with strict specifications now promulgated.

**MANAGUA, Feb. 28.**—A government gunboat threw ten shells into the town of Momotombo on Lake Managua, which had declared for the insurgents. The inhabitants fled. The town of Naranjo has been taken by the government force, which is now advancing on Leon.

**PITTSBURG, Feb. 29.**—A one cent sale is the cause of a \$10,000 damage suit entered by Joseph A. Wright against Bailey Hobson, who keeps a confectionary store. On last Tuesday giving away Wright's little girl bought a candy rooster for a cent at Hobson's store. The child became sick and is wasting away and threatened with paralysis. The remains of the rooster, which she had partly eaten, were found to contain gypsum or plaster of Paris. The doctors have been unable to remove this substance from the child's stomach. The stuff is absolutely indigestible. The rooster was made principally of gypsum and coated with a little sugar. The child may die. Physicians say if she lives the girl's health will remain permanently wrecked. Hobson is charged with criminal negligence in selling such stuff and will also, it is said, be prosecuted under a stringent pure food law issued by the last legislature.

**VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 29.**—The last week of January of this year will long be remembered by residents of the Australian colonies by reason of the fact that it witnessed the most terrible gales and floods ever known on the Queensland coast. A large number of vessels were wrecked and entire villages destroyed, the damage ashore alone being estimated at half a million pounds sterling. The loss of property at sea was not so great as that ashore, but the loss of life by incidental marine disasters was even greater. Townsville, a small city on the northeast of Queensland, seemed to be the

center of the storm, not a town or a vessel in the harbor escaping. Rose Island, a short distance away, was also flooded and many lives lost in attempts to reach the mainland in small boats. The damage wrought by the hurricane in Townsville harbor alone is estimated at 250,000 pounds, this forcluding damage to water front property. On Rose island many houses were swept away from their foundations. At Rose island there was furious wind which upset a rescue boat and necessitated, Mr. Guinness, Gertrude Rowe, the elder Miss Rowe, and a boy named Willy Wallace were drowned. A housemaid in Judge Chubb's employ, while wading toward a punt, was washed off her feet by the current and drowned. Sandy Walker was drowned while trying to cross Victoria bridge, where there was six feet of water on the rails. Many steamers were overdue at different points along the coast and it is feared they have been wrecked.

**CHICAGO, Feb. 29.**—Three of a family of eight are dead and the others dying is the frightful result of the escape of coal gas in the residence of Fred Stueckel, a farmer living a few miles southwest of Chicago Heights, near Clete, Will county. Physicians attending the family say the mother and four of the Stueckel children will die. The father, the eldest daughter and his four-year-old child are already dead.

**NEW YORK, Feb. 29.**—A dispatch to the Herald from Paris says: A startling and unexpected solution of the Panama canal problem is presented as a possibility of the near future. This is in the form of the consolidation of the Panama Canal company with the Nicaraguan Canal company.

**NEW YORK, Feb. 29.**—A dispatch to the Herald from St. Petersburg says: The refusal of the Italian government to allow M. Leonoff and his friends to land at Massowan and the orders given to the Italian fleet to watch the ship carrying them, have excited interest here. M. Leonoff approached the Italian government on the pretext that he represented the Red Cross society. The director of that society here emphatically denies that M. Leonoff in any way represents his society.

**NEW YORK, Feb. 29.**—A dispatch to the Herald from Rome says: King Humbert is to visit Naples to be present at the emancipation of the troops leaving for Abyssinia tonight (Saturday.) A great patriotic demonstration is being arranged to welcome him. There is absolutely no news from the seat of war. General Heuser is confident that a vigorous, prompt offensive movement will shortly be made.

**CONSTANTINOPLE, via Sofia, Bulgaria, Feb. 29.**—The police and military authorities have been taking steps some time past to get at the roots of a widespread conspiracy with headquarters in this city and branches in many parts of the Ottoman empire. Over two hundred Armenians and a number of Turks have been arrested. The Turkish officials claim the arrests are made simply as a precaution against hostile manifestations against the sultan, Abdul Hamid, upon his visit to Popkapou palace, Stambul quarter, today, the occasion being the Madrama