

ANNUAL MESSAGE.

(Continued From First Page.)

SEVERING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

That demand, although as above shown, officially known to the Spanish envoy here, was not delivered at Madrid. After the instructions reached General Woodford on the morning of April 21st, before he had presented 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 open declaration of war, had ordered its minister at Washington to sever diplomatic relations between the two countries and ceasing all official communication between their respective representatives. General Woodford thereupon demanded his passports and quitted Madrid the same day.

FORMAL DECLARATION AND NOTICE TO OTHER POWERS.

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 directed to meet the enlarged contingency of actual war between sovereign states. On April 22nd, I proclaimed a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahamo, and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba; and on the 23rd I called for volunteers to execute the purpose of the resolution. By my message of April 25th, 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 the act approved April 22nd, which declared the existence of such a war from and including the 21st day of April, and re-enacted the provision of the resolution of April 20th, directing the president to use all the armed forces of the nation to that effect. Due notification of the existence of war as aforesaid was given April 25th by telegraph to all the governments with which the United States maintain relations in order that their neutrality might be assured during the war. The various governments responded with proclamations of neutrality, each after its own manner, and among the least gratifying incidents of the struggle that the obligations of neutrality were impartially discharged by all, often under difficult circumstances. In further fulfillment of international duty, I issued on April 26, 1898, a proclamation announcing the treatment proposed to be accorded to vessels and their cargoes as to blockade, contraband, the exercise of right of search and the immunity of neutral factors and neutral goods under enemy's flag. A similar proclamation was made by the Spanish government. In the conduct of hostilities the rules of the declaration of Paris, including abstention from unnecessary destruction, have accordingly been observed by both belligerents, although neither was a party to the declaration.

OUR NAVAL FORCE.

The enlistment force of the navy on the 15th day of August, when it reached its maximum, numbered 24,123 men, and approximately 100,000 men 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. George, New York and Puerto Rico, chartered. In addition to these revenue cutters and lighthouse tenders were turned over to the navy department and became temporarily a part of the auxiliary navy.

FOR DEFENSE OF ATLANTIC SEABOARD.

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 coast. Temporary garrisons were provided, drawn from the state militia; infantry and light batteries were drawn from the volunteer force. About 12,000 troops were thus employed. The coast service was organized for observing the approach of an enemy's ships to the coast of the United States and the life saving and lighthouse services co-operated, which enabled the navy department to have all portions of the Atlantic coast, from Maine to Texas, under observation.

HARBOR DEFENSES.

Under the direction of the chief engineers submarine mines were placed at the most exposed points. Before the outbreak of the war permanent casemates and cable galleries had been constructed at nearly all important harbors. Most of the torpedo material was not to be found in the markets and had to be specially manufactured. Under date of April 19th, district officers were directed to take preliminary measures, short of the actual attaching of the loaded mines to the cables, and on April 22nd telegraphic orders were issued to place the loaded mines in position. The aggregate number of mines placed was 1,635, at the principal harbors from Maine to California. Preparations were made for the planting of mines at a number of other harbors, but owing to the early destruction of the Spanish ships, these mines were not placed.

IMPORTANT WORK OF THE SIGNAL CORPS.

The signal corps was promptly organized and performed service of

most difficult and important character. Its operations during the war were governed by the electrical connections at all coast fortifications, the establishment of telephonic and telegraphic facilities for the camps at Manila, Santiago and in Porto Rico. There were constructed 290 miles of line at five great camps, thus facilitating military movements from those points in a manner heretofore unknown in military administration. Field telegraph lines were established and maintained throughout the Philippine Islands, and later the Manila Hong Kong cable was reopened.

In Porto Rico cable communications were opened over a discontinued route and an end of the headquarters of the commanding officer was kept in telegraphic or telephonic communication with the division commands on four different lines of operations.

There was placed in Cuban waters a completely outfitted cable ship with war cables and cable gear, suitable both for the destruction of communications belonging to the enemy and the establishment of our own. Two ocean cables were destroyed under the enemy's fire at San Juan de los Rios, and the landing of General Shafter's corps at Caimanera, within twenty miles of the landing place, cable communications were established and a cable station opened, giving direct communication with the government at Washington. This service was invaluable to the executive in directing the operations of the army and navy. With a total force of over 1,300 the loss was by disease included, and held, officers and men included, only five.

