THE WILMINGTON MESSENGER: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1898.

ANNUAL MESSAGE.

(Continued From First Page.)

and giving Spain until noon of April 23rd to reply. SEVERING DIPLOMATIC RELA-

TIONS.

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

FORMAL DECLARATION AND NO. TICE 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 used by me 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 Bahia Honda 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 25, 1898, declared the existence of such 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 carry that act into effect. Due notification of the existence of war as aforesaid was given April 25h 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 methods. It is not among the least gratifying incidents of the struggle that the obl gations of neutrality were impartially discharged by all, often under difficult circumstances. In further fulfillment of international duty, I issued, 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 flags 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 abstination from resort to privateering, have accordingly been observed by both belligerents, although neither was a party to the declaration. "Our country thus, after an interval of half a century of peace with all nations, found itself engaged in deadly conflict with a foreign enemy. Every nerve was strained to meet the emergency. The response to the initial call for 125,000 volunteers was instant and -complete, as was also the result of the second call of May 25th for 75,000 additional volunteers. The ranks of the regular army were increased to the limits provided by the act of April 26,

ter. Its operations during the war covered the electrical connection at all coast fortifications, the establishment of telephonic and telephaphic facilities for the camps at Manila, Santiago and in Porto Rico. There were constructed 300 miles of line at ten great camps, thus facilitating military movements from those points in a manner heretofore unknown in military administration. Field telegraph lines were established and maintained under the enemy's fire at Manila and later the Manila Hong Kong cable was reopened.

most difficult and important charac-

"In Porto Rico cable communications were opened over a discontinued route and on land 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 cableship, 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 batteries at Santiago. The day previous to the landing of General Shafter's corps at Caimenera, within twenty miles of the landing place, cable communications were established and a cable station opened, giving di-'rect communication with 'he 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 in camp and field, officers and men included, only five. THE FIFTY MILLION APPROPRI-

ATION.

"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 strengthen its defenses and make preparations greatly needed in case of 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 in 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 the authorized loan \$200,000,000 were offered and promtly taken, the subscriptions so far exceeding the call as to cover it many times over while preference being given to the smaller bids, no single allotment exceeded \$5,000. This was a most encouraging and significant result, showing the vast reurces of the nation and the determi-

then nearing home after their long where Ryghad arrived on the 11th of voyage from San Francisco of over July with reinforcements for General 15,000 miles, might be surprised by Shafter's army. With these troops, Admiral Cervera's fleet, but their for- consisting of 3,415 infantry and artiltunate arrival dispelled these apprehensions, and lent much needed re- one company of the signal corps, Geninforcement. Not until Admiral Cer- eral Miles left Guantanamo on July vera took refuge in the harbor of 21st, having nine transports convoyed Santiago de Cuba about May 19th, was by the First under Captain Higginson it practicable to plan a systematic na- with the Massachusetts (flagship), val and military attack upon the And tillean possessions of Spain.

the coasts of Cuba and Porto Rico in which pick was entered with little oppreparation for the larger event. On May 13th the North Atlantic squadron shelled San Juan de Porto Rico. On the Pursin and Amphitrite went to May 30th Commodore Schley's squad. San Juan and joined the New Orleans, ron bombarded the forts guarding the mouth of Santiago harber. Neither at-tack had any material result. It was evident that well ordered land operations were indispensible 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 outlet from Santiago harbor, by sinking the collier Merrimae in the channel, under a fierce fire from the shore batteries, escaping with their lives as by a miracle, but falling into the hands of the Spaniards. It is a most 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 Sampson of their safety and to compliment them . on their daring act. They were subsequently exchanged July 7th.

LANDIUG 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 Oregon, Marblehead and Yankee was effected in Guantanamo bay, where it had been determined to establish a naval station.

"This important and essential port was taken from the enemy after severe fighting by the marines, who were the first organized force of the United States to land in Cuba. The position so won was held despite desperate attempts to dislodge our forces. FIGHTING BEFORE SANTIAGO.

