Republican Progress.

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L. Q. 5th. N. M. 12th. F. Q. 19th. F. M. 27th.

HISTORY OF A WEEK.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS OF THE WORLD.

News of Crimes and Criminals, Accidents, Fires, Etc., from North, South, East and West, Sanwiched with Minor Affairs.

Bad Blood in Havana.

Havana special: Fist fights between Spaniards and Cubans continue daily. A serious clash occurred when a Spanish battalion came in to embark. While walking through the principal streets an officer of the battalion arrested a Cuban officer and slapped his face. Other Cubans came to the rescue and a fight ensued. The Cubans got the worst of it. The other night a Spanish Lieutenant and twenty soldiers, armed with rifles and bayonets, assaulted several Cuban soldiers and defied the police when ordered to desist, saying they intended to fight the insurgents. A Spanish officer ordered the soldiers to fire on the people who had congregated, but the intervention of Col. Delgado prevented murder.

Gen. Arolas, military commander of the city, has issued an order instructing Spanish officers to tear off the hats and decorations of Cuban officers, and if they resist to kill them.

Declare War on Roberts.

The New York Herald says: The efforts to prevent Brigham H. Roberts, Representative-elect from Utah, from taking his seat in the Fifty-sixth Congress because he is a polygamist and advocates the doctrines of the Mormon Church, will have the organized support of hundreds of thousands of women in the United States. The initial woman's movement will take organized form here at the Presbyterian Woman's Board of Home Missions, December 20. There are one hundred thousand members of the Presbyterian Home Mission Society alone in the United States. The home mission societies of the Congregational and Baptist Churches and other churches will aid in the crusade.

Wheeler Will Retire.

Major General Wheeler has probably seen the last of active service in the United States Army. He was at the War Department and had a talk with Secretary Alger and Adjutant General Corbin. It is understood he will be relieved from further active duty unless there is a recurrence of war, but that he will remain on the active list of the United States volunteer army until that army is mustered out of service by a declaration of peace. This privilege will leave Gen. Wheeler free to exercise his functions as a member of the House of Representatives during this session.

Reception to American Troops.

The Cuban army in Pinar Del Rio is keeping in good order. A reception to the city of Pinar Del Rio for the American troops, who are expected to arrive shortly. A dispatch from Casilda says 700 American troops landed Tuesday and were enthusiastically received. They have taken possession of the town of Trinidad.

Health in Havana.

Advices received by officers of the War Department give a terrible picture of sanitary conditions in Havana. The death rate is growing; the condition of the streets in the poor section is said to be shocking, and emphasis is placed on the danger to the United States troops who will be landed soon.

Want America's Friendship.

Hong Kong special: General Riewodildos and Dr. Lesdajiun, representatives of the Filipino junta, have started for Washington under instructions to endeavor to remove misapprehension and suspicions and cultivate the friendliest relations with the American Government and people.

Oscar Gardner Acquitted.

At Columbus, Ohio, Oscar Gardner was acquitted by a jury of the charge of prize fighting. On April 7 last, he engaged in a glove contest with George Stout, during which the latter fell or was knocked down, his head striking the floor, and injuring Stout so that he died.

Treaty Is Finished.

Paris special: The treaty is finished. Judge Day said: "We have settled all the points upon which there is a possibility of agreement. Only the engrossing remains." The Spaniards refused to cede the United States a coaling station in the Caroline Islands.

Convict Labor.

The Agricultural Department is making an investigation to learn whether convict labor can be made available for improvement of roads. The plan would, it is said, abolish existing competition between prison and free labor.

Blinded While Coughing.

Frank Jackley of Frankton, Ind., lost his sight while in a paroxysm of coughing. One of the blood vessels of the optic nerves was broken and he went stone blind. There is no hope of recovery of his sight.

Patriotism and Courage Appreciated

Secretary Long has written to Capt. Whiting of the monitor Monadnock, conveying the highest commendation of the Navy Department to the officers and crew of that vessel for their patriotism, courage and ability in taking the monitor safely across the Pacific to Dewey.

Loot a Bank.

The bank of Antioch, Ill., was entered by robbers. The safe was blown and $5,000 extracted. The robbers escaped on a hand-car, and it is believed have fled to Chicago.

Lazar Settles for $38,000.

Max A. Lazar, a New York diamond dealer, who was tried on the charge of smuggling diamonds, has settled with the Government by payment through the United States District Attorney of $38,000. The indictments pending against Lazar and his brother, Edmund J. Lazar, and the brother's wife were dismissed.

