

The Hickory Press.

PROTECTION! INDUSTRY! ENTERPRISE! PROSPERITY!

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1897.

NUMBER 49

McKINLEY'S MESSAGE

President Discusses Questions Now Agitating the People.

CURRENCY REFORM AND CUBANS

Reference Made to the Necessity of Immediate Financial Revision—Interference in Spanish Affairs Regarded as Inadmissible—The Senate Urged to Ratify the Hawaiian Treaty.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many of whose senators and representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgement to a beneficent providence, which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation. Peace and good will with all the nations of the earth continue unbroken.

A matter of great satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessing of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most engross us are lifted far above either partisanship, prejudices or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common country alike and permit of no division on ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of national obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen to whatever party he belongs or in whatever section of the country he may reside.

The extra session of this congress which closed during July, last, enacted important legislation, and while its full effect has not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value further time will be required and the people, satisfied with its operation and results thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency.

The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear easier when we recall the financial operations of the government since 1866. On June 16 of that year we had outstanding demand liabilities in the sum of \$728,868,447.41. On Jan. 1, 1879, these liabilities had been reduced to \$443,889,495.88. Of our interest bearing obligations, the figures are even more striking. On July 1, 1866, the principal of the interest bearing debt of the government was \$2,332,331,208. On July 1, 1893, this sum had been reduced to \$585,037,100, or an aggregate reduction of \$1,747,294,108. The interest bearing debt of the United on Dec. 1, 1897, was \$847,365,620. The government money now outstanding (Dec. 1) consists of \$346,681,016 of United States notes, \$107,793,280 of treasury notes issued by authority of the law of 1890, \$244,968,504 of silver certificates, and \$61,286,761 of standard silver dollars.

No Time to Hesitate.

With the great resources of the government and with honorable example of the past before us, we ought not to hesitate to enter upon a currency revision which will make our demand obligations less onerous to the government and relieve our financial laws from ambiguity and doubt.

The brief review of what was accomplished from the close of the war to 1893 makes unreasonable and groundless any distrust, either of our financial ability or soundness; while the situation from 1893 to 1897 most admonish congress of the immediate necessity of so legislating as to make the return of the conditions then prevailing impossible.

There are many plans proposed as a remedy for the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is not good, for every dollar of it is good—good because the government's pledge is out to keep it so, and that pledge will not be broken. However, the guaranty of our purpose to keep the pledge will be best shown by advancing toward its fulfillment.

The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money, that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot be longer heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people, ever under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only an expensive charge upon the government, but a dangerous menace to the national credit.

It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government against bond issues for repeated redemptions. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their redemption. We

have \$900,000,000 of currency which the government by solemn enactment has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold but the government. The banks are not required to redeem in gold. The government is obliged to keep equal with gold all its outstanding currency and coin outstanding, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid in every kind of money but gold, and the only means by which the government can with certainty get gold is by borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most needs it. The government without any fixed gold revenue is pledged to maintain gold redemption, which it has steadily and faithfully done, and which, under the authority now given, it will continue to do.

The law which requires the government, after having redeemed its United States notes, to pay them out again as current funds, demands a constant replenishment of the gold reserve. This is especially so in times of business panic and when the revenues are insufficient to meet the expenses of the government. At such times the government has no other way to supply its deficit and maintain redemption but through the increase of its bonded debt, as during the administration of my predecessor, when \$262,315,400 of 4 1/2 per cent bonds were issued and sold and the proceeds used to pay the expenses of the government in excess of the revenues and sustain the gold reserve. While it is true that the great part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient revenues, a considerable portion was required to maintain the gold reserve.

With our revenues equal to our expenses, there would be no deficit requiring the issuance of bonds. But if the gold reserve falls below \$100,000,000 how will it be replenished except by selling more bonds? Is there any other way practicable under existing law? The serious question then is, shall we continue the policy that has been pursued in the past; that is, that when the government reserve reaches the point of danger, issue more bonds and supply the needed gold, or shall we provide other means to prevent these recurring drains upon the gold reserve? If no further legislation is had and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then congress should give the secretary of the treasury authority to sell bonds at long or short periods, bearing a less rate of interest than is now authorized by law.

As to United States Notes.

I earnestly recommend as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government that when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty.