"By June 16th additional forces were landed and strongly entrenched. On June 22nd the, advance of the invad-ing army under Major General Shafter landed at Daiguiri, about fifteen miles landed at Daiquiri, about fifteen miles

lery, two companies of engineers and Gloucester: Columbia and Yale, the two lattice carrying troops. The expe-"Several demonstrations occurred on dition la tied at Guanica July 25th position. Here the fleet was joined by the Annabolis and the Wasp, while eral Schwan's brigade of the Third army covis, by General Wilson with a part of mis division, and also by General Fronke, with a part of his corps, numbering in all 16,973 officers and met. On July 27th he entered Ponce of the most important ports in the it and, from which he thereafter directed operations for the capture

of the is and. "With the exception of encounters with the enemy at Guayama, Hormigueros, Chamo, and Yauco, and an at-tack on a force landed at Cape San Juan, they was no serious resistance. The canadign was, prosecuted with great visit and by the 12th of August much of the island was in our possession an acquisition of the remainder has only a matter of a short time. As most of the points in the island, on troops were welcomed enthusiasticially. Protestations of loyalty to the first and gratitude for delivery from Spinsh rule met our commanders at e sry stage. As a potent influence toward peace the outcome of the Porto Exam expedition was of great consequence and generous commendation is are to those who participated in it. 📬

LASCENE OF THE WAR.

"The beg scene of the war was en-acted at manila, its starting place. On August 176, after a brief assault upon the work by land forces in which the squadrof assisted, the capital surrendered up enditionally. The casualties were contraratively few. By this the conquest of the Philippine islands, vir-tually ac simplished when the Spanish capacity for resistance was destroyed by Admice Dewey's victory of 1st of May, was formally sealed. To General Marritt Sciences and men for their Merritt, 2 officers and men for their

to M. Cambon, the terms of this govof our fleets. For a time fears were an expectision for that purpose. Fortu- to M. Cambon, the terms of this gov-felt least the Oregon and Marietta, nately bet was already at Santiago ernment were announced, substantially as in the protocol afterwards sing- ALL OTHER FOREIGN RECATIONS ed. On the 10th of August the Spanish reply, dated August 7th, was handed by M. Cambon to the secretary of state. It accepted unconditionally the terms imposed as to Cuba, Porto Rico and an island in the Ladrone 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 could 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 suggestions 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 30th, with added stiplations of detail as to the appointment of commissioners to arrange for the evacution of the Spanish Antilles. On August 12th. M. 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 laim 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.

"The fourth article provided for the appointment of 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.

"The sixth and last article provided that upon the signature of the protool hostilities between the two coun-

ernment 'untiliarated military occupation will be continued.

AMICABLE.

"With the one exception of the rup ture with Spain the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations has been nursed with cord. allty and the close of the even ful 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.

"I have found occasion to approach the Argentine government with a view to removing differences of rate charges imposed upon the cables of an American comportion in the transmission betacen Buenos Ayres and the cities of Uruspay and Grani of through messages passing from and to the United States. Although the matter is complicated by exclusive concessions by Uruguay and Brazil to foreign companies, there is strong hope that a good understanding will be reached and that the important channels of commercial communication between the United States and the Atlantic cities of Southy Amazes may be freed from an almost prohibitory discrimination.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH

SYSTEM.

"In this relation, I may be permitted to express my sense of the fitness of an international agreement whereby the interchange of messages over cenneeding calles may be regulated on a fair basis of unfform v. The world has seen the postal system developed from a congaries of independent and exclusive services into a well ordered union, of which all countries onjoy the manifold benefits. I: welld be strange were the nations not in time brought to realize that modern civilization which owes so much of its progress to, the annihilation of space by the electric force, demands that this all important means of communication be a beritage of all peoples, to be administered and regulated in their common behoof. A step in this direction was 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 this medium for the transmission of thought from land to land may be brought within the domain of international concert as completely as is the material carriage of commerce and correspondence upon the face of the waters that divide them.

AUSTRIA'S DEMAND OF INDEMNI-TY FOR KILLING OF RIOT-

ING MINERS.

OUR NAVAL FORCE.

"The enlistment force of the navy on the 15th day of August, when it reached it maximum, numbered 24,123-men and apprentices. One hundred and three vessels were added to the navy by purchase, one was presented to the government, one leased and the four vessels of the International Navigation Company, the St. Paul, St. Louis, New York and Paris, were chartered. In addition to these the revenue cutters and lighthouse tenders were turned over to the navy department and became temporarily a part of the auxiliary navy.

