

when the signal was given from the tug, had gone behind a big earth-work or "bunk" about 300 yards from the gun. He and the other spectators were unhurt, though a massive piece of the gun, weighing many tons, flew through the air with frightful velocity and struck the water within a hundred feet of the tug.

If the spectators had gone into the "bomb proof" as they usually do when such tests are made, they would all have been killed, for a big piece of steel struck it and ripped through the twelve inch armor as though it had been so much paper.

A great hole was torn in the ground where the gun stood and the buildings at the proving grounds were badly shaken. Not a particle of the massive gun or its carriage remained.

Since last September the ordnance experts of the navy have from time to time been making tests of this gun cotton shell. A dozen or more "blank" shells have been fired during the winter, generally with great success, and the officers were confident that when the final test was made the shell would leave the gun safely and carry its heavy load of explosive far down the river.

The virtue of this shell was that it was expected safely to carry a charge of gun cotton large enough to wreck a battleship or a fortress at a distance of from six to ten miles according to the powder charge. By an ingenious arrangement in the point of the shell, a vial of fulminate of mercury was expected to explode the gun cotton. Up to this time no successful shell of this kind has been invented, and if the shell had been successful it would have revolutionized naval ordnance and warfare.

First there was a rumbling of the earth, and then the full clap of the awful explosion broke. A thick smoke covered the gun, and in an instant an enormous piece of steel came shrieking through the air and struck the water, throwing the spray in every direction. When the men looked again they saw a great hole where the gun had been, with the smoke floating away in the air. For several minutes the sound of the explosion reverberated through the surrounding hills. This was the largest charge of gun cotton ever fired or attempted to be fired from a powder gun.

The government paid about \$25,000 for the gun blown up and it was built especially for these tests. A shell shot from this gun was expected to perforate 21 inches of steel at a distance of 1,500 yards, and to travel from 8 to 10 miles before losing its momentum.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 14.—A treaty for the annexation of Hawaii to the United States will be sent to the Senate soon after the return of the President, unless present plans are altered. The treaty has been written and all its details were fully agreed upon before the President and Secretary Sherman left for the South. There is no doubt, it is said, of the President's acquiescence in the terms of the treaty for the reason that he was made fully aware of them before he left.

The treaty is on the general lines of the treaty negotiated during the administration of President Harrison and withdrawn by President Cleveland. It provides for annexation with-

out the exaction of conditions on the part of the Hawaiian government as to the form of government to be vouchsafed to Hawaii, leaving the question to be entirely disposed of by the government of the United States.

The United States will agree to assume the debt of the present Hawaiian government, but will come into possession of all the Hawaiian crown lands and other possessions.

WASHINGTON, June 14.—A draft of a treaty for the annexation of Hawaii to the United States is being prepared by Judge Day, the assistant secretary of state, and Mr. Hatch, the Hawaiian minister in Washington.

It will be presented to President McKinley for approval soon after he returns to the city.

It does not follow, however, that it will be immediately sent to the Senate. On the contrary, the President will adhere to his determination not to implicate the tariff situation by the introduction of any foreign questions.

The proposed new treaty will not contain any provision for a pension to the late queen or a gift of money to the princess, but it will probably be provided that the princess shall receive a pension out of the territorial revenues. It is interesting to know that the proposition to pension ex-Queen Lihoukalanilani did not come from the Hawaiian commissioners but was suggested by the then Secretary of State Foster. The same is true in regard to the gift of money to Princess Kalulani. A leading member of the Senate committee on foreign relations said that two plans are under consideration by the administration. One is to annex the islands and admit them into the Union as the territory of Hawaii. The other is to make them a county of California. No decision has yet been reached.

Several senators have received definite information concerning the existence of the treaty and are well acquainted with its terms, though they refuse to discuss the matter. The knowledge of the existence of the treaty has been communicated to the members of the foreign relations and to the finance committee. In the Republican caucus the subject of the treaty had been hinted at, but in rather a vague manner. Senators assert there are in progress negotiations looking toward annexation, but they would not aver that a treaty had been drawn, nor would they give assurance that it soon would be sent to the Senate. In private conversation with other senators, however, they gave information definite enough to satisfy those with whom they talked that the treaty was not only to be sent in but that it was now drawn only awaiting the signatures of the two governments to complete it. It is known that the approval of the committee on foreign relations is assured as eight members of the committee have approved its terms. This will enable the committee to speedily report the treaty to the Senate so that it may be taken up immediately after the tariff bill is disposed of. The Senate has been canvassed to a certain extent by senators favoring annexation and while there are some senators who are non-committal the supporters of the proposition say they believe they can

count upon the two-third vote necessary to insure ratification.

The especial friends of the President about the Senate say that the treaty has been made in accordance with his views and that it would have been sent in some time ago but for the exactions as to details.

The officials at the state department steadfastly refuse to make any statement as to the negotiation of a treaty providing for the annexation of Hawaii and at the Hawaiian legation the same silence is observed. However, it is well known that the treaty though not yet signed, is drawn up ready for signature, and as the President is fully aware of its scope there is no reason to doubt that he will authorize its signature. In this case it is expected that the document will be sent to the Senate for its action very soon, even within a week, it is said in some well-informed quarters. If this be the case it may be taken for granted that the President has taken steps to assure himself of a favorable reception for the treaty in the Senate.

LONDON, June 14.—A special dispatch from Funchal, island of Madeira, says that on the arrival there today of the British steamship Scot, which left Table Bay (Capetown) on June 2nd for Southampton, it was announced that Barney Barnato, the South African diamond king, who was among the passengers, had committed suicide by leaping overboard. His body was recovered.

The late Barney Barnato was in many respects the most remarkable speculator of the century. Of all the Englishmen who have taken part in the development of South Africa, two only have secured a world-wide reputation. These are Cecil Rhodes and Barnett Isaac, more often and less respectfully styled Barney. Barnato was an assumed name, a sort of stage name, for he began his life in South Africa by exhibiting a trick donkey some twenty-five years ago. He was then about 20 years of age.

Barney Barnato was an English Jew, and illustrated in an extraordinary way the financial genius of his race. Up to the point where his fortunes began to decline he made money by leaps and bounds, and in 1895, when his good fortune was at its zenith, it was estimated that he controlled interests worth in the neighborhood of £100,000,000. It was the fashion to call him the richest man in the world. At that time he was virtually the king of the London money market. In the autumn of 1895, when the boom in Kaffirs, the shares of the comparatively new gold mines of the Transvaal, South Africa, was at its height, every man, woman and child in London with money to invest invested it in Kaffirs. For months it was the controlling passion in Paris and Berlin. The shares went to unheard-of figures, and fortunes were made in a day.

The center of this tremendous financial outburst was Barney Barnato, and he was conservatively estimated at that time as worth between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000. Among his assets was a bank originally capitalized at \$12,500,000. In a very few months its capital stock rose in value to \$45,000,000.