Princeton Defeated by Yale.

Yale won the debate from Princeton at New Haven. A large audience was in attendance. The Rev. Joseph H. Twitchell of Hartford presided. The question debated was "Resolved, That the United States Should Annex Cuba." Princeton took the affirmative.

Attempt to Kill an Official.

Under the house of Councilman-at-Large Edward Johnson, in Brigantine, N. J., a dynamite bomb was exploded, partially wrecking the building. There is no doubt that it was the intention of the perpetrators of the outrage to kill Mr. Johnson. Nobody was hurt.

Death Sentence Affirmed.

Division No. 2 of the Supreme Court, at Jefferson City, Mo., affirmed the death sentence of O. H. Baker of Shannon County, who was convicted of the murder of his wife, whom he beat to death last March. He will be hanged Jan. 10.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Notwithstanding the added burdens rendered necessary by the war, our people rejoice in a very satisfactory and steadily increasing degree of prosperity evidenced by the largest volume of business ever recorded. Manufacture has been productive, agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns, labor in the fields of industry is better rewarded, revenue legislation passed by the present Congress has increased the treasury's receipts to the amount estimated by its authors, the finances of the Government have been successfully administered, and its credit advanced to the first rank, while it has been maintained at the world's highest standard. Military service under a common flag and for a righteous cause has strengthened the national spirit and served to cement more closely than ever the fraternal bonds between every section of the country. A review of the relations of the United States to other powers, always appropriate, is this year of primary importance, in view of the momentous issues which have arisen, demanding in one instance the ultimate determination by arms and involving far-reaching consequences which will require the earnest attention of the Congress.

Failure of Autonomy in Cuba.

In my last annual message very full consideration was given to the question of the duty of the Government of the United States toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection as being by far the most important problem with which we were then called upon to deal. I concluded it was honestly due to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations of reform to which she had become irrevocably committed.

The ensuing month brought little sign of real progress toward the pacification of Cuba by the autonomous administration. No tangible relief was afforded the vast numbers of unhappy reconcentrados, and by the end of December the mortality among them had frightfully increased. With the acquiescence of the Spanish authorities a scheme was adopted for relief by charitable contributions raised in this country. Thousands of lives were thus saved, but the war continued on the old footing without comprehensive plan. No alternative save physical exhaustion of either combatant and therewithal the practical ruin of the island lay in sight.

Destruction of the Maine.

At this juncture, on the 15th of February last, occurred the destruction of the battleship Maine, while rightfully lying in the harbor of Havana—a catastrophe, the suspicious nature and horror of which stirred the nation's heart profoundly. Yet the instinct of justice prevailed and the nation anxiously awaited the result of the searching investigation at once set on foot. The finding of the naval board of inquiry established that the origin of the explosion was external by a submarine mine, and only halted through lack of positive testimony to fix the responsibility of its authorship.

All these things carried conviction to the most thoughtful, even before the findings of the naval court, that a crisis in our relations with Spain and toward Cuba was at hand. So strong was this belief that it needed but a brief executive suggestion to the Congress to receive immediate answer to the duty of making instant provision for the possible and perhaps speedily probable emergency of war. The details of the hurried preparation for the dreaded contingency is told in the reports of the Secretaries of War and of the Navy. It is sufficient to say that the outlay was made, when it did come, found our nation not unprepared to meet the conflict.

Negotiations with Spain.

Still, animated by the hope of a peaceful solution and obeying the dictates of duty, no effort was relaxed to bring about a speedy ending of the Cuban struggle. Negotiations to this object continued actively with the Government of Spain, looking to the immediate conclusion of a six months' armistice in Cuba, with a view to effect the recognition of her people's right to independence. Negotiations continued for some little time at Madrid, resulting in offers by the Spanish Government which could not but be regarded as inadequate. Grieved and disappointed at this barren outcome of my sincere endeavors to reach a practical solution, I felt it my duty to remit the whole question to the Congress. In the message of April 11, 1898, I reviewed the alternative course of action which I had proposed, concluding that the only one consonant with international policy and compatible with our firm set historical traditions was intervention as a neutral to stop the war and check the hopeless sacrifice of life.

In view of all this, the Congress was asked to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of hostilities between Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government.

Congress Declares War.

The response of the Congress, after nine days of earnest deliberation, during which the almost unanimous sentiment of your body was developed on every point save as to the expediency of coupling the proposed action with a formal recognition of the Republic of Cuba as the true and lawful government of that island—a proposition which failed of adoption—the Congress, after conference, April 19, by a vote of 42 to 35 in the Senate and 311 to 6 in the House of Representatives, passed the memorable joint resolution, declaring war.