"The maximum effective fighting force of the navy during the war separated into classes, was as follows: Four battleships of the firstclass; one battleship of the secondclass; two armored cruisers; six coast defense monitors; one armored ram; twelve protected cruisers; three unprotected cruisers; eighteen gunboats; one dynamite cruiser; eleven torpedo boats; vessels of the old navy, including monitors, fourteen; auxiliary navy eleven auxiliary cruisers, twenty-eight converted yachts, twenty-seven tugs, nineteen converted colliers, fifteen revenue cutters, four lighthouse tenders and nineteen miscellaneous vessels

FOR DEFENSE OF ATLANTIC SEABOARD.

"Much alarm was felt along our entire Atlantic seaboard lest some attack might be made my the enemy. Every precaution was taken to prevent possible injury to our great cities lying along the 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 signal service was established 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 portions of the Atlantic coast, from

nation 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 reconnoisance in force at Matanzas, shelled the harbor and thus demolished several new works in course of 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 being 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 telegraphed orders to capture or destroy the formidable 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 warships and 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 take the city at will. Not a life 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 the actors preferment 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 helpless before our guns.

"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 troops would be 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

15.058 enlisted men. "Only reluctance to cause needless loss of life and property prevented the early storming and capture of the city, and therewith the absolute military occupancy of the whole group. The insurgents meanwhile had resumed the active hostilities suspended by the uncompleted truce of December, 1897. Their forces invested Manila from the northern and eastern side, but were constrained by Admiral Dewey and General Merritt from attempting an assault. It was fitting that whatever was to be done in the way of decisive operations in that quarter should be accomplished by the strong arm the United States alone. Obeying the stern precept of war, which enjoins the overcoming of the adversary and the extinction of his power wherever assailable as the speedy and sure means to win a peace, divided victory was not permissible, for no partition of the rights and responsibilities attending the enforcement of a just and advantageous peace could be thought of. DEATH OF ENSIGN BAGLEY "Following the comprehensive scheme of attack, powerful forces were assembled at various points on our coast to invade Cuba and Porto Rico. Meanwhile naval demonstrations were made at several exposed points. On May 11th the cruiser Wilmington and torpedo boat Winslow were unsuccessful in an attempt to silence the batteries at Cardenas, a gallant ensign, 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.

east of Santiago. This was accomplished under great difficulty, but with marvelous dispatch. On June 23rd the' movement against Santiago was begun. On the 24th the first serious engagement took place in which the First and Tenth cavalry and the First United States volunteer cavalry, General Young's brigade of General Wheeler's division participated, losing heavily. By nightfall, however, ground within five miles of Santiago was won. The advantage was steadily increased. On July 1st a severe battle took place, our forces gaining the outworks of Santiago; on the 2nd El Caney and San Juan were taken after a desperate charge, and the investment of the city was completed. The navy co-operated by shelling the town and the coast forts.

DESTRUCTION OF CERVERA'S FLEET.

"On the day following this brilliant achievement of our land forces, the 3rd of July, occurred the decisive naval combat of the war. The Spanish fleet, attempting to leave the harbor, was met by the American squadron under command of Commodore Sampson. In less than three hours all the Spanish ships were destroyed, the two torpedo boats being sunk and the Maria Teresa, Almirante Oquendo, Vizcaya and Cristobal Colon driven ashore. The Spanish admiral and over 1,300 men were taken prisoners, while the enemy's loss of life was deplorably large, some 600 perishing. On our side but one man was killed, on the Brooklyn, and one man seriously wounded. Although our ships were repeatedly struck, not one was seriously injured. Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves, from the commanders to the gunners and unarmed heroes in the boiler room, each and all contributing toward the achievement of this astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event and the marvelous disproportion of casualties, it would be invidious to single out any for especial honor. Deserved promotion has rewarded the more conspicuous actors. The nation's profoundest gratitude is due to all of these brave men who by their skill and devotion in a few short hours crushed the sea power of Spain and wrought a triumph whose decisiveness and far reaching consequences can scarcely be measured. Nor can we be unmindful of the achievements of our builders, mechanics and artisans for their skill in the construction of our warships.