THE FIFTY MILLION APPROPRIATION.

The national defense fund of \$50,000,000 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. It was a most timely appropriation, enabling the government to carry on its operations in the face of the war. This fund being inadequate to the requirements of equipment and for the conduct of the war, the patriotism of the Congress provided the means for the war revenue act of June 13th by authorizing a 3 per cent. popular loan not to exceed \$400,000,000 and by levying additional imports and taxes. Of this amount \$200,000,000 was authorized and promptly taken, the subscriptions so far exceeding the call as to cover it many times over while preference being given to the smaller bids. The national debt exceeded \$500,000,000. This was a most encouraging and significant result, showing the vast resources of the nation and the determination of the people to uphold their country's honor.

CHIEF 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 21st, but a brief recital of its more salient features is appropriate. The first encounter of the war, in point of date, took place April 27th, when a detachment of the blockading squadron made a reconnaissance in force at Matanzas, shelled the harbor and thus demolished several new works under construction.

DEWEY'S VICTORY.

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 issued and the customary twenty-four hours' notice being given, it repaired to Ministers Bay, near Hong Kong, whence it proceeded to the Philippine Islands under telegraphic orders to capture Manila and destroy the Spanish fleet assembled at Manila. At daybreak on the 1st of May the American force entered Manila Bay and after a few hours' engagement effected the total destruction of the Spanish fleet, consisting of ten ironclads, one transport, besides capturing the naval station of Cavite, thus annihilating the Spanish naval power in the Pacific ocean and completely controlling the bay of Manila with the ability to capture the city at will. The Spanish fleet, with the exception of one ship, was lost on our ships, the wounded only numbering seven, while not a vessel was injured. For this gallant achievement the Congress, upon my recommendation, fitly bestowed upon my brave officers and substantial reward. The effect of this remarkable victory upon the spirits 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. Reinforcements were hurried to Manila under the command of Major General Merritt and firmly established within sight of the capital, which lay before our guns.

DESTRUCTION OF CERVERA'S FLEET.

On the 7th of May the government was advised officially of the victory at Manila and at once inquired of the commander of our fleet what reinforcements were required. The information was received on the 15th day of May and the first army expedition sailed May 25th and arrived June 30th. Other expeditions soon followed, the total force consisting of 641 officers and 15,000 enlisted men.

DEATH OF ENSIGN BAGLEY.

Following the comprehensive scheme of attack powerful forces were assembled at various points on the coast of Cuba and Porto Rico. Meanwhile naval demonstrations were made at several exposed points. On May 11th the cruiser Wilmington and torpedo boat Winslow were unsuccessful in attempts to silence the batteries at Cardenas, a gallant effort. Worth Bagley, and four seamen falling. These grievous fatalities were strangely enough among the very few which occurred during our naval operations in this extraordinary conflict.

CERVERA'S FLEET.

Meanwhile the Spanish naval preparations had been pushed with great vigor. A powerful squadron under Admiral Cervera, which had assembled at Cardenas, sailed before the outbreak of hostilities, had crossed the ocean, and by its erratic movements in the Caribbean sea, delayed our military plans while baffling the pursuit

of our fleets. For a time fears were entertained that the Spanish fleet, after nearing home after their long voyage from San Francisco of over 15,000 miles, might be surprised by Admiral Cervera's fleet, but their fortunate arrival dispelled these apprehensions and sent much needed reinforcements to our ranks. Until Admiral Cervera took refuge in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba about May 19th, was it practicable to plan a systematic naval and military attack upon the Antillean possessions of Spain.

Several demonstrations occurred on the coasts of Cuba and Porto Rico in preparation for the larger event. On May 13th the North Atlantic squadron shelled San Juan de Porto Rico. On the 24th the Spanish fleet, under the command of Admiral Cervera, bombarded the forts guarding the mouth of Santiago harbor. Neither attack had any material result. It was evident that well ordered land operations were necessary to achieve a decisive advantage.

HOBSON'S EXPLOIT.