This resolution was approved by the executive on the next day, April 20. A copy was at once communicated to the Spanish minister at this capital, who forthwith announced that his continuance in Washington had thereby become impossible, and asked for his passports, which were given him. He thereupon withdrew from Washington, leaving the protection of Spanish interest in the United States to the French ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian minister. Simultaneously with its communication to the Spanish minister, Gen. Woodford, the American minister at Madrid, was telegraphed confirmation of the text of the joint resolution and directed to communicate it to the Government of Spain, with the formal demand that it at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba and withdraw its forces therefrom, coupling this demand with announcements of the intentions of this Government as to the future of the island, in conformity with the fourth clause of the resolution, and giving Spain until noon of April 23 to reply.

The demand, although, as above shown, officially made known to the Spanish envoy here, was not delivered at Madrid. After the instruction reached Gen. Woodford on the morning of April 21, but before he could present it, the Spanish minister of state notified him that upon the President's approval of the joint resolution the Madrid Government, regarding the act as "equivalent to an evident declaration of war," had ordered its minister in Washington to withdraw, thereby breaking off diplomatic relations between the two countries, and ceasing all official communication between their respective representatives. Gen. Woodford thereupon demanded his passports and quitted Madrid the same day.

Spain having thus denied the demand of the United States and initiated that complete form of rupture of relations which attends a state of war, the executive powers authorized by the resolution were at once used by me to meet the enlarged contingency of actual war between Spain and the United States. April 22 I proclaimed a blockade of the northern coast of Cuba, and on the 23d I called for volunteers to execute the purpose of the resolution. By my message of April 25 the Congress was informed of the situation, and I recommended formal declaration of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Spain. The Congress accordingly voted on the same day that act approved April 25, 1898, declaring the existence of such war, from and including the 21st day of April, and reenacted the provision of the resolution of April 20, directing the President to use all the armed forces of the nation to carry that act into effect.

Due notification of the existence of war as aforesaid was given April 25 by telegraph to all the governments with which the United States maintains relations. In further fulfillment of international duty I issued April 26 a proclamation announcing the treatment proposed to be accorded to vessels and their cargoes as to blockade, contraband, the exercise of the right of subjects and the immunity of neutral flags and neutral goods under enemy's flag. A similar proclamation was made by the Spanish Government.

Preparations for the War.

Our country thus after an interval of half a century of peace with all nations found itself engaged in deadly conflict with a foreign enemy. Every nerve was strained to meet the emergency. The response to the initial call for 125,000 volunteers was instant and complete, as was also the result of the second call of May 25 for 75,000 additional volunteers. The ranks of the regular army were increased to the limits provided by the act of April 26. The enlisted force of the navy on the 15th of August, when it reached its maximum, numbered 24,123 men and apprentices. One hundred and three vessels were added to the navy by purchase, one was presented to the Government, one leased and the four vessels of the International Navigation Company—the St. Paul, St. Louis, New York and Paris—were chartered. In addition to these the revenue cutters and lighthouse tenders were turned over to the Navy Department and became temporarily a part of the auxiliary navy.

Much alarm was felt along our entire Atlantic seaboard lest some attack might be made by the enemy. Every precaution was taken to prevent possible injury to our great cities lying along the coast. The auxiliary navy patrolled the coast and performed the duties of the second arm of defense. Under the direction of the chief of engineers submarine mines were placed at the most exposed points. The aggregate number of mines placed was 1,535, at the principal harbors from Maine to California.

The national defense $50,000,000 fund was expended in large part by the army and navy, and the objects for which it was used are fully shown in the reports of the several secretaries. This fund, being inadequate to the requirements of equipment and for the conduct of the war, the patriotism of the Congress provided the means in the war revenue act of June 13 by authorizing a 3 per cent popular loan not to exceed $400,000,000, and by levying additional imposts and taxes.

Salient Features of the War.

It is not within the province of this message to narrate the history of the extraordinary war that followed the Spanish declaration of April 21, but a brief recital of its more salient features is appropriate. The first encounter of the war in point of date took place April 27, when a detachment of the blockading squadron made a reconnaissance in force at Matanzas, shelled the harbor and forts and dismolished a several new works in construction.

