The Wilmington Messenger.

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TO THE CONGRESS.

A Message From the President Asking for a Declaration of War.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

A Number of Telegrams and Notes Between the Two Governments Accompany the Message---Spain's Acknowledgement of Existence of War in the Recall of Her Minister Emphasized.

Spain Takes the Initiative in Bringing About the Rupture of Diplomatic Relations---Senator Butler Gets a Heavy Rap.

Washington, April 25.—The president today sent the following message to congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

I transmit to the congress for its consideration and appropriate action copies of correspondence recently had with representatives of Spain in the United States, with the United States Minister at Madrid and through the latter with the government of Spain, showing the action taken under the joint resolution approved April 20th, 1898, "For the Recognition of the Independence of the People of Cuba, demanding that the Government of Spain Relinquish its Authority and government in the Island of Cuba and to Withdraw its Land and Naval Forces from Cuba and Cuban Waters, and Directing the President of the United States to use the Land and Naval Forces of the United States to Carry these Resolutions into Effect."

Upon communicating to the Spanish minister in Washington the demand which it became the duty of the executive to address to the government of Spain, in obedience to said resolution, the minister asked for his passports and withdrew. The United States minister at Madrid was in turn notified by the Spanish minister for foreign affairs that the withdrawal of the Spanish representative from the United States had terminated diplomatic communications between the two countries and that all official communications between their respective representatives ceased therewith.

I commend to your especial attention the note addressed to the United States minister at Madrid by the Spanish minister for foreign affairs on the 21st instant, whereby the foregoing notification was conveyed. It will be perceived therefrom that the government of Spain, having cognizance of the joint resolution of the United States congress, and in view of the things which the president was thereby required and authorized to do, responsibly treating the reasonable demands of this government as measure of hostility, following with that, instant and complete severance of relations because its action, which by the usage of nations, accompanies an existent state of war between sovereign powers.

The position of Spain being thus made known and the demands of the United States being denied, with a complete rupture of intercourse by the act of Spain, I have been constrained in exercise of the power and authority conferred upon me by the joint resolution aforesaid to proclaim, under date of April 22nd, 1898, a blockade of certain ports of the north coast of Cuba lying between Cardenas and Bahai Honda and of the port of Cienfueges on the south coast of Cuba; and further, in exercise of my constitutional powers and using the authority conferred upon me by the act of congress approved April 22, 1898, to issue my proclamation, dated April 23, 1898, calling forth volunteers in order to carry into effect the said resolution of April 20, 1898. Copies of these proclamations are hereto appended.

In view of the measures so taken, and with a view to the adoption of such other measures as may be necessary, to enable me to carry out the expressed will of the congress of the United States in the premises, I recommend to your honorable body the adoption of a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain, and I urge speedy action thereon to the end that the definition of the international status of the United States as a belligerent power may be known and the assertion of all its rights and the maintenance of all its duties in the conduct of a public war may be assured.

(Signed) WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

Executive Mansion, Washington, April 25, 1898.

The president's message was accompanied by ten or fifteen telegrams and notes that have passed between the governments of Spain and the United States mainly through Minister Woodford, but partly through Minister Polo. It is believed these papers will clearly establish the position of this government that Spain has recognized the existence of a state of war.

In the correspondence accompanying the president's message today was the following:

On April 21, 1898, Minister Woodford telegraphed Secretary Sherman as follows:

"Following is text of my reply to the official note received this morning at 7:30 o'clock from the Spanish minister of state:

"'I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your note of this date informing me that the Spanish minister at Washington has been ordered to withdraw with all his legations and without loss of time from North American territory.

"'You also inform me that by this act diplomatic relations between the two countries are broken off; that official communication between their respective representatives cease. I have accordingly this day telegraphed the American consul general at Barcelona to instruct all the consuls of the United States in Spain to turn their respective consulates over to the British consuls and to leave Spain at once. I have myself turned this legation over to Her Britannic majesty's embassy at Madrid. That embassy will from this time have the care of all American interests in Spain. I now request passports and safe conduct to the French frontier for myself and the personnel of this legation. I intend leaving this afternoon at 4 o'clock for Paris.

"'WOODFORD.'"

"Madrid, April 21, 1898.—Following is text of official note received this morning at 7:30 o'clock from the Spanish minister of state:

"'In compliance with a painful duty I have the honor to inform your excellency that the president having approved a resolution of both chambers of the United States which, in denying the legitimate sovereignty of Spain and threatening armed intervention in Cuba, is equivalent in an evident declaration of war, the government of his majesty has ordered its minister in Washington to withdraw without loss of time from the North American territory, with all the personnel of the legation.

"'By this act the diplomatic relations which previously existed between the two countries are broken off, all communications between their respective representatives ceasing, and I hasten to communicate this to your excellency in order that, on your part, you may make such dispositions as seem suitable. I beg your excellency to kindly acknowledge receipt of this note, and I vail myself, etc.' WOODFORD."

