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THE MESSAGE.
President McKinley Re-
views Our War With
Spain.

OUR NEW POSSESSIONS.
Our Future Government Will Await the Rat-
ification of the Peace Treaty—The Gov-
ernment of the Philippines is Left to Con-
gress to Settle—Military Role is Urged in
the Possessions Until Legislation has been
Carried Through—It is Suggested that the
Colonies be Aided After Treaty is Ratified
With a View to Giving Them Free Govern-
ment—100,000 Standing Army.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special).—President McKinley's second annual message, a document of unusual length, was read to the members of Congress immediately after the adjournment of the third and closing session of the Fifty-fifth Congress.
The Senate and House of Representatives met on the 13th of December to consider the added burdens resulting from the war. Our people realize that a very satisfactory and steady increase in the volume of business ever recorded in the history of the nation has been produced. The growth of the national arms and munitions industry has yielded abundant returns for the Government and has contributed to the national revenue. The national debt, which was a heavy burden at the close of the war, has been reduced to a very small amount. The national credit is at a high level and is being maintained by the world's markets. The military service under a common discipline has increased the national prestige and has served to unite the people in a common purpose. The various Governments were notified of the existence of war, in order that their neutrality might be preserved. The various Governments were notified of the existence of war, in order that their neutrality might be preserved. The various Governments were notified of the existence of war, in order that their neutrality might be preserved.

Destruction of the Maine.
At this time, on the 15th day of February, 1898, the destruction of the battleship Maine, which was destroyed in the harbor of Havana on the 15th of February, 1898, is being investigated by a board of inquiry. The board of inquiry is composed of the following members: The President, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of War, and the Chief of the United States Army. The board of inquiry is to report to the President on the 15th day of May, 1899.

Praise For All Our Fighters.
It is fitting that I should bear testimony to the patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which was ordered to the post of greatest exposure, fortunately was not required for their whole duty, and like their comrades at the front have earned the gratitude of the nation. In like manner, the officers and men of the United States Navy were distinguished in their service. Their gallant conduct during the recent campaign in the Philippines is a credit to the United States Navy and a source of pride to the nation.

Spanish Sins For Peace.
Spain, having realized that she had lost the war, now seeks to buy peace. The President has received a message from the Spanish Minister, Don Leon y Castillo, offering to buy peace on the following terms: The Spanish Government will withdraw all its troops from Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines; it will evacuate all its military commissions on the 15th of April; it will evacuate all its military commissions on the 15th of April; it will evacuate all its military commissions on the 15th of April.

Peace Commission's Work.
Pursuant to the fifth article of the protocol, I appointed William B. Day, late Secretary of the Navy, and George D. Herron, William P. Frye and George Gray, Senators of the United States, and Walter W. Ried to be the Peace Commissioners on the part of the United States. They have been in session since the 15th of December, 1898.

Government of New Possessions.
I do not dissent at this time the government of the future of the new possessions which will come as a result of the war. The Spanish Government has proposed to withdraw all its troops from Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines; it will evacuate all its military commissions on the 15th of April; it will evacuate all its military commissions on the 15th of April.

Open Door in China.
The United States has not been an indifferent spectator of the European war. It has taken an active part in the conflict, and has secured the respect of all the nations of the world. The United States has not been an indifferent spectator of the European war. It has taken an active part in the conflict, and has secured the respect of all the nations of the world.

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THE TREATY ALMOST READY.
The Essential Features Disposed of—Embodied in Eight Articles.
THE GOVERNMENT OF HAWAII.
Three Bills Formulated for Congress—Secretary Gage's Annual Report—German Reichstag Opens—The Hebrew Union.

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THE NATION'S LAW-MAKERS.
Proceedings of the Senate and House Day by Day.
SENATE.
TRIDAY.—The first vote of the anti-imperialists was cast in the Senate by Senator Vest, of Missouri, who introduced a joint resolution declaring that under the constitution, the Federal Government had no authority to acquire colonial possessions, to be governed as such, but that all territory acquired by the Government at any such time as may be necessary for the acquisition, correction of boundaries and similar purposes, may be acquired with the purpose of organizing territories, suitable either for admission into the Union as States.

HOUSE.
TRIDAY.—The House was in session less than half an hour when the deaths of Representatives Northway, of Ohio, and Coyle, of Mississippi, were announced, and an adjournment was taken until Wednesday, on the 15th of December. The customary resolution for the distribution of the President's message to the several committees having jurisdiction was adopted, and the definition bill carrying the appropriations for the extraordinary expenses of the army and navy for the fiscal year 1899, introduced by the House, was the following: By Mr. Otter, of Virginia, to amend the war revenue act by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem at their face value all revenue stamps sold and not so redeemed; By Mr. Keiser, of Illinois, to establish the term of the circuit court for New Bern and Elizabeth City, N. C.

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