The next engagement was destined to mark a memorable epoch in maritime warfare. The Pacific fleet, under Commodore George Dewey, had lain for some weeks at Hong Kong. Upon the colonial proclamation of neutrality being issued and the customary twenty-four hours' notice being given, it repaired to Mirs Bay, near Hong Kong, whence it proceeded to the Philippine Islands under telegraphed orders to capture or destroy the formidable Spanish fleet then assembled at Manila. At daybreak on the 1st of May the American force reached Manila Bay, and after a few hours' engagement effected the total destruction of the Spanish fleet, consisting of ten warships and a transport, besides capturing the naval station and forts at Cavite, thus annihilating the Spanish naval power in the Pacific Ocean and completely controlling the Bay of Manila, with the ability to take the city at will. Not a life was lost on our ships, the wounded only numbering seven, while not a vessel was materially injured.

The effect of this remarkable victory upon the spirit of our people and upon the fortunes of the war was instant. A prestige of invincibility thereby attached to our arms, which continued throughout the struggle. Reenforcements were hurried to Manila under the command of Major General Merritt and firmly established within sight of the capital, which lay helpless before our guns.

Only reluctance to cause needless loss of life and property prevented the early storming and capture of the city, and thereby the absolute military occupancy of the whole group. The insurgents meanwhile had resumed the active hostilities suspended by the uncompleted truce of December, 1897. Their forces invested Manila from the northern and eastern side, but were constrained by Admiral Dewey and General Merritt from attempting an assault. It was fitting that whatever was to be done in the way of decisive operations in that quarter should be accomplished by the strong arm of the United States alone.

Following the comprehensive scheme of general attack, powerful forces were assembled at various points on our coast to invade Cuba and Porto Rico. Meanwhile naval demonstrations were made at several exposed points. May 11 the cruiser Wilmington and torpedo boat Winslow were unsuccessful in an attempt to silence the batteries at Cardenas and Matanzas, Worth, Bagley and four seamen falling.

Meanwhile the Spanish naval preparations had been pushed with great vigor. A powerful squadron under Admiral Cervera, which had assembled at the Cape Verde Islands before the outbreak of hostilities, had crossed the ocean, and by its erratic movements in the Caribbean Sea delayed our military operations while baffling the pursuit of our fleets. Not until Admiral Cervera took refuge in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba about May 19 was it practicable to plan a systematic military attack upon the Antillean possessions of Spain.

Several demonstrations occurred on the coast of Cuba and Porto Rico in preparation for the larger event. On May 13 the North Atlantic squadron shelled San Juan de Porto Rico. On May 29 Commodore Schley's squadron bombarded the forts guarding the mouth of Santiago harbor. Neither attack had any material result.

Hobson's Daring Act.

The next act in the war thrilled not alone the hearts of our countrymen, but the world, by its exceptional heroism. On the night of June 3 Lieutenant Hobson, aided by seven devoted volunteers, blocked the main channel outlet from Santiago harbor by sinking the collier Merrimac in the channel, under a fierce fire from the shore batteries, escaping with their lives as by a miracle, but falling into the hands of the Spaniards. They were subsequently exchanged July 7.

By June 7 the cutting of the last Cuban cable isolated the island. Thereafter the invasion was vigorously prosecuted. On June 10, under a heavy protecting fire, a landing of 60 marines from the Oregon, Marblehead and Yankee, was effected in Guantanamo Bay, where it had been determined to establish a naval station.

This important and essential port was taken from the enemy after severe fighting by the marines, who were the first organized force of the United States to land in Cuba. The position so won was held despite desperate attempts to dislodge our forces. By June 16 additional forces were landed and strongly intrenched. On June 22, the advance of the invading army under Major General Shafter landed at Baiquiri, about fifteen miles east of Santiago. This was accomplished under great difficulties, but with marvelous dispatch. On June 23 the movement against Santiago was begun. On the 24th the first serious engagement took place, in which the First and Tenth Cavalry and the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, General Young's brigade of General Wheeler's division, participated, losing heavily. By nightfall, however, ground within five miles of Santiago was won. The advantage was steadily increased. On July 1 a severe battle took place, our forces gaining the outwork of Santiago; on the 2d El Caney and San Juan were taken after a desperate charge, and the investment of the city was completed. The navy cooperated by shelling the town and coast forts.