On April 14th Secretary Sherman wired:

"Ultimate resolution in conference; cannot now be forecasted, but will doubtless direct intervention by force, if need be, to secure free Cuba. Situation is most critical."

Last Tuesday, Acting Secretary Day notified Minister Woodford of the final adoption of the resolutions by both houses:

"An instruction will be telegraphed you later, immediately, on the president signing the joint resolution. In the meantime you will prepare for withdrawal from Spain and notify consuls to be ready for the signal to leave. If any consul is in danger he may quietly leave at his discretion.

"DAY."

Following is the reply:

Mr. Woodford to Mr. Day:

"Madrid, April 20.—Have received telegram of Tuesday morning; am prepared to withdraw. Have notified consuls to be ready.

"WOODFORD."

On April 20th Secretary Sherman telegraphed Mr. Woodford the ultimatum, heretofore published.

On the same date Secretary Sherman sent a notice to the Spanish minister informing him of the signing of the resolutions. He also enclosed a copy of the resolutions and ultimatum.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION PASSED BY CONGRES.

Following is the bill reported by the house foreign affairs committee:

A Bill Declaring that War Exists Between the United States of America And the Kingdom of Spain.

Be it enacted, etc.

1. That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist and that war has existed since the 21st day of April, A. D., 1898, including said day, between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain.

2. That the president of the United States be and he hereby is directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval force of the United States and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states, to such extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect.

The house declaration is the same as that passed by the senate.

An effort was made in the secret session of the senate to adopt a Cuban belligerency amendment, but it was lost—24 to 38.

SENTENCED TO BE SHOT.

Captain Milburn, of the British Steamer Myrtledene, Has a Close Call in Havana.

Key West, Fla., April 25.—The British steamer Myrtledene, Captain Milburn, from Philadelphia, on April 8th, for Havana and Cardenas, arrived here this morning from Havana. Her commander reports that the news of the sailing of the United States fleet was received at Havana just previous to the departure of the Myrtledene. He adds that it created no excitement in the city, but the price of meat immediately jumped from 24 to 50 cents.

According to Captain Milburn, Havana does not fear bombardment, because, the Spaniards say, the United States began the war in the interests of humanity, and bombardment would be contrary to that purpose.

At Havana, it appears, the conditions prevailing are not unusual, except that the city is crowded with troops, and that the Spanish officers are drilling every man they can press into the service.

The Myrtledene reached Havana a week ago Sunday and Captain Milburne went ashore. He says he walked over to the new fortifications at Casablanco to make observations, when three or four soldiers, with fixed bayonets, arrested him as an American spy. The captain was taken to Morro Castle, and after three or four hours had elapsed he was informed that sentence had been passed upon him and that he was to be shot in an hour.

The captain, who is an intense Britisher, replied: "Why wait an hour? Shoot me now and in a day Havana and all Cuba will be blown up."

The British vice cousul, Arthur Arosteguy, was interested in the case and Captain Milburn released.

Captain Milburn adds: "Havana will give you all the fighting you want when you land."

The Myrtledene left Havana Friday night, just as the American fleet was coming in sight. Mr. Arosteguy, the British vice consul, anxious for his family's safety, sent them to Key West by the steamer. She had a cargo of coal, 1,200 tons of which she discharged in Havana. Captain Milburn intended to ship 5,000 tons of sugar now in Cuba, the property of Mr. Revel, an American, but he was advised to leave port promptly.

According to statements of the family of Arthur Arosteguy, the British vice consul at Havana, who arrived on the Myrtledene today, great excitement prevailes in Havana and at the time the Myrtledene left port, the people were leaving for the open country in all directions. At Mariano, just outside of Havana, a train was held up by an excited crowd eager to escape. The alarm was caused by the firing from the Santa Clara battery.

The gunboat Annapolis has arrived here from New York.

The Norweigan steamer Stero, from Tampico for Havana, with cattle, was turned back by the fleet and came here.

AMONG THE BLOCKADERS

The Dauntless Gets Among the Torpedo Boats at Night—The Foote Fired on from a Masked Battery

(Copyrighted by Associated Press.)

On Board the Associated Press Boat Dauntless, Matanzas, Island of Cuba, via Key West., Fla., April 25.—7:42 a. m.—Between 9 and 10 o'clock last night the Associated Press dispatch boat Dauntless was steaming quietly towards Matanzas, whose lights were reflected on the sky a few miles southeastward. A large fire on shore was exciting comment on board the dispatch boat and wonder was rife as to where the United States blockading fleet was to be found. Suddenly, a lookout on board the dispatch boat reported: "Torpedo boat astern. Coming up fast."