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 3rd, Lieutenant Hobson, aided by seven devoted volunteers, blocked the narrow channel, under a fierce fire from the shore batteries, escaping with their lives as by a miracle, but falling into the hands of the Spanish fleet. The gratifying incident of the war that the bravery of this little band of heroes was cordially appreciated by the Spanish admiral, who sent a flag of truce to notify Admiral Cervera of their daring act. They were subsequently exchanged July 7th.

LANDING OF FIRST TROOPS.

By June 7th the cutting of the last Cuban cable isolated the island. Thereafter the invasion was vigorously prosecuted. On June 10th under a heavy fire, a landing of 600 marines from the transport Commodore Wilson was effected in Guantanamo bay, where it had been determined to establish a naval station.

LAST SCENE OF THE WAR.

The scene of the war was enacted at Manila, its starting place. On August 1st, after a brief assault upon the city, the United States forces, consisting of the 24th and 82nd regiments of infantry, the 2nd and 3rd regiments of cavalry, the 1st and 2nd regiments of artillery, and the 1st and 2nd regiments of engineers, landed at Manila. The position was held despite desperate attempts to dislodge the invaders. The United States landed in Cuba. The position was held despite desperate attempts to dislodge the invaders.

FIGHTING BEFORE SANTIAGO.

By June 16th additional forces were landed and strongly entrenched. On June 22nd the advance of the invading army under Major General Shafter landed at Daiquiri, about fifteen miles east of Santiago. The position was held despite desperate attempts to dislodge the invaders. The United States landed in Cuba. The position was held despite desperate attempts to dislodge the invaders.

OUR LOSSES IN THE WAR.

The total casualties in killed and wounded were: Officers killed, 23; enlisted men killed, 257; total, 280; officers wounded, 113; enlisted men wounded, 1,464; total, 1,577. Of the navy: Killed, 15; wounded, 67; died as result of wounds, 11; invalided from service, 6; total, 99. It was observed that while our navy was engaged in two great battles and numerous perilous undertakings, the blockade and bombardment of the city of Santiago, our troops were transported to distant lands and were engaged in assault and siege and battle and bloody skirmishes in unfamiliar territory. The loss in both arms of the service was equal to 1,668 killed and wounded, and in the entire campaign by land and sea we did not lose a gun or a flag, a transport or a ship, and with the exception of the crew of the Merrimac, not a soldier or sailor was taken prisoner. Our troops were engaged for six days from the date of the landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, and within one day from the surrender of Santiago, the United States troops, having disembarked, were returned to the United States as early as August 21st. They were absent from the United States only two months.

WORK OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

In this connection, it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial appreciation for the timely and useful work of the American National Red Cross Society in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns. In accordance with the plans of the camps of assembly, and later, under the able and experienced leadership of Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals, the work of the Red Cross Society in conjunction with the government authorities and under their sanction and approval, and with the enthusiastic co-operation of many patriotic women and societies in the United States, has been most fully maintained. Its already high reputation for intense earnestness and ability to exercise noble purposes of its international organization, thus justifying its confidence and support which are based at the hands of the American people. To the members and officers of this society and all who aided them in their philanthropic work, the sincere and lasting gratitude of the government, had acted freely and the public is due and is freely accorded.

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, the terms of the capitulation were signed from July 3rd to July 15th, under menace of immediate assault, until 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 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 ascendancy 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 unspeakably due. Nor 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 the war, however righteous 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 it was almost at hand, when he had arrived on the 11th of July with reinforcements for General Shafter's army. With these troops, consisting of 3,415 infantry and artillery, two companies of engineers and one company of signal corps, General Miles left Guantanamo on July 21st, with nine transports conveyed by the cutter under Captain Higginson, Gloucester, Columbia and Yale. The expedition departed at 7 o'clock, and was distinguished at Guánica July 25th, which was entered with little opposition. Here the fleet was joined by the Anson and the Wasb, while the Porto Rico and Amphitrite, under San Juan, joined the fleet at San Juan, which was engaged in blockading that port. The major general commanding was subsequently reinforced by General Schafter's brigade of the Third United States Infantry, and also by General Brooke, with a part of his corps, numbering in all 15,773 officers and men. On July 27th he entered Porto Rico at the most important ports in the island, where the first operations were directed for the capture of the island.