On the day following this brilliant achievement of our land forces, July 3, occurred the decisive naval conflict of the war. The Spanish fleet, attempting to leave the harbor, was met by the American squadron, under command of Commodore Sampson. In less than three hours all the Spanish ships were destroyed, the two torpedo boat destroyers, the Maria Teresa, Almirante Oquendo, Vizcaya and Cristobal Colon driven ashore. The Spanish admiral and over thirteen hundred men were taken prisoners, while the enemy's loss of life was decidedly large, some 600 perishing. On our side but one man was killed, on the Brooklyn, and one man seriously wounded. Although our ships were repeatedly struck, not one was seriously injured. Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves, from the commanders to the gunners and the unnamed heroes in the boiler rooms, each and all contributing toward the achievement of this astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event and the marvelous disproportion of casualties, it would be invidious to single out any for especial honor. Deserved promotion has rewarded the more conspicuous actors. The nation's profoundest gratitude is due to all of those brave men who by their skill and devotion in a few short hours crushed the sea power of Spain and wrought a triumph whose decisiveness and far-reaching consequences can scarcely be measured. Not less admiration, mindful of the achievements of our builders, mechanics and artisans for their skill in the construction of our warships.

With the catastrophe of Santiago Spain's effort upon the ocean virtually ceased. A spasmodic effort toward the end of June to send her Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Camara to relieve Manila was abandoned, the expedition being recalled after it had passed through the Suez Canal.

Capitulation of Santiago.

The capitulation of Santiago followed. The city was closely besieged by land, while the entrance of our ships into the harbor cut off all relief on that side. After a truce to allow of the removal of non-combatants, protracted negotiations continued from July 3 until July 15, when, under menace of immediate assault, the preliminaries of surrender were agreed upon. On the 17th General Shafter occupied the city. The capitulation embraced the entire eastern end of Cuba. The number of Spanish soldiers surrendered was 22,000, all of whom were subsequently conveyed to Spain at the charge of the United States. The story of this successful campaign is told in the report of the Secretary of War, which will be laid before you.

The individual valor of officers and soldiers was never more strikingly shown than in the several engagements leading to the surrender of Santiago, while the prompt movements and successive victories won instant and universal applause. To those who gained this complete triumph, which established the ascendency of the United States upon land, as the fight off Santiago had fixed our supremacy on the seas, the earnest and lasting gratitude of the nation is imperitively due. Never should we alone remember the gallantry of the living; the dead claim our tears, and our losses by battle and disease must cloud any exultation at the result and teach us to weigh the awful cost of war, however rightful the cause or signal the victory.

Occupation of Porto Rico.

With the fall of Santiago the occupation of Porto Rico became the next strategic necessity. General Miles had previously been assigned to organize an expedition for that purpose. Fortunately, he was already at Santiago, whence he had arrived the 11th of July, with reenforcements for General Shafter's army. With these troops, consisting of 3,415 infantry and artillery, two companies of engineers and one company of the signal corps, General Miles left Guantanamo July 21, having nine transports convoyed by the fleet under Captain Higginson, with the Massachusetts, Dixie, Gloucester, Columbia and Leo, the two latter carrying troops. The expedition landed at Guanica July 25, which port was entered with little opposition. The Major General commanding was subsequently reenforced by General Schwan's brigade of the Third Army Corps, by General Wilson, with a part of his division, and also by General Brooke, with a part of his corps, numbering in all 16,973 officers and men.

July 27 he entered Ponce, one of the most important cities of the island, from which he thereafter directed operations for the capture of the island.

With the exception of encounters with the enemy at Guayama, Hormigueros, Coamo and Yauco, and an attack on a force landed at Cape San Juan, there was no serious resistance. The conquest was prosecuted with great vigor, and by the 12th of August much of the island was in our possession, and the acquisition of the remainder was only a matter of a short time.

The last scene of the war was enacted at Manila, its starting place, Aug. 13, after a brief assault upon the works by the land forces, in which the squadron assisted, the capital surrendered unconditionally. The casualties were comparatively few. By this conquest of the Philippine Islands, virtually accomplished when the Spanish capacity for resistance was destroyed by Admiral Dewey's victory of the 1st of May, victory was formally sealed. To General Merritt, his officers and men, for their uncomplaining and devoted services, for their gallantry in action, the nation is deeply grateful. Their long voyage was made with singular success, and the soldierly conduct of the men, most of whom were without previous experience in the military service, deserves unmeasured praise.

Total Casualties of the War.

The total casualties in killed and wounded in the army during the war was as follows: Officers killed, 23; enlisted men killed, 257; total, 280; officers wounded, 113; enlisted men wounded, 1,464; total, 1,577. Of the navy: Killed, 17; wounded, 67. Of the marine corps: Killed, 1; invalided from service, 6; total, 91.