A moment or so later, by her lights—two red and one green—and by a rocket which she sent up, the torpedo boat Dupont was made out. The rocket was answered by the glare from the search lights on board the cruiser Cincinnati, the beams being thrown full on the Dauntless and on the Dupont. The dispatch boat of the Associated Press had come, unawares, within three miles of the Cuban shore and far inside the prescribed limits. The Dauntless made known her identity and soon a boat from the Cincinnati, in charge of an ensign, pulled toward her. The papers and log of the Dauntless were examined and found to be satisfactory. We exchanged news and the Cincinnati having ordered the Dauntless to lay-to, permission was requested to return to Key West, Ensign McIntyre said he would transmit the request to the Cincinnati. The Cincinnati was also informed that the Dauntless would cheerfully take back any mail. In ten minutes a boat returned with this message: "Captain Chester's compliments, and he will be obliged if you will take in this mail. You can go. I advise that you steam due west six miles when you make your first course, or you may get into more trouble."

The instructions were obeyed literally and the Dauntless set off on her return. Before she had gone six miles, we saw a torpedo boat astern, evidently keeping an eye on us. Then we saw the Cincinnati's search lights sweep the horizon, and soon afterward we heard four shots in succession. As they were not followed by others, we presumed that some other boat had been overhauled. Certainly there was no bombardment of Matanzas commenced at night. The Dauntless made a good run, the north gale having abated and the water being smooth in the straits. She arrived off San Key light at 5 o'clock this morning.

TORPEDO BOAT FOOTE UNDER FIRE.

The United States torpedo boat Foote, Lieutenant W. L. Rodgers, commanding, has the honor of having been the target for the first shots fired by the Spaniards at the American flag during the war just begun. The firing occurred between 5 and 6 o'clock on Saturday afternoon while the torpedo boat was taking soundings in the harbor of Matanzas. She was within two or three hundred yards of the shore. Suddenly a Spanish masked battery on the east side of the harbor and not very far distant from the Foote fired three shots at the torpedo boat. They all went wide of the mark and the Foote returned leisurely to the Cincinnati, where she reported the result of her soundings and then announced she had been fired upon. The Cincinnati was anxious to steam instantly and reduce the Spanish batteries, but she was not permitted to do so.

No captures are reported by the fleet off Matanzas.

It is alleged that two Spanish gun boats were seen in shore, but the report could not be verified.

AMONG THE BLOCKADERS.

Matanzas, Cuba, via Key West, Fla., April 25.— 7:45 a. m.—The Dauntless, dispatch boat of the Associated Press, steamed from off Havana to the blockading squadron off Matanzas yesterday, being the first dispatch boat to visit the United States vessels cruising off this part of the coast. The Dauntless left the squadron at Havana just after flagship New York sailed, presumably for Key West. She was alongside the Indiana for a while. The Wilmington, Detroit and several other vessels were further in shore. The Iowa, following the orders of Rear Admiral Sampson, was far enough off Havana to escape any fire from the shore batteries.

There has been no incident worth noting since the cauture of the Spanish steamer Catalnia and two schooners in the early morning.

The Nashville and the Castine are, doubtless, still off Cienfuegos. On her way from Havana to Matanzas, the Dauntless passed the torpedo boat Winslow, going to report to the flagship.

TO INVADE CUBA

Arrangements Under Way for Transporting Troops to the Island.

Jacksonville, Fla., April 25.—A special to The Times-Union and Citizen from Tampa, Fla.,—Government officials here have made arrangements looking to an invasion of Cuba. Twenty of the leading Cuban physicians have been engaged to go to Cuba with the army from this city and twenty bright young men who speak English will accompany them as interpreters. These arrangements were made today.

The officers of the post were very busy on important matters and a number of them went to Port Tampa where they spent the day in consultation with President H. B. Plant, Vice President F. Q. Brown and Captain James W. Fitzgerald, the superintendent of the Plant steamship line. This consultation was mainly over the transportation of troops from this city to Key West and Havana. The officers made close inquiries regarding the capacity of the various boats of the fleet and as to what accommodations they offered to the men enroute. The boats were measured and everything was gone over in detail. Superintendent Fitzgerald is doing all in his power to make matters clear to the officers.

The First Troops to Land in Cuba

(Copyright by Associated Press.)

On board the flagship New York, off Havana, April 25, 10 a. m.—The early morning hours today were taken up by a vigorous chasing of moving lights. The only vessel spoken was the British schooner Iolanthe. She was allowed to proceed. She was just out of Matanzas. No shots have been fired since yesterday morning on either side. The Dolphin and the converted yacht Eagle arrived from Key West this morning. The Dolphin carried the officers and prize crews who had been placed on the steamer Pedro and the schooner Antonio.

The torpedo boat Porter made a daring trip into the shore under cover of darkness last night and Lieutenant Fremont, her commander, landed with a small party and obtained valuable information. The blockade continues under beautiful weather conditions.