SPAIN'S CAPTURES FOR PEACE.

The capitulation 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 to become wholly unequal, it made overtures of peace through the French ambassador, who, with the assent of the government, had acted as the principal representative of Spanish interests during the war. On the 26th of July, Mr. 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. On the 30th of July, the communication addressed to the Duke of Almodovar and handed

to Mr. Cambon, the terms of this government were announced, substantially as in the protocol afterwards signed. On the 10th of August the Spanish reply, dated August 7th, was handed by Mr. Cambon to the secretary of state. It accepted unconditionally the terms imposed as to Cuba, Porto Rico and an island in the Ladrones group, but appeared to seek to introduce inadmissible reservations in regard to our demand as to the Philippine Islands. Conceiving that discussion on this point would neither be practical 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 upon which the negotiations for peace were to be undertaken. The vague and inexplicit suggestion of the Spanish not could not be accepted, the only reply being to present as a virtual ultimatum a draft of protocol embodying the precise terms tendered to Spain in our note of July 29th, with added suggestions of detail as to the appointment of commissioners to arrange for the evacuation of the Spanish Antilles. On August 12th, Mr. Cambon, as the plenipotentiary of Spain, and the secretary of state, as the plenipotentiary of the United States, signed a protocol providing:

ARTICLE 1. Spain will relinquish all claim of sovereignty over and title to Cuba.

Article 2. Spain will cede to the United States the island of Puerto Rico and other islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies, and also an island in the Ladrones to be selected by the United States. Article 3. The United States will occupy and hold the city, bay and harbor of Manila, pending the conclusion of a treaty of peace, which shall determine the control, disposition and government of the Philippines.

ARTICLE 4. The United States will appoint joint commissions on the part of the United States and Spain to meet in Havana and San Juan, respectively, for the purpose of arranging and carrying out the details of the stipulated evacuation of Cuba, Puerto Rico and other Spanish islands in the West Indies.

The fifth article provided for the appointment of not more than five commissioners on each side to meet at Paris not later than October 1st, and to proceed to the negotiation and conclusion of a treaty of peace, subject to ratification according to the respective constitutional forms of the two countries.

ARTICLE 6. The sixth and last article provided that upon the signature of the protocol hostilities between the two countries should be suspended; that notice to the effect should be given as soon as possible by each government to the commanders of its military and naval forces.

HOSTILITIES SUSPENDED.

Immediately upon the conclusion of the protocol I issued a proclamation on August 12th, suspending hostilities on the part of the United States, in conformity with orders to that end that were given by telegraph. The blockade of the ports of Cuba and San Juan de Porto Rico, was in like manner raised. On the 18th of August, the muster roll of 100,000 volunteers, as near that number as was found to be practicable, was ordered.

THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS TO SUPERVISE THE EVACUATION OF CUBA, PORTO RICO AND THE ADJACENT ISLANDS.

The military commissions to supervise the evacuation of Cuba, Porto Rico and the adjacent islands, were forthwith appointed; for Cuba, Major General James F. Wade, Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, Major General M. C. Butler; for Porto Rico, Major General John R. Brooke, Rear Admiral Winfield Schley, Brigadier General William W. Gordon, who soon afterwards met the Spanish commissioners at Havana and San Juan, respectively. The Porto Rican joint commission speedily accomplished its task, and by the 18th of October, the evacuation of the island was completed. The United States flag was raised over the island at noon that day. The administration of its affairs has been provisionally entrusted to a military government, till such time as a civil commission can be completed before January 1st next.

THE PEACE COMMISSION.

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 October 1st five commissioners, similarly appointed on the part of Spain. Their 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 steps leading to its signature.

FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLANDS.

I do not discuss at this time the government of the future of the new possessions which will come to us as the result of the war with Spain. Such discussion will be appropriate after the treaty of peace shall be ratified. In the meantime and until the Congress has legislated otherwise it will be my duty to continue the military governments which have existed since our occupation and give to the people security in life and property and encouragement under a just and beneficent rule.

THE FUTURE OF CUBA.