It will be observed that while our navy was engaged in two great battles and in numerous perilous undertakings in blockades and bombardament, and more than fifty thousand of our troops were transported to distant lands and engaged in assault and siege and battle and many skirmishes in unfamiliar territory, we lost in both arms of the service a total of 1,968 killed and wounded; and in the entire campaign by land and sea we did not lose a gun or a flag or a transport ship, and with the exception of the crew of the Merrimac not a soldier or sailor was taken prisoner.

Aug. 7, forty-six days from the date of the landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, and twenty-one days from the surrender of Santiago, the United States troops commenced embarkation for home, and our entire force was returned to the United States as early as Aug. 24. They were absent from the United States only two months.

It is fitting that I should bear testimony to the patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of greatest exposure, was not required outside of the United States. They did their whole duty and earned the gratitude of the nation. It is my regret that there seems to be no provision for their suitable recognition.

In this connection it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial appreciation the timely and useful work of the American National Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assemblage, and later, under the able and experienced leadership of the President of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba.

In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the Divine Master for His watchful care over us and His safe guidance for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgment and offers humble prayer for the continuance of His favor.

The annihilation of Admiral Cervera's fleet, followed by the capitulation of Santiago, having brought to the Spanish Government a realizing sense of the hopelessness of continuing a struggle now becoming wholly unequal, it made overtures of peace through the French ambassador. On the 26th of July M. Cambon presented a communication signed by the Duke of Almodovar, the Spanish minister of state, inviting the United States to state the terms upon which it would be willing to make peace. July 30 the terms of this government were announced, substantially as in the protocol afterward signed, Aug. 10 the Spanish reply, dated Aug. 7, was handed by M. Cambon to the Secretary of State. It accepted unconditionally the terms imposed as to Cuba, Porto Rico and an island of the Ladrones group, but appointed to seek to introduce undiscussible reservations in regard to our demand as to the Philippines.

Signing of the Protocol.

Conceiving that discussion on this point could neither be practicable nor profitable, I directed that in order to avoid misunderstanding the matter should be forthwith closed by proposing the embodiment in a formal protocol of the terms in which the negotiations for peace were to be undertaken. The vague and inexplicit suggestions of the Spanish reply could not be accepted, the only reply being to present as a central affirmation a draft of the protocol embodying the agreement reached by Spain on our side on July 30, with added stipulations of detail as to the appointment of commissioners to arrange for the evacuation of the Spanish Antilles. On the afternoon of Aug. 12 M. Cambon, as the plenipotentiary of Spain, and the Secretary of State, as the plenipotentiary of the United States, signed a protocol.

Pursuant to and upon the establishment of the protocol I proceeded to the execution of the corresponding declarations on the part of the United States. Aug. 12 the suspension of hostilities, embracing the order of Spanish evacuation of the Antilles, was signed. Dec. 1 101,166 officers and men had been mustered out and discharged from the service, 9,002 more were mustered out of the service in the month of December.

The military committees to superintend the evacuation of Cuba, Porto Rico and the adjacent islands were forthwith appointed. For Cuba, Major General Jas. F. Wade, Rear Admiral William T. Sampson and Major General Matthew C. Butler; for Porto Rico, Major General John C. Brooke, Rear Admiral Winfield S. Schley and Brigadier General George W. Gordon, who soon afterward met the Spanish commissioners at Havana and San Juan respectively. The Porto Rican joint commission speedily accomplished its task, and by the 18th the evacuation of the island was completed. The United States flag was raised over the island on Oct. 18, on that day the civil administration of its affairs has been provisionally entrusted to a military governor until the Congress shall otherwise provide. The Cuban joint commission has not yet terminated its labors. Owing to the difficulties in the way of removing the large numbers of Spanish troops still in Cuba, the evacuation cannot be completed before the 1st of January.

Pursuant to the fifth article of the protocol, I appointed William R. Day, lately Secretary of State; Cushman K. Davis, William P. Frye and George Gray, Senators of the United States, and Whitelaw Reid to be the peace commissioners on the part of the United States. Proceeding in due season to Paris, they there met on the 1st of October five commissioners similarly appointed by Spain. The negotiations have made hopeful progress, so that I trust soon to be able to lay a definite treaty of peace before the Senate, with a review of the step leading to its signature.

I do not discuss at this time the government or the future of the new possessions which will come to us as the result of the war with Spain. Until the Congress has legislated otherwise, it will be my duty to continue the military government which have existed since our occupation and government of the people, security in life and property, and encouragement under a just and benificent rule, such as we have given in parts of Cuba, and have provided shall prevail in Porto Rico and the Philippines, will be necessary to give aid and direction to its people to form a government for themselves. This should be undertaken at the earliest moment consistent with safety and assured success. Until there is complete tranquillity in the island and a stable government inaugurated military occupation will be continued.