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

CAPITULATION OF SANTIAGO.

"The capitulation of Santiago followed. The city was closely besieged by land, while the entrance of our ships into the harbor cut off all relief on that side. After a truce to allow of the removal of non-combatants, protracted negotiations continued from July 3rd to July 15th, under menace exercise an noble purposes of its in-

made with singular suc cess and the soldierly conduct of the men, more of whom were without pre-vious exercise in the military ser-vice des thes unmeasured praise.

OUR OSSES IN THE WAR.

"The Weal casualties in killed and wounded if the army during the war with Space were: Officers killed, 23; enlisted an killed, 257; total, 280; officers would d, 113; enlisted men wound-ed 1,464; Otal, 1,577. Of the navy: Killed, 17; wounded, 67; died as result of wounds, 1; invalided from, service, 6; total,

"It wische observed that while our navy was engaged in two great battles and in numerous perilous undertakings ablockade and bombardment and more tan 50,000 of our troops were transporter to distant lands and were engaged drossault and siege and bat-tle and slasiy skirmishes in unfamiliar territory, we lost in both arms of the service stotal of 1,668 killed and wounded and in the entire campaign by land the sea we did not lose a gun or a flag, i a transport or a ship, and with the exception of the crew of the Merriman not a soldier or sailor was taken protecter. On August 7th, forty-six days from the date of the landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, and twen wone days from the surrender of Silitiago, the United States troops sigmenced embarkation for home and cur entire force was return. ed to the United States as early as August They were absent from the Units States only two months. "It is fitting that I should bear testi-

that large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of Pratest exposure, fortunately was not definited outside of the United States. They did their whole duty and like their comrades at the front, have earned the gratitude of the nation. In like manager the officers and men of the army and of the navy who remain-ed in these departments and stations faithfully gerforming most important duties connected with the war, and whose represts for assignment in the field and sea I was compelled to refuse because their services were indispensible here, are entitled to the highest commendation. It is my re-gret that opere seems to be no provi-

ion for their suitable recognition. WORK THE RED CROSS SOCI-ETY.

"In the ionnection, it is a pleasure for me tempention in terms of cordial appreciation for the timely and useful works of the American National Red Cross both in relief measures preparation to the campaigns; in sanitary assessance at several of the camps of issemblage, and later, un-der the spie and experiencel leader-ship of the president of the society, FUTURE GOVERNME Miss Classes Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front

in Cuba. Knorking in conjunction with the gove thient authorities and under their sanging and approval, and with the enthetistic co-operation of many patriotic symmen and societies in the various states, the Red Cross has fully

tries should be suspended; that notice to that 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. The necessary orders to that end were at once 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 out of 100,000 volunteers, or as near that number as was found to be practicable, was ordered.

"On December 1st 101,165 officers and men had been mustered out and discharged from the service and 9,002 more will be mustered out by the 10th of this month. Also a corresponding number of general and staff officers have been honorably discharged from the service.

"The military commissions to superintend 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 S. 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 mony to patriotism and devotion of task, and by the 18th of October - the evacuation of the island was complet ed. The United States flag was raised over the island at noon on that day The administration of its affairs has been provisionally intrusted to a mill tary governor till congress shall oth erwise provide. The Cuban joint commission has not yet terminated its labors. Owing to the difficulties in the way of removing the large numbers of Spanish troops still in Cuba, the evacuation cannot be completed before 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 hopefull 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

FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLANDS.

"I do not discuss at this time the government or the future of the new possessions which will come to us as the result of the war with Spain. Such discussion will be appropriate after the treaty of peace shall be ratified. maintain desits already high reputation In the meantime and until the congress for inten meannestness and ability to has legislated otherwise it will be my duty to continue the military governments which have existed since ou occupation and give to the people seit has received at the hands of the curity in life and property and en-American prople. To the members and couragement under a just and benef-officers of this society and all who aid-THE FUTURE OF CUBA.

