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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The Salient Points Briefly Noted Comprehending the Immense Document.

The opening paragraph of the President's message is a happy vein in noting a greatly increased volume of business, progressive manufacturing, abundant crops, the firm condition of national finances and the cementing effect of the recent war on the different sections of our great country.

He refers to the subject of the Cuban insurrection that was of great concern when his last message was written and Spain's declaration that her plans would be successful in a given time which was not realized. He refers to the destruction of life in Cuba by the concentrating by Gen. Weyler that reached the rate of 40 per cent and the aid sent by the Red Cross and by private contributions that mitigated the sufferings to some degree.

He refers to the blowing up of the Maine on the 15th of February, while she was peacefully and rightly in the harbor as a mark of national courtesy and friendliness. The President says that the naval board found that the vessel had been blown up by a mine and intimates that the board lacked only a bit of positive evidence to fix the authorship of the terrible crime.

He refers to the unanimous vote on the 9th of March of \$50,000,000 with which the President should make preparations for the conflict that was inevitable and that this appropriation come none too soon. When the war came it found us not unprepared through the expenditure of this sum.

He reiterates the interview with the representatives of the European powers in the hope of still solving the problem without war, in which he shared the great desire but that the condition in Cuba had become unendurable.

He shows that efforts were made to have reconcentrados allowed to return to their homes and provide a living and be in condition to be helped, but all failed. It was then that he laid the matter before Congress and asked for such legislation as would stop the destruction of life in Cuba and secure a stable government on the island.

The action of Congress in the resolutions requiring Spain to withdraw her troops and her navy from Cuban waters are reproduced as is the authority to the executive to use the land and naval forces of the United States to execute the demands.

The breaking off of diplomatic relations to which these resolutions led are recalled, Spain declaring them equivalent to a declaration of war. April the 21st was fixed as the date of the beginning of the war and the nations were informed on the 25th and the President says each in its own way proclaimed neutrality and preserved the same.

The president notes that the same rules for neutral vessels were adopted by both belligerents.

The president says 103 vessels were added to the navy by purchase, one was presented to the government, one was leased and four were chartered. The navy was classified but we pass it for want of space.

In the preparation for our coast defense the President says 1,535 mines were laid in our harbors and that many more were ordered but the early destruction of the Spanish fleets made it unnecessary.

The President cannot recount all the engagements but speaks of the great achievement of Admiral Dewey in the annihilation of the Spanish fleet in the Pacific without the loss of a life and

wounding of only seven and without the injury of a vessel.

The total force sent to Manila to sustain Dewey is 641 officers and 13,058 men.

The President says the stern precepts of war were obeyed in striking the enemy at every available point. At Cerdas on the 11th of May Worth Bagley and four seamen fell in an attack on the forts. These were grievous fatalities but were the chief ones in the extraordinary naval conflicts. The great suspense is noted when Cervera's fleet could not be found or calculated upon until it went into Santiago on the 19th of May. The bombardment of San Juan by Sampson on the 15th and that of Santiago by Schley on the 30th had little effect.

The President recounts the story of Hobson and his seven associated heroes and the gratifying appreciation of their heroism by Admiral Cervera. The President says they blocked the narrow channel. (This, however, we have always thought, was a mistake as shown by the fact that Cervera sailed out of it with his fleet.)

The president scans over the splendid dispatch and the gallant achievements of our troops at Santiago and the unprecedented results of the naval fight in July in which Cervera's fleet was destroyed and about 600 Spaniards were killed and 1,300 taken as prisoners, with one man killed, one seriously wounded and not a vessel especially damaged. The President finds such uniform heroism displayed from the Commanders down to the men in the boiler rooms that he singles no one for special praise. The message says that with this battle ended Spain's effort on seas except a spasmodic effort to relieve Manila with the fleet under Camara, which was abandoned and the fleet was recalled after it had passed through the Suez Canal.