The flagship returned to the blockade line about 6:30 o'clock last evening after an uneventful trip. Nothing of importance apparently had occurred during her absence. When darkness came on last night, Morro castle showed a powerful searchlight, and flashed it nervously around the horizon. Another short search light also was seen. It looked to be from the direction of the Santa Clara batteries to the westward of El Morro.

Tar Heels in the Navy

A staff correspondent of the Atlanta Journal, writing from Key West of the southern young men in the navy, has this to say of North Carolinians now at Key West:

"North Carolina has a number of officers in the fleet, and they all rank high in character and efficiency. One of the youngest and one of the best is Ensign Worth Bagley, of Raleigh, N. C. He is the second officer on the torpedo boat Winslow, the youngest ensign in the navy holding a responsible position, his commission as ensign having been issued to him only last July. Mr. Bagley is a brother-in-law of Hon. Josephus Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, and his family is one of the best known in North Carolina.

"On the Iowa, the best fighting ship in the navy, with the best fighting captain, Robley D. Evans, is the lieutenant is a well known North Carolinian—Lieutenant Henderson—a brother of ex-Congressman Henderson, of the Charlotte district.

"Another well known and efficient North Carolinian officer on this fleet is Lieutenant Ed. Anderson, of the Marblehead. Another North Carolinian is Lieutenant Thomas Washington, of the Indiana, a member of the famous class of '87 at Annapolis and considered one of the best junior lieutenants in the navy. And still another is Ensign James E. Walker on the Nashville.

Boxes, barrels and crates are made in a factory just opened at Washington. Eighteen hands are employed.

CONGRESS DECLARES WAR

The Resolution Passed Without Debate.

NO ROLL CALL REQUIRED

The Resolutions Passage Greeted with a Cheer in the House—The Signatures of Both Officers Attached—Senate Passes the Naval Appropriation With Amendments—The Two Houses Disagree on the Army Reorganization Bill and it Goes to Conference.

SENATE.

Washington, April 26.—War and war measures were the only topics discussed in the senate today for more than four hours of its session. The body had scarcely convened when the message of the president urging congress to declare the existence of war between the United States and Spain was laid before it. Without comment the message was referred to the foreign relations committee.

Consideration of the naval appropriation bill was resumed, the pending question being upon an amendment of Senator Butler, populist, of North North Carolina, to reduce the price of armor plate or, as an alternative, to establish an armor factory. After a long and bitter debate, in the course of which Senator Butler was accused by Senator Hawley, of Connecticut, of making what, in the circumstances, would be regarded as a treasonable utterance, the amendment was defeated. An amendment of great importance was attached to the bill at the last minute by Senator Hale, chairman of the naval affairs committee. It authorizes the secretary of the navy to enlist as many men as he may deem necessary to man the ships of the navy during the existing war and appropriate $8,830,000 to enable him to carry the amendment into effect. An amendment was also agreed to providing that hereafter all first class battleships and monitors shall be named after the various states. The naval bill was then passed.

The bill for the better organization of the line of the army of the United States, providing for the three battalion formation, was called up by Senator Hawley, it was read and then the amendments offered by the committee were agreed to without division.

One of the amendments is an addition to the proviso of Section 3, authorizing the president to accept the quotas of troops of the various states and territories. The committe's amendment requires that these quotas shall be in "companies, troops and batteries, each to contain, so far as practicable, the number of enlisted men authorized in this act for each arm of the service."

Another amendment authorizes a hospital steward for each battalion. Provision is also made for the increase of the signal corps in time of war to the extent of 10 corporals, 100 first-class privates and 40 second-class privates, who are to have the pay and allowance of engineer troops of the same grade.

An amendment to Section 6 gives the president discretion to employ retired officers of the army on active duty, except in the command of troops. While so employed they are to receive the full pay of their grade.

At 3 o'clock the senate went into secret legislative session and passed the bill of the house declaring the existence of war between the United States and Spain.

Vice President Hobart signed the bill declaring the existence of war between the United States and Spain at 5 o'clock.

A few minutes later a message was received from the house announcing its disagreement with the senate amendments to the army reorganization bill and asking for a conference. The conference was agreed to and the conferees named.

At 5:35 o'clock p. m. the senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The house of representatives today passed the bill declaring the existence of a state of war between the United States and the kingdom of Spain in a manner which cannot fail to impress the world. The representatives of 70,000,000 people voted for it without a word of debate, without a dissenting vote and without a roll call, but with a solemn appreciation of the gravity of their momentous action. It required but one minute and forty-one seconds to accomplish this. The house was considering an election case when the message was received and simply paused to declare war. There was no excitement, no cavil, no word or question. It was only in the great cheer that went up from floor and galleries when Speaker Reed announced its passage that the tremendous import of the act and the suppressed enthusiasm behind it was shown. After the president's message was read, the committee on foreign affairs framed the resolution, Acting Chairman Adams wrote the report, and it was passed and on its way to the senate in an hour and six minutes. The speaker signed it at 4:49 o'clock.