'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 assumtion that the killing and wounding involved the unjustificable 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 idendly power. The sh me and his deputies, having been indicted for murder, were tried and acquitted after protracted proceedings and the hearing of hundreds of witnesses, 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 department of justice attended the trial and reported its course fully. With all the facts in its possession, this government expects to reach a harmonious understanding on the subject with that of Austria-Hungary, notwithstanding the renewed claim of the latter after learning the result of the trial, for indemnity for its injured subjects.

BELGIAN RESTRICTION ON CER-TAIN OF OUR PRODUCTS.

"I trust that the Belgian restrictions on the importation of cattle from the United States, originally adopted as a sanitary precaution, will at an early day be relaxed as to their present features of hardship and discrimination. so as to admit live cattle under due regulation of their slaughter after landing. I am hopeful too, of favorable change in the Belgian treatment 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 continental states has been both encouraging 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 Amerca 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 Guatmalan representative as a meditator, the act being negotiated 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 that vessel contributed. toward this gratifying outcome.

UNITED STATES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

"In my last annual message the sittations was presented with respect to

Maine to Texas, under observation.

"The auxiliary navy was created under the authority of congress and was officered and manned by the naval militia of the several states. This organization patrolled the coast and performed the duty of a second line of defense.

HARBAR DEFENSES.

"Under the direction of the chief of engineers submarine mines were placed at the most exposed points. Before the outbreak of the war permanent mining casements and cable galleries had been constructed at nearly all important harbors. Most of the torpedo material was not to be found in the market 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 issues to place the loaded mines in position. The aggregate number of mines placed was 1,535, 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 SIG-

NAL CORPS.

CERVERA'S FLEET.

"Meanwhile the Spanish naval preparations had been pushed with great vigor. A powerful squadron under Admiral Cervera, which had assembled at the Cape Verde islands before the outbreak of hostilities, had crossed the

ocean, and by its erratic movements in ganized and performed service of the tary plans while baffling the pursuits | previously been, assigned to organize to the duffind and a stable gov-

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 several engagements leading to acknowledgement and offers humble the surrender of Santiago, while the prayer for the continuance of His fathe surrender of Santiago, while the prompt movements and successive victories won instant and universal applause. To those who gained this complete triumph, which established the ascendency of the United States upon land, as the fight off Santiago had fixed our supremacy on the seas, the earnest and lasting gratitude of the nation is unsparingly 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 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 "The signal corps was promptly or- the Caribbean sea, delayed our mili- strategic necessity. General Miles had of July, bas communication addressed ernment. Until there is complete tran-

ternation prganization, thus justify ing the graidence and support which

ed them their philanthropic work, the since the and lasting gratitude of the soldiers the the public is due and is freely accorded.

"In tracing these events we are constantit reminded of our obligation to the divert Master for His watchful care over as and His safe guidance, for which the nation makes reverent

SPAIN'S CERTURES FOR PEACE. "The addition of Admiral Cevera's flected llowed by the capitulation of Santlass having brought to the Spanish generation a realizing sense of the hor essness of continuing a free and independent, thus realizing struggle is become wholly unequal, it made of surveys of peace through the pie. Spanish tule must be replaced by

vor.

ish interest during the war. On the 26th of Ju M. Cambon presented a Almodova? the Spanish ' minister of | will among all of the inbabitants whatstate, inv the United States to ever may have been their relations in state the times upon which it would the past. Neither revenge nor passion be willing the make peace. On the 30th should have a place in the new gov-

"As soon as we are in possession o Cuba and have pacified the island in 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 that the responsibility of each of the 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 in- I lnasmuch as the compact of the three dustry of the people and assist them to form a government which shall be French at tassador, who, with the a just, benevolent and humane gov-assent of his government, had acted as the frigicy representative of Span- bua, capable of performing all international obligations and which shall encourage thrift, industry, and pros-

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 exequaturs to consuls commissioned under its authority, that recognition was qualified by the distinct understanding component sovereign republic towards the United States remained wholly uneffected. This proviso was needful, 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 this 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 communication signed by the duke of perity, and promote peace and good America was neither recommended by the executive nor initiated by congress: thus leaving one of our envoys accredited as heretofore separately to two states of the Greater Republic, Sal-

(Continued on Third Page.)