The President retraces the events around Santiago to its surrender that gave prestige to our forces on land and sea and claims unstinted honor for the participants but solicits tears for those who fell in battle and who died of disease, the memory of which, says the President, "must cloud our exultation at the result and teach us to weigh the awful cost of war, however rightful the cause or signal the victory."

We skip over the Presidents further account of the operations in Porto Rico and at Manila and note the following summary of casualties: In the army 23 officers and 257 men were killed—total 278. Wounded, 113 officers and 1,464 men—total 1,577. In the navy were 17 killed and 67 wounded, 1 dying from wounds.

The President notes that we had only the heroes of the Merrimac captured and not a vessel nor a flag.

Encomiums are bestowed also on those who against their own desire did not get to participate in battle.

The President makes grateful acknowledgement of the Red Cross Society and its helpful co-operations.

The negotiations for peace are narrated as is also the essentials of the protocol, the cessation of hostilities, the mustering out of 100,000 troops and the appointment of the peace commission.

The President does not discuss the form of government for Porto Rico and the Philippines as a treaty of peace is not yet signed. He will continue the present military government there and in Cuba till the latter is pacified and a local government inaugurated that will insure safety to person and property when we will withdraw.

The President notes the cordial relations existing between us and all the

nations except Spain, but refers to the growing need of an international regulation for telegraphic and cable services as in the postal services.

The message notes the killing of the Austro-Hungarian miners in Pennsylvania but says the trial shows the officers in the line of duty and does not anticipate complications on account of it.

The President is greatly pleased with America's recognition at the Brussels exposition of 1897.

The President bestows considerable space to the consideration of the Nicaraguan Canal and views it as a necessity.

The Chinese complications are noted but no interest of ours seem threatened. The President urges the appointment of a commission to China to study our trade interests there. Protection of our citizens there is being looked after.

The President urges that the appropriation to the Paris exposition in 1900 be increased to at least \$1,000,000. Is gratified at the allotment of space for the United States, being 202,000 square feet. He would have our nation well in the lead at the exposition.

Great Britain's kindness to us is recognized.

Hawaiian matters are treated, but there is nothing striking in the matter.

Response was given to the Czar of Russia and assurances that this country would join in the conference for universal peace and national disarmament. Some minor events of international adjustment are enumerated, but are not of great public interest.

The message recommends an international code of laws for the protection of private property at sea in times of war to relieve much of the burden and depression of business.

The receipts of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30th were from all sources \$405,321,335, and the expenditures were \$443,368,582. Our imports both dutiable and free show a decrease and our exports an increase. The estimated expenses of the government for the next year over the receipts is \$112,000,000. On Dec. 1st, '98, there was in the Government Treasury \$451,963,981. The amount of money of all kinds now in circulation is \$1,886,879,504, an increase during the year of \$165,794,966. The per capita circulation is estimated to be \$25.09.

The ratio of gold to the outstanding obligations of the government has increased from 16.96 to 25.35 per cent. during the year. He would have greenbacks, for which gold has been paid, held till gold is paid back into the treasury for them.

Financial legislation is recommended, but a safe currency in harmony with demands of international commerce is clearly meant.

An appropriation is asked for with which to grapple with the yellow fever pests of Cuba and Porto Rico.

It is recommended to increase the regular army to 100,000 men, when all volunteers will be mustered out of service. The President would get some of these soldiers from the territory governed.

The pacific railroads matters are treated at length.

The enormous increase of the postal service is noted without suggestion.

The increase of the navy by 15 powerful vessels is recommended as also the revival of the office of admiral and vice-admiral, by which to honor our naval heroes. \$144,651,879.80 were paid during the year for pensions.

A favorable report is made of the Indian affairs, but 30,000 white children in the Indian Territory need school facilities.

Sugar beet culture and manufactures show that the nation can produce her own sugar.

The President would have 1900 suitably observed as the centennial of our nation's capitol at the city named after the father of our country.

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