Relations with Other Countries.

With the exception of the rupture with Spain, the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations has been marked with cordiality and peace during the eventful year limits most of the issues that necessarily arise in the complex relations of sovereign states adjusted or presenting no serious obstacle to a just and honorable solution by amicable agreement.

A long unsettled dispute as to the extended boundary between the Argentine Republic and Chili assumed an acute stage in the early part of the year, and afforded to this government a welcome opportunity to express the hope that the resort to arbitration already contemplated by existing conventions between the parties might prevail despite the grave difficulties arising in its application. I am happy to say that arrangements to this end have been perfected.

I have found occasion to approach the Argentine Government with a view to remove my differences of rate charges imposed upon the cables of our enterprising countrymen in the transmission between Buenos Ayres and the cities of Montevideo and Brazil of through messages passing from and to the United States. Although the matter is complicated by exclusive concessions in Uruguay and Brazil to foreign companies, there is strong hope that a good understanding will be reached.

In this relation I may be permitted to express my sense of the fitness of an agreement or understanding whereby the business of messages over connecting cables may be regulated on a fair basis of uniformity.

The sympathy of the American people has justly been offered to the ruler and the people of Austria-Hungary by reason of the affliction that has lately befallen them in the assassination of the Empress-Queen of that historic realm.

The Lattimer Affair.

On the 10th of September, 1897, a conflict took place at Lattimer, Pa., between a body of sheriffs and citizens of Luzerne County and his deputies, in which twenty-two miners were killed and forty four wounded, of whom ten of the killed and twelve of the wounded were Austrian and Hungarian subjects. This deplorable event naturally aroused the sensibilities of the Austro-Hungarian Government, which, on the assumption that the killing and wounding involved the question of the status of aliens, claimed reparation for the sufferers. Apart from the searching investigation and the peremptory action of the authorities of Pennsylvania, the Federal Executive took appropriate steps to learn the merits of the case, in order to be in a position to move the proper complaint of a friendly power. The sheriff and his deputies, having been indicted for murder, were arrested and acquitted after protracted proceedings. A representative of the Department of Justice attended the trials and reported its course fully. With all the facts in its possession, this Government expects to reach a harmonious understanding on the subject with that of Austria-Hungary.

United States of Central America.

In my last annual message the situation was presented with respect to the diet, or assemblage of representatives of this Government of the five States of Central America, created by the association of Nicaragua, Honduras and Salvador under the title of the Greater Republic of Central America, and the delegation of their legislative functions to the diet thereof. While the representative character of the diet was recognized by my predecessor and has been confirmed during my administration by receiving its accredited envoy and granting exequatur to consuls established under its authority, the recognition was qualified by the distinct understanding that the responsibility of each of the component sovereign republics towards the United States of America, and the obligations of treaties with them, should remain undiminished. Various efforts of delegates framed for them a federal constitution under the name of the United States of Central America and provided for a central federal government and legislature. Upon ratification by the constituent States, the 1st of November last was fixed for the new system to go into operation. Within a few weeks thereafter the plan was severely tested by revolutionary movements which, with a consequent demand for quality of action on the part of the military power of the Federal States to suppress them. Under this strain the new union seems to have been weakened through the withdrawal of its more important members.

Nicaragua Canal Commission.

The Nicaragua Canal Commission, under the chairmanship of Rear Admiral John G. Walker, has nearly completed its labors, the period of existence of the commission, the proper route, the feasibility and the cost of construction of an interoceanic canal by a Nicaragua route will be laid before you. The discussion of Nicaragua canal projects has revived the question of the proper relations of this Government to any canal built by private capital through the territory of the greater United States of Central America, has granted an exclusive concession to another association, to become effective on the expiration of the present grant. These circumstances suggest the propriety of some definite action by Congress on the question of the status of the canal route to be adopted and the status of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by a practicable waterway to be built or owned.

A measure providing for the revival of the United States and Chilian claims commission and the consideration of claims which were duly presented to the last commission but not reached, was passed by the Senate at the last session, but failed of passage in the House. The term fixed for effecting the exchanges of ratification having expired, the convention falls unless the time be extended by amendment, which I am advised Chile stands ready with the friendly concurrence of the Chilian Government to effect.

American Interests in the Orient.