The remainder of the day was devoted to debating the lection case of Wise vs. Young, from the Second Virginia district.

When the army reorganization bill, with senate amendments, came back to the house, on motion of Mr. Hull, the amendments were non-concurred in and the bill was sent to conference. Messrs. Hull, Cox (democrat, of Tennessee) and Marsh (republican, of Illinois) were appointed conferees.

At 5:10 p. m. the house adjourned.

No News of the Paris

London, April 26.—Lloyd has received no news of the American liner Paris up to 6 o'clock this morning.

ON STRICT WAR FOOTING.

Prepared for an Attack at Any Moment.

MEN SLEEPING AT GUNS.

The Flying Squadron Ships Under Full Steam and Ready for Action at a Moment's Notice—Hampton Roads Under Pacific Blockade at Night—Mines All Placed—The Patrol Fleet on Northern Coast—The Hospital Boat Solace.

On board the flagship Brooklyn, off Fortress Monroe, April 25.—This port, the entrance to Washington, the capital of the nation; Norfolk and Portsmouth, where half a score of vessels of war are under repair for assistance in the conflict; Newport News, the great coaling place of the coast and where the battleships Kentucky and Kearsage are being constructed; Annapolis, the naval academy of the nation; Richmond, a great city of the south, and Fortress Monroe, the key to the land situation, has been declared in a state of pacific blockade from sunset to sunrise, and no vessels will be allowed to enter Hampton Roads between the hours that mark that period.

The enforcement of this pacific blockade established for precautionary purposes, is put not in the hands of naval officers at present here with the flying squadron, but is carried out by the army officers located at fortress Monroe. Under the direction of Captain Casey, of the United States army engineer corps, mines have been laid between Cape Henry and Charles and above them both in the Chesapeake and the James outlet of Hampton Roads and the arduous work of yesterday completed them. It is, therefore, dangerous for vessels to come in at night for fear the mines will be accident be exploded.

A patrol force of vessels either owned or chartered by the army department was, therefore sent out tonight and all ships are warned and ordered to lay to until day. At that time the picket fleet will act as escort to vessels that have been held throughout the night and will escort them through the lines of torpedoes and mines with which the harbor is now lined.

The Washington, Norfolk and Richmond steamers were allowed to leave tonight as usual, but beginning tomorrow night will have to leave before sunset in time to be clear of the harbor.

The squadron is on the most warlike kind of footing tonight. A picket fleet of steam cutters is out for the entire night fully armed, the officers of the deck and the marine sentries are armed and some of the gunsquads sleep at the guns. Engines are coupled, full steam is up and anchors have been lighted so that there will be no delay in starting.

Up to nightfall the Montgomery had not come down from Norfolk to escort the Panther to Key West with its 800 marines. The Montgomery, with its rapid fire guns, the Morrill and the Sioux, with their fast batteries, and the Panther with its complement of eight rapid fire guns, it is believed, will form too formidable a fleet for any enemy near this coast.

The news of the whereabouts of the Columbia was received with surprise today and wonder expressed at the reason for sending her to the New England coast. It, however, the San Francisco, and the New Orleans join this fleet, it will be strengthened for its anticipated meeting with the Cape de Verde fleet of Spain.

The Rodgers, torpedo boat, came in today after being forty-eight hours at sea, and ran up to Norfolk for slight repairs. She found that one of her plates had sprung because of the wrench she gave herself in running on a sand bar last week. The repairs will take but a short time and she will be ready to join the fleet at Key West.

All the ships of the squadron coaled today in full for what they have burned while in waiting here.

THE HOSPITAL BOAT.

The Solace, an innovation in naval construction, is completed and may leave for Key West with the Panther convoy. Her hull is painted white with a green band around it. She is a ship of 3,800 tons and has a speed of seventeen knots, so she can easily follow the fleets of America. Carrying the flag of the Geneva Red Cross, it is not believed that she will even be threatened by the enemy. Every comfort and convenience for wounded officers and men will be found on this floating hospital and never before have there been such provided for battles on the water. There are bunks for the wounded, plenty of operating tables, large steam launches to circulate to and and out of the fleet and take away the wounded. The launches will undoubtedly save many officers and sailors from death by drowning. The wounded will be carefully taken by cables and tackles forward, and as soon as they are on deck of the Solace, carried to the operating room, or taken to the bunks. There are operating rooms for use of officers and sailors, bath rooms, convalescing rooms, a laundry, disinfecting machines, quarters for officers and crew of the ship, and there will be on board a corps of trained male nurses from New York.