If the holder of the United States prefers the gold and gets it from the government he should not receive back from the government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a noninterest bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way, they return again to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest bearing debt to redeem a noninterest bearing debt.

In my view it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the burden of providing all the gold required for exchanges and export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of the gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be with, or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped if we are to have an era of prosperity in the country. With sufficient receipts for the expenses of the government we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency, but the danger still exists, and will be ever present, menacing us so long as the existing system continues. And besides, it is in time of adequate revenues and business tranquility that the government should prepare for the worst. We cannot avoid without serious consequences the wise consideration and prompt solution of this question.

The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and save us from future embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration.

I concur with the secretary of the treasury in his recommendation that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the face value of the bonds which they have deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes secured by deposit of such bonds be reduced one-half of 1 per cent per annum. I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their needs.

I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of \$10 and upward. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of congress, then I

would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

NO CUBAN INTERFERENCE.

President McKinley Follows in the Footsteps of His Predecessor.

The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal pertaining to its foreign relations concerns its duty toward Spain and to the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those now existing have confronted this government at various times in the past. The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; an effort toward a larger enjoyment of liberty and self control; of organized resistance to the mother country; of depression after distress and warfare and of ineffectual settlement to this by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental possessions of Spain in the western continent has the condition of Cuba or the policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused concern to the United States.

The prospect from time to time that the weakness of Spain's hold on the island and the political vicissitudes and embarrassments of the home government might lead to the transfer of Cuba to a continental power called forth between 1823 and 1840 various emphatic declarations of the policy of the United States to permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain unless in the direction of independence or acquisition by us through purchase; nor has there been any change of this declared policy since upon the part of the government.

The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose at this time to recall its remarkable increase or to characterize its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The revolt and the efforts to subdue it carried destruction to every quarter of the island, developing wide proportions and defying the efforts of Spain for its suppression. The civilized code was regarded no less so by the Spaniards than by the Cubans.

The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the American people with the gravest apprehension. There is no desire on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure of self control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of their country.

The cruel policy of concentration was initiated Feb. 16, 1895. The productive districts controlled by the Spanish armies were depopulated. The agricultural inhabitants were herded in and about the garrison towns, their lands laid waste and their dwellings destroyed. This policy of the late cabinet of Spain was justified as a necessary measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the insurgents. It has utterly failed as a war measure. It was not civilized warfare. It was extermination.

Against this abuse of the rights of war, I have felt constrained on repeated occasions to enter the firm and earnest protest of this government. There was much of public condemnation of American citizens by alleged arrests and long imprisonment, awaiting trial or pending judicial proceedings. I felt it my first duty to make instant demands for the release or speedy trial of all American citizens under arrest. Before the change of the Spanish cabinet in October last 22 prisoners, citizens of the United States, had been given their freedom.

Mr. Woodford's Instructions.

The instructions given to our new minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lead its attention toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and to the Cuban people.

The reply to our note was received on Oct. 23. It is in the direction of a better understanding. It appreciates the friendly purposes of this government. It admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba and that its desires for peace are just. It declares that the present Spanish government is bound by every consideration to a change of policy that should satisfy the United States and pacify Cuba within a reasonable time. To this end Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by the present premier without halting for any consideration in the path which, in its judgment, leads to peace. The military operations, it is said, will continue, but will be humane and conducted with all regard for private rights, being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba, while guarding Spanish sovereignty. This, it is claimed, will result in investing Cuba with a distinct personality; the island to be governed by an executive and by a local council or chamber, reserving to Spain the control of the foreign relations, the army and navy and the judicial administration. To accomplish this the present government proposes to modify existing legislation by decree, leaving the Spanish cortes, with the aid of Cuban senators and deputies, to solve the economic problem and properly distribute the existing debt.

In the absence of a declaration of the measures that the government proposes to take in carrying out its proffer of good offices it suggests that Spain be left free to conduct military operations and grant political reforms, while the United States for its part shall enforce its neutral obligations and cut off the assistance which it is asserted the insurgents receive from this country. The supposition of an indefinite prolongation of the war is denied. It is asserted that the western provinces are already well nigh reclaimed; that the planting of tobacco therein has been resumed and that by force of arms and new and ample reforms very early and complete pacification is hoped for.

Discussion of the question of international duties and responsibilities of the United States as Spain