The United States has not been a disinterested spectator of the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese empire, whose portions of its maritime provinces are passing under the control of various European powers, but we trust that the vast commerce which the energy of our citizens and the necessity of our staple productions for Chinese uses has built up in those regions may not be prejudiced through any exclusive treatment by the new occupants has obviated the need of our country becoming an actor in the scene.

In this connection I refer to the communication addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 6th of last June, recommending an appropriation for a commission to study the commercial and industrial conditions of the Chinese empire and report as to the opportunities for and obstacles to the enlargement of markets in China for the raw products and manufactures of the United States. I cordially urge that the recommendation receive at your hands the consideration which its importance and timeliness merit.

Meanwhile, to make the last ground for apprehension even of the most timid and revival of the idea that any European power entertains any purpose to impair the free access of the commerce of all nations to the markets of China, the United States cordially invites the co-operation of such powers in the maintenance of the present policy of the open door in China, which has been instituted by George Hay, at the request of Great Britain in 1899, the United States has ever been the strongest advocate of the integrity of China and the preservation of the rights of all powers under existing treaties with China. Such a policy, founded in justice and equity, and which has been the guiding principle of our intercourse with China for more than half a century, can give offense to no other power, and I do not believe it will be disturbed by any menaced aggression. Should, however, the occasion develop a necessity for more positive measures to safeguard the interests of our citizens in Southern China, I believe that the United States should not hesitate to cooperate with any other power willing to join in such action as may be necessary to secure the protection of those interests, which, if left unprotected, may be made the occasion of complications disturbing to the peace of the world, which it is the object of this policy to avoid.

Participation in the Paris Exposition.

There is now every prospect that the participation of the United States in the universal exposition to be held in Paris in 1900 will be such as to demonstrate with the utmost publicity held by our products and industries in the world's chief marts. By a provision in the army civil appropriation act of July 1, 1898, a sum not to exceed $100,000 was appropriated for the organization of the American exhibit, the proper preparation and installation of American exhibits and for the display of suitable exhibits by the several executive departments, and thereupon the Department of Agriculture, the Fish Commission and the Smithsonian Institution, as the representatives of the Government of the United States, Pursuant to this statement I appointed Ferdinand W. Peck, of Chicago, Commissioner General, with an assistant commissioner general and secretary. Mr. Peck at once proceeded to Paris, where his success in engaging the space and variety of the United States exhibit has been most gratifying.

Friendly Relations with Great Britain

Our relations with Great Britain have continued on the same friendly footing. Assistance to our subjects, the protection of Americans and their interests in Spanish jurisdiction was assumed by the diplomatic and consular representatives of Great Britain, who fulfilled their delicate and arduous duties with tact and zeal, eliciting high commendation.

The long standing claim of Bernard Campbell for damages for injuries sustained from a violent assault, commitment and imprisonment by military authorities in the Island of Trinidad, has been settled by the agreement of that republic to pay him $10,000 in American gold.

Annexation of Hawaiian Islands.

Pending the consideration by the Senate of the treaty signed June 16, 1897, by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and the Hawaiian republic, Hawaii, providing for the annexation of the Islands, a joint resolution to accomplish the same purpose by accepting the offered cession and incorporating the ceded territory into the Union was adopted by the Congress and approved July 7, 1898. I thereupon directed the United States steamer Philadelphia to convey Rear Admiral Miller to Honolulu, and intrusted to his hands this important legislative act for delivery to the President of the republic of Hawaii, with whom the Admiral and the United States minister were authorized to make appropriate arrangements for transferring the sovereignty of the Islands to the United States. This was simply, but impressively accomplished on the 12th of August, by the delivery of a certified copy of the resolutions to President Dole, who then, yielded up to the representative of the Government of the United States the sovereignty and public property of the Hawaiian Islands.

Following the further provision of the joint resolution I appointed Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois, John T. Morgan of Alabama, Hilary A. Herbert, Sanford B. Dole of Hawaii and Walter F. Frear of Hawaii as commissioners to confer and recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian Islands as they should deem necessary or proper. The commissioners having attended the inauguration of the new government, I transmitted the report of the commission to the Congress for its consideration at its last session. The report has been printed and the application of American laws and the establishment of suitable exhibits by the several executive departments, under charge of the Department of Agriculture, the Fish Commission and the Smithsonian Institution, as the representatives of the Government of the United States. Pursuant to the statement I appointed Ferdinand W. Peck, of Chicago, Commissioner General, with an assistant commissioner general and secretary. Mr. Peck at once proceeded to Paris, where his success in engaging the space and variety of the United States exhibit has been most gratifying.

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