It is believed that the steamers Juanita and Howard, belonging to the Merchants and Miners' Transportation Company, and running between Norfolk, Boston, Baltimore, Providence and Savannah, will be purchased by the United States government for its use. Whether they will be converted into cruisers or used for transports or troop ships is not known. The Howard is in here, and the work of unloading her cargo was pushed forward during yesterday and last night. The Juanita is now on her way to Norfolk, and on her arrival the same programme of speedily unloading will be carried out. These steamers are staunch, stout and seaworthy, and would be valuable additions to the navy of the United States. It is only a few months since the Juanita, a new ship, made her first trip to Norfolk from Boston, and she is speedy and comfortable. The Howard, an older ship, is quite up to the same standard.

The harbor late tonight presents a most warlike appearance. The guard fleet of the fort stops all vessels and warns them of danger, after passing on their papers. They are also told that they cannot go out except by day light. Tomorrow night no vessel will be allowed in or out of the harbor between sunset and sunrise.

MILEAGE RATES.

The Wilmington Tariff Association Petitions the Railroad Commission to Reduce the Rate for Book Tickets.

The following petition has been filed with the North Carolina railroad commission:

1. The Wilmington Tariff Association, of Wilmington, N. C., petition the board of railroad commissioners of North Carolina to require the Atlantic Coast Line system and all their branches in North Carolina, the Southern railway system and all their bhanches in North Carolina, the Seaboard Air Line system and all their branches in North Carolina, the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley and all their branches in North Carolina and the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad to sell mileage tickets at rates of $25.00 for 1,000 miles and $40.00 for 2,000 miles.

2. And to permit the use of same by all persons whose names may be written in the books, such persons to be only the members of business houses and their traveling representatives, and the members of the purchaser's family.

3. It is further petitioned that such books be made interchangeable and good over all roads in this state, mentioned in this petition.

4. Our reasons for petitioning rates mentioned in item No. 1 are, that the railroads have established the precedent that in the transportation of both freight and passengers, a large volume of business should be handled at less rates than a small volume; for illustration, had they not considered this principle correct, why should they have issued a mileage book entitling the purchaser to ride first-class for 1,000 miles at a rate of 2½ cents per mile, while their regular first-class was 3½ cents per mile? They evidently recognized the justice of the claim of those who handle large volumes rather than those who only travel occasionally. The same rule is also observed in the transportation of freight. For illustration, I refer you to the rates on that class of merchandise which moves in small quantities and that which moves in large quantities. On a portion of the latter, special or commodity rates are granted and the remainder is handled at the lowest classes, while the former class is handled at what are termed class rates, which are classified so as to give the class of goods which comprises the smallest movement the highest class. Their entire method of doing business recognizes the principle which has enabled all business organizations, that to the largest business should be given the most favorable terms. Railroads for a considerable period permitted the use of mileage books to a limited number, whose names appeared in the books, and sold them at rates we mentioned in item No. 1, and only withdrew these rates and conditions, I think, about eight years ago.

5. Our reasons for making petitions in item No. 2, are these: It is frequently the case that a merchant desires to send a traveling representative over a road for which he has no mileage book, and to do so at present he has to purchase a ticket at regular fare, or a member of the firm is compelled to make a special trip on like terms. We contend that to this class of travel who invest a large amount of money in railroad fares should be granted more privileges than they now enjoy. As to the use of mileage books to the members of a purchaser's family we assign the same reasons as cited in this item relative to commercial travelers, for only those who travel a great deal would purchase the books.

6. Our reasons for making petition as mentioned in item No. 3 are these: Purchasers will not be required to invest so much money at one time; and we think it fair to assume that rates requested will increase travel, some among business men and a great deal among the other class of travel herein mentioned, hence the railroads will receive more revenue than now from their passenger service at no additional expense. Lines members of the Central Passenger Association sell interchangeable mileage books good over the lines, members of the association, individual lines, members of the association, also sell 2,000 mile books at 2 cents per mile, and as this was done without pressure of the courts, we assume that they recognized the justice of allowing that portion of their travel from whom they received the bulk of their revenue the advantages due them, and applied the same principle which they observe in transportation of freight, while conforming to the light of precedent.

7. As a matter of protection to the railroads, we petition you to order that these books cannot be resold by the purchasers. This will prevent scalping of mileage tickets, and afford the railroads all the protection they need against misuse, and put the same in practice as the roads which we represent. And as to the redemption of unused books at the expiration of the limit, we ask that you make one year from date of sale; we also ask that they be redeemed on the same basis as at present exists—that is, on the 2,000 mile book reduce the rate per mile at which redeemed in proportion to the reduction in the rate per mile at which sold.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES KYLE,

Mag'r Wilmington Tariff Assoc'n.

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE DAY.

A Member of Senor Polo's Suite Challenges Captain Sigsbee.

The Flying Squadron is Under Full Steam with Men Sleeping at their Guns.

The Columbia and the Minneapolis Are Doing Patrot Duty on the North Atlantic Coast. They May be joined by the New Orleans and San Francisco.

Congress Passes a Resolution Declaring War Against Spain.

The Torpedo Boat Foote, While Making Soundings Near Matanzas, is Fired Upon From a Shore Battery.