As soon as we are in possession of Cuba and have pacified the island it 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. It is important that our relations with this people shall be of the most friendly character and our commercial relations close and reciprocal. It should be our duty to assist in every proper way to build up the waste places of the island, encourage the industry of the people and assist them to form a government which shall be free and independent, thus realizing the best aspirations of the Cuban people. Spanish rule must be replaced by a just, benevolent and humane government, created by the people of Cuba, capable of performing all international obligations and which shall encourage thrift, industry and prosperity, and promote peace and good will among all the inhabitants whatever may have been their relations in the past. Neither revenge nor passion should have a place in the new government. Until there is complete tranquility in the island and a stable gov-

ernment inaugurated military occupation will be continued.

A.I.C. OTHER FOREIGN RELATIONS AMICABLE.

With the one exception of the rupture with Spain the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations has been marked with cordiality and the close of the year finds 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.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

In this relation, I may be permitted to express my belief in the fitness of an international agreement whereby the interchange of messages over connecting cables may be regulated on a fair basis of uniformity. This would have been the position of independent and exclusive services into a well ordered union, of which all countries enjoy the manifold benefits. It would be strange were the nations not in time brought to realize the modern development which owes so much of its progress to the amplification of space by the electric force, demands that this all important means of communication be a heritage of all peoples, to be administered and regulated in this direction as taken when the international convention of 1884 for the protection of submarine cables was signed and the day is, I trust, not far distant when a general convention for the mission of thought from land to land may be brought within the domain of international concern as completely as is the material carriage of commerce and correspondence over the face of the waters that divide them.

AUSTRIA'S DEMAND OF INDEMNITY FOR KILLING OF RIOTING MINERS.

On the 10th of September, 1897, a conflict took place at Lattimer, Penn., between a body of striking miners and the sheriff 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 solicitude of the Austro-Hungarian government which on the assumption that the killing and wounding involved the unjustifiable misuse of authority, claimed reparation for the sufferers. Apart from the searching investigation and 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 meet the urgent complaint of a friendly power. The sheriff and his deputies, having been indicted for murder, were tried and acquitted after protracted proceedings, on the ground that the killing was in the line of their official duty to uphold law and preserve public order in the state. A representative of the federal executive justice attended the trial and reported its course fully. With all the facts in his possession, this government expects to reach a harmonious understanding on the subject with the Austro-Hungary, notwithstanding the claim of the latter after learning the result of the trial, for indemnity for its injured subjects.

BELGIAN RESTRICTION ON EXPORTATION OF OUR PRODUCTS.

I trust that the Belgian restrictions on the importation of cattle from the United States, originally adopted as a sanitary precaution, and which for many days be relaxed as to their present features of hardship and discrimination, so as to admit live cattle under due regulation of their slaughter and handling. I am hopeful too, of favorable change in the act being negotiated of our preserved and salted meats. The growth of direct trade between the two countries, not alone for Belgian consumption and Belgian products, but by way of transit from and to other countries, would be a most desirable and beneficial. No effort will be spared to enlarge its advantages by seeking the removal of needless impediments and by arrangements for increased commercial exchanges.

THE YEAR'S EVENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The year's events in Central America deserve more than passing mention. "A menacing rupture between Costa Rica and Nicaragua was happily composed by the signature of a convention between the parties, with the concurrence of the Guatemalan representative as a mediator, the act being notified and signed on board the United States steamer Alert, then lying in Central American waters. It is believed that the good offices of our envoy and of the commander of the vessel contributed toward this gratifying termination of a dispute."

UNITED STATES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

In my last annual message the situation was presented with respect to the diplomatic representation of this government in 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 international 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 ex-equators to consuls commissioned under its authority, that recognition was qualified by the distinct understanding that the responsibility of each of the component sovereign republics towards the United States remained wholly unaffected. This proviso was needful, inasmuch as the compact of the three republics was at the outset an association whereby certain representative functions were delegated to a tripartite commission, rather than a federation possessing centralized powers of government and administration. In the view of their relation, and of the relation of the United States to the several republics a change in the representation of this country in Central America was neither recommended by the executive nor indicated by Congress, thus leaving one of our envoys accredited as heretofore separately to two states of the Greater Republic. Sal-