

THE TIMES

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Battleship to Cuba

The United States of America (U.S.A.) has announced that it will be sending a battleship to Cuba to secure their interests in the continuing war between Cuba and Spain.

The USS Maine is a second-class battleship, with a displacement of 6,789 tons, a complement of 374 officers and men, and 27 guns.

The U.S.A. has strong financial links to Cuba, with 90% of Cuban exports going to the U.S.A., and 40% of imports originating in that country. Further, the U.S.A. has a declared interest in preventing further European colonialism in the Americas.

For her part, Spain is keen to point out that Cuba has been a part of Spain for nearly 400 hundred years, with the first settlement founded in 1511 by Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar. Cuba is now considered a province of that country, not a colony.

So far the U.S.A. has not been formally involved in the on-going war. Does this signal an intention to take more active role?

Tube funding

The Baker Street and Waterloo Railway reports that it has found new funding for its planned deep tunnel railway from London & Globe Finance Corporation, a mining finance company operated by mining speculator Whitaker Wright and chaired by Lord Dufferin.

As part of the deal, the company has agreed to extend the railway west, to provide an additional station serving the London terminus of the Great Central Railway, which is currently under construction.

Whitaker Wright, who made his fortune in the U.S.A., said the construction of the railway would greatly benefit London, whilst allowing his company to diversify its portfolio. It was his intention to replace the directors of the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway company to ensure proper running of the business.

War Continues?

There are continued reports of sporadic fighting in the Philippines, despite the signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato in December 15, 1897. Details are not, as yet forth coming, and it is unclear how much this can be considered a revolution rather than mere banditry.

Death of a Peer

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Sir Croft, Baronet of Limeridge.

Sir Croft was killed by Five miscreants who set upon him and his daughter in the early hours of the 22nd, in Goodge Street, in the City of London. Lara Croft escaped with minor injuries and raised the alarm, but by the time a police office could attend, Sir Croft was already dead and his attackers had fled the scene.

Sir Melville MacNaghten, Assistant Chief Constable of the Metropolitan Police Service said the incident was deeply regrettable, but there was little his office could do at this point in time, as the attackers were not recognised by Lady Croft, the only witness to the event.

A funeral has been arranged for the 27 of this month.

Not the Ripper

The Metropolitan Police has announced that they have ruled out the murder of Carrie Brown in New York City in April of last year as the work of the individual known as Jack the Ripper.

As most readers will be aware, Jack the Ripper perpetrated a string of murders of the most grotesque nature across the summer of 1888, and evaded arrest. Since then a number of other gruesome killings have been attributed to him by some individuals outside of the Metropolitan Police.

Sir MacNaghten has indicated the investigation into the Whitechapel Murders will be closed at the end of the year if no new information comes to light.

Mayan Publication

British-American archaeologist Augustus Le Plongeon has published a new book on the connection between Mayan civilisation and ancient Egypt.

While many scholars reject his claims, Le Plongeon has repeatedly argued that the Yucatan Peninsula was the cradle of civilisation, and has made numerous expeditions collecting evidence for this latest publication.

More controversially, Le Plongeon connects these two great civilisations to both the mythical nation of Atlantis and the secret organisation known as the Free Masons. While many respected Egyptologist find his claims laughable, it seems the public at large is rather more willing to entertain his hypotheses.

Funeral of Lewis Carroll

The funeral of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was held on Saturday, the 22nd at the Church of St Mary, in Guildford in the county of Surrey.

Dodgson, better known to the public by his pen-name Lewis Carroll, had died of pneumonia following influenza on 14 January at his sisters' home, "The Chestnuts" also in Guildford.

He was unmarried, and it is as yet unclear how his estate will be disposed.

Carroll had trained to be a minister of the church, and there is some mystery as to why this never happened, but this was, perhaps, a positive outcome for the literary world.

Fire in Bethnal Green

A fire broke out in a warehouse in Saint George Street last night. The conflagration spread to four adjacent properties before it was brought under control.

There are no reported casualties, but at least ten persons are considered missing.

Zola Escapes to England

Emile Zola, the notable French writer, has come to England having published an open letter to the president of France in the newspaper L'Aurore, criticising the French government's handling of Alfred Dreyfus.

Dreyfus, a French Army General Staff officer, was sentenced to lifelong penal servitude for espionage in 1894. Zola claimed an investigation two years later had revealed the real culprit was a major named Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, but a military court unanimously acquitted Esterhazy after a trial lasting only two days, and laid additional charges against Dreyfus. Zola further claimed Dreyfus' only fault was to be of Jewish descent, and it was this that led to such a serious miscarriage of justice.

New Battleships

Sir William Henry White, Director of Naval Construction, has announced plans to build a class of battleships. The first, which will name the class, will be given the name HMS Formidable.

The first three ships will be built at the naval dockyards at Portsmouth, Chatham and Devonport respectively. They are an improvement on the Canopus-class due to such features as the adoption of Krupp armour and water-tube boilers, along with a new, more powerful, 40-calibre 12 inch gun.

Abnormal Weather

Frederick J. Brodie, F.R.Met.Soc. has confirmed what we have all been thinking - that it is abnormally warm for January.

Although the month has yet to finish, the signs are that it has been unusually dry, with less than a quarter of the usual precipitation. The wind has rarely exceeding 6 on the Beaufort Scale, and the incidents of frost have been few and far between.

Many regional stations are recording the highest January temperatures since records began in 1866.