Captain Milburn, of the British Steamship Myrtledene, is arrested in Havana as an American Spy and Ordered Shot. The British Vice Consul Has Him Released.

Twenty Thousand Republicans in Spain Address their Leader on the Subject of Declaring a Republic.

Spain Claims the Right of Searching Neutral Vessels in Non-Neutral Waters.

The President Signs the Resolution of Declaration of War. Army Officers at Tampa are Making Arrangements for Transporting Troops to Cuba.

The Porter Lands a Scouting Party on Cuban Soil.

Recruiting Stations are to be Established in the various States. Nothing was done by Blockading Fleet Yesterday.

THE MAY FESTIVAL.

This Great Entertainment to Be Held in Wilmington May 20th and 21st, Three Performances Will Be Given, Fifty Celebrated Artists Are Coming.

Mr. J. S. Atkinson, of Boston, manager of the Southern May Festival, arrived in the city yesterday from Raleigh. He conferred with Mr. T. C. Diggs, general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, and all the preliminary arrangements were made for giving this magnificent entertainment in Wilmington.

The festival will be held here on the evenings of May 20th and 21st, with one matinee performance also on the 21st. It will be under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., and the commodious compartment of the Champion Compress, on the southwest corner of Nutt and Walnut streets, will be utilized for the occasion. Seats for 3,000 persons will be provided.

Mr. Atkinson tells us that it was originally intended to bring out forty artists, but that the company has been increased to fifty. Among the notable additions to the artists is Xavier Riter, the world's greatest French horn player, and Madam Naldi, a famous soprano just from Paris.

We learn that already $4,000 worth of tickets have been sold to the festival to be held in Nashville, Tenn, May 5th and 6th. Such great interest is being taken in it that the Nashville Chamber of Commerce is actively promoting it. It is believed that the sale of tickets will amount to more than $5,000.

Death of E. P. Hauser.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Kinston, N. C., April 25.—Mr. E. P. Hauser, who represented Lenoir county in the lower house of the last general assembly as a populist on the fusion ticket, died near Vandemere in Pamlico county, Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Mr. Hauser had been sick with pneumonia about two months. His remains were brought to Kinston this morning on the Atlantic and North Carolina train and were buried in the family burying grounds about ten miles from Kinston.

Warships off Hayti

Port au Prince, Hayti, April 25.—The Haytian coasting vessel which has just arrived here reports having sighted five warships painted dark gray, passing the Mole St. Nicolas, the western point of the northern part of Hayti, on Saturday last. The correspondent of the Associated Press was unable to verify the statement.

WAR MEASURES.

Arrangements for Speedy Mobilization of the Volunteer Forces.

ACT OF PATRIOTIC MILLIONAIRE.

John Jacob Astor's Offer to the Government---Assistant Secretary Roosevelt a Lutenant Colonel of Mounted Rifles---To Establsh a Naval Station in the Philippine Islands---To Establish Recruiting Stations --- Resignation of Secretary Sherman---Judge Day to Succeed Him. Quotas of the Southern States.

Washington, April 25.—Congress today formally declared war to exist between the United States and Spain, the senate passed the naval appropriation bill carrying large amounts of money for the improvement of our seafighting arm of the federal service. The Hull army reorganization bill was passed by the senate and now goes to conference. Secretary Sherman resigned as chief of the state department, to be succeeded by Asistant Secretary Day, and the latter by John B. Moore, of New York, an acknowledged authority on international law, and the war department called on the several states for their quotas of the volunteer army of the United States. These make up the important events of the day.

It was not announced when Secretary Sherman's resignation would take effect, the secretary having yielded his original idea of leaving at once, and it is presumed that he will remain until Judge Day qualifies as his successor. The selection of Mr. Moore, who is now professor of international law at Columbia university, succeed the latter, was warmly welcomed by all of the state department employes. Appointed originally from Delaware to the state department by Mr. Bayard, when the latter was secretary, Mr. Moore, by sheer merit and ability worked his way to the place of second asistant secretary and in that capacity he served under several administrations without regard to political changes. He resigned to accept the chair of international law at Columbia university about three years ago and it is believed that his present appointment is only temporary, owing to his indisposition to permanently sever his connection with Columbia. Mr. Moore is an authority in certain branches of international law and his selection will do much to strengthen the state department in the present emergency.

THE QUESTION OF PRIZES.

The officials of the department, with the assistance of the attorney general, have been preparing another proclamation which will be issued in a day or two, this time treating of prizes and defining the conditions and time when such seizures might be made. It is believed that the protest and suggestions coming from foreign embassies and legations here have helped the department to define once for all its position in this matter.

A prize commissioner was appointed this afternoon in the person of Commander John Wyne, a retired naval officer. He will be stationed at Key West, where he now resides, and it will be his duty, in conjunction with two of the members yet to be selected, as part of the commission to make appraisements of the value of prizes and to assist the prize courts in their work.

