



NATIONAL.

While at target practice off Pensacola, Fla., a charge of powder in the left-hand 12-inch gun in the after turret of the battleship *Missouri* ignited, and, dropping below, ignited four charges of powder in the handling-room, and all exploded. Thirty-one men were killed. That the magazine did not blow up and destroy the whole ship is due to the quickness displayed in flooding the magazine and handling-room with water. It is said that the explosion was the result of a blow-back, caused by the wind blowing the flames back from the muzzle of the gun and through the open breach, thus igniting the powder charge which was being hoisted in. The *Missouri* is the very latest of the big battleships to go into commission. The flag was hoisted on her in December last at Norfolk by Captain Cowles. The damage to the battleship is much greater than was stated at first.

The House of Representatives has passed a joint resolution providing for the acceptance by the Government of a statue of General Kosciuszko, to be presented to the country by the Polish-American organizations and Polish-American people generally, as an expression of their loyalty and devotion to their adopted country, "for the liberties of which Kosciuszko so nobly fought."

FOREIGN.

The Russian fleet has sustained another disaster in the blowing up and sinking of another battleship, the *Petropavlovsk*, and the drowning of Vice-Admiral Makaroff, who had put new life into the Russian fleet at Port Arthur and of whom Russia expected so much in the future,

There is much doubt as to what caused the explosion. The Russian accounts say that the *Petropavlovsk* struck one of their own mines, which blew her up and she turned turtle, drowning nearly eight hundred men. Other accounts say that she struck a mine planted by the Japanese, or else was struck by a torpedo. This seems likely, because at nearly the same time the *Pobieda*, a larger battleship than the *Petropavlovsk*, was injured by a "mine," but managed to reach the harbor. The *Bezstrashni*, a torpedo-boat-destroyer, was cut off from the rest of the fleet, and was sunk by Japanese torpedo-boat-destroyers, with the loss of all but five of her crew.

Admiral Togo has been trying to destroy the rest of the Russian fleet by a long bombardment of Port Arthur.

The palace of the Emperor of Korea has been destroyed by fire and all the Korean Government records and accounts were lost. The loss is estimated at \$3,000,000.

GENERAL.

Verestchagin, the celebrated painter of battle scenes, was among those lost by the sinking of the *Petropavlovsk*. His object in going to the war was to obtain material for pictures, as he had done in the Russo-Turkish war and in other Russian conflicts.

Twenty-seven State Legislatures, comprising all the States in the Republic of Mexico, having ratified the new constitutional amendments extending the presidential term from four to six years, and creating the office of vice-president, Congress will now formally declare that the organic law has been amended.

Dr. Baskerville, of the University of North Carolina, has announced that he has resolved thorium into two new elements. One of these he has named Carolinium, after the State; the other Berzelium, in honor of the great Swedish chemist.