

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Madrid, April 13, 3:30 a.m.—As a result of a long and important cabinet council held last night, the Spanish war office is actively engaged in fortifying and manning the Mediterranean islands belonging to Spain, and in placing other portions of the kingdom in a state of defense.

It is understood that instructions have been cabled to Captain General Blanco to carry the suspension of hostilities into practical effect, "according to circumstances in each district."

The cabinet refuses to recognize the right of the United States to intervene in Cuba.

London, April 13.—A special dispatch from Rome announces that the pope has again telegraphed to Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, begging him to use his influence with the other sovereigns, in behalf of peace between the United States and Spain.

The Spanish premier, Senor Sagasta, in an interview this morning, said, according to a special dispatch from Madrid, that he thought the powers could not do more than they have already done in the way of intervention.

The afternoon papers of this city unanimously express the opinion that both the United States and Spain are heading straight for war. There is also a disposition to blame President McKinley for his alleged indecision.

Madrid, April 13.—The cabinet meeting lasted five hours and it is said was mainly devoted to the consideration of President McKinley's message to Congress on the Cuban question.

When the ministers adjourned an official note was issued setting forth the views of the government. It is variously commented upon and interpreted in newspaper circles. In brief, the note sets forth that the cabinet has granted an extraordinary credit for war purposes and has incidentally increased the grant for the account of the artillery of Porto Rico. The minister of the interior, Senor Capdepon, gave the official version of the events here on Sunday and Monday and also made a report of the occurrence in some of the provincial towns.

Irwin, Pa., April 13.—Last night's fire almost totally destroyed the immense plant of the Pennsylvania Plate Glass company. The only building of the big group of structures that remains standing is a small storehouse.

The company estimates its loss at \$100,000 with insurance of about \$400,000. Fortunately the stock of plate glass on hand was small on account of the demand for the past year being fully up to the capacity.

President Kahn stated today that the plant would probably be rebuilt. The company employed about 500 men. The plant was the largest independent factory in the country.

Washington, April 14.—The President has determined to veto the Cuba resolutions if they carry recognition of Cuban independence. He so stated today to senators who called on him.

Washington, April 14.—The testimony taken before the Senate committee on foreign relations in connection with the investigation into the relations between the United States and Cuba was made public today. It constitutes a book of about 650 pages and includes not only the testimony taken since the disaster to the Maine, but also much that was known before and running back for a year or more. The statement which contains the greatest current interest is that made by Consul General Lee on the twelfth inst. In this statement Gen. Lee said that he was informed on very good authority that the Spaniards had placed two

rows of torpedoes just at the mouth of the Havana harbor by Moro Castle within the past two months, or subsequent to the Maine disaster, and that the switch board is in a room in the castle.

He said, however, that he had no information of the placing of any torpedoes before the Maine was destroyed and none in regard to their purchase abroad by the Spanish authorities.

"Have you any reason to suppose that the harbor was mined at all, before the blowing up of the Maine?" asked Senator Fry.

"No sir; I had no reason to suppose anything of that sort up to that time." He then went on to say that Gen. Weyler's letter to Santos Gusman had led him to believe that mines might have been placed there previous to the Maine incident and he said that this supposition was strengthened by a telegram from Gen. Weyler, of which he had cognizance. Upon the whole he thought the Weyler letter (the Laine letter) was a correct copy of a genuine letter.

The telegram to which he referred was addressed to Eva Canela, a noted Spanish woman, and an admirer of Gen. Weyler, and to Senor Gusman, and it reads as follows:

"Grave circumstances cause me to ask you to destroy the last letter of February 12."

Gen. Lee said that this telegram had never before been published and he found in it strong confirmatory evidence of the genuineness of the Weyler letter.

With reference to the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine, Gen. Lee said:

"I am satisfied that the explosion was from the outside. I cabled the state department a few days after the board assembled that it was almost certain that the explosion was from the exterior, as I have always had an idea about the Maine, that of course it was not blown up by any private individual, or by any private citizen, but it was blown up by some of the officers who had charge of the mines and electric wires and torpedoes in the arsenal there and thoroughly understood their business for it was done remarkably well.

"I don't think Gen. Blanco, the present captain general of the island of Cuba, had anything to do with it.

"I don't think he had any knowledge of it. I saw him shortly after the occurrence. I was sitting in my room at the hotel. I heard the explosion, and from the balcony of the hotel saw a great column of fire go up in the air. A few moments after ascertaining that it was the Maine, I went right down to the palace and I asked for Gen. Blanco. He came in directly by himself. He had just heard it and was crying. Tears were coming out of his eyes. He seemed to regret it as much as anybody I saw in Havana. I think it came from some of the subaltern officers who had been there under Weyler, and who were probably anti-Blanco anyhow, and who had full knowledge of the business."

Gen. Lee said that he had seen a copy of a telegram from Admiral Manterola dated Havana, prior to the Maine explosion, to the Spanish commission in London asking the commission to "Hurry up the electrical cables."

"Whether that referred to wire for submarine mines or to torpedoes I don't know," he continued. "I tried to ascertain if any of the wire or

electrical cables had arrived there, but they came on Spanish ships and I could not find out."

Gen. Lee said that, this testimony in regard to the Manterola and all of that with reference to the Weyler telegram had been furnished to the court of inquiry which investigated the Maine disaster, but had not been sent to Congress nor published because of a request of his made to the state department not to make them public, "As I was afraid the Spanish papers there would republish it and they would probably kill the man that gave it to me."

Continuing his testimony Gen. Lee said that ten minutes after the explosion he was at the palace talking to Gen. Blanco and that the latter gave him an order for a boat to take him out into the harbor. Senator Morgan asked if when he got to the water's edge he saw any lights burning.

"I did not notice that," said General Lee, "but I have made inquiry since and have ascertained that no electric lights went out. I sent for electric light men and gas men. Some gas jets went out in one or two places, caused by the shock or something, but I could not ascertain from these men that a single electric light went out. One of the electric light men whom I called up is a friend of mine and he sent for the man who has direct charge of the lights who came to my office. This man, he said, had not heard of any such thing. I said I want to know with certainty. The man then made an exploration of an hour or two and returned, saying that with the exception of one electric light near the harbor, and one at another place, not very far distant, where he thought perhaps the lights might have gone out by the shock, no other electric lights went out."

General Lee also said he had not felt the shock of the explosion at the hotel.

"Have you heard since the explosion of the Maine any expression by Spanish officers in relation to it, indicating their pleasure at the facts?" asked Senator Fry.

General Lee responded: "I heard two or three days afterwards from various persons that came in that there was a good deal of rejoicing among some of the officers. All reports I got said that they were drinking champagne quite a thing to do in honor of the event, and in different portions of the city were making merry. I attributed it to the fact that what they considered almost an enemy's battleship had been blown up and it was that much in their favor."

He said he had not heard any threats or allusions to the destruction of the Maine previous to the explosion. Senator Lodge asked if he had heard of an attempt on the Montgomery.

"I heard," responded General Lee, "that there was something of that sort one evening, but I believe upon investigation it was found that it did not amount to anything."

The following colloquy between Senator Foraker and General Lee brought out some further opinions of the general in regard to the destruction of the Maine.

Senator Foraker—You think that no novice could have destroyed the Maine?

General Lee—Oh, no, sir. The man who did that work was an officer thoroughly acquainted with explosives of all sorts, and who knew all about it. It was very well done.

Senator Foraker—A man who had expert knowledge, necessarily?

General Lee—Yes, sir.

Chicago, April 15.—The Times-Herald this morning says: "Charles A. Crandall, alias Emanuel Escadaro, who, acting under the personal orders of Captain General Weyler, planted the mines and torpedoes in the harbor of