ROOSEVELT MADE A CAVALRY OFFICER.

The president today named Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt as lieutenant colonel of one of the regiments of mounted riflemen to be raised in the Rocky mountains under Colonel Wood, whom Mr. Roosevelt has urged for the place. Colonel Wood won a medal of honor for distinguished gallantry while commanding a detachment of regular troops in the exceedingly hard Apache campaigns against Geronimo. Secretary Alger selected Colonel Wood and Mr. Roosevelt for the position because he felt that their training and experience in the past fitted them to do good service with a cowboy regiment. Colonel Wood starts west tomorrow to superintend the recruiting, many offers having already come to Mr. Roosevelt from individuals and organizations among the cowboys. Secretary Long wishes Mr. Roosevelt to remain in his present position as long as possible, so it may be two or three weeks before he will join his command.

So the talk of a successor to Mr. Roosevelt as assistant secretary has been mere speculation and it can be stated positively that up to this time the president has not made a choice as his successor.

There was a dirth of news from the seat of hostilities on the Cuban coast so far as the department was concerned, or if it was in possession of information it was so carefully guarded that nothing leaked out. A few telegrams came from Key West announcing the arrival there of the prizes whose capture has been reported through the press.

Nothing could be obtained as to the intentions of Commodore Schley in so hastily rushing away the flyers Columbia and Minneapolis from Hampton Roads, but it is believed that their purpose is to shelter Paris or some other liners from a attack at the hands of a Spanish cruiser.

A PACIFIC NAVAL STATION NEEDED.

There was talk of establishing a supply depot in the Philippines to meet the conditions in Asiatic waters. Our fleet there now has no home, and under the stay of the neutrality laws limited to a few ships at any port for a few hours. This is unpleasant, besides involving the expenditure of a great deal of coal, so that it may be necessary for Commodore Dewey to seize a port in the Philippines and fortify it as a base of supplies.

The department today purchased two more tugs, the Fortense, of New Orleans, and the Marie Willick, of Galveston.

A good many details remain to be arranged in order to carry out the war department's projection of the mobilization of volunteers, but these are rapidly being disposed of. The department received notice today that John Logan, son of the late general and Senator Logan, had raised a cavalry regiment which he offered the government under his own command. It is hoped that this can be accepted, as it would be an addition to the quota of men to be furnished by Illinois.

A PATRIOTIC MILLIONAIRE.

John Jacob Astor, of New York, not content with offering the government the free use of his splendid yacht and free transportation for troops and supplies over the railroads in which he is interested, has now come forward with a notice that he will raise and equip at his own expense a battery of artillery which he desires to offer to the government under his own providence. This offer probably will be accepted, although the department is urged with offers to furnish this war to the amount of at least 50,000. As authority under the volunteer enlist only three regiments of the regular quotas from the states, there is much opportunity to accept the services of these patriots.

The order to the district militia to go into camp at Soldiers' Home was revoked just at the moment when it was in execution, owing, it is said, to the fact that the sudden call away of so many employes from the departments without notice threatened to cripple the government service.

The action of the president in recommending a formal declaration of war was welcomed by officials in every direction as putting the present struggle on a more dignified basis and tending to the avoidance of international complications.

THE SOUTH'S QUOTA OF TROOPS.

The war department has issued a call on the states for their quotas of troops under the call for 125,000 men. The following are the quotas of the southern states: Alabama, two regiments of infantry and one battalion; Arkansas, two regiments of infantry; Florida, one regiment of infantry; Georgia, two regiments of infantry and two light batteries; Kentucky, three regiments of infantry and two troops of cavalry; Louisiana, two regiments of infantry; Maryland, one regiment of infantry and four heavy batteries; Mississippi, two regiments of infantry; North Carolina, two regiments of infantry and one heavy battery; South Carolina, one regiment of infantry, one battalion and one heavy battery; Tennessee, three regiments of infantry; Texas, three regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry; Virginia, three regiments of infantry; West Virginia, one regiment of infantry; District of Columbia, one battalion.

The rendezvous for the troops to be mustered in be service of the volunteer army in the various states and territories has been designated by Secretary Alger as follows: Alabama, Mobile; Arkansas, Little Rock; Florida, Tampa; Georgia, Atlanta; Kentucky, Louisville; Louisiana, New Orleans; Maryland, Baltimore; Mississippi, Jackson; North Carolina, Raleigh; South Carolina, Charleston; Tennessee, Nashville; Texas, Houston; Virginia, Richmond; West Virginia, Martinsburg; District of Columbia, Washington.

RECRUITING OFFICERS.

For the purpose of recruiting for the volunteer as well as for the regular army the department will designate in each state and territory several cities where recruiting under the direction of army officers will be carried on. The Hull bill, which it is expected will become a law tomorrow, will provide for the increase of the regular army on a war footing to about 60,000 men. In addition to these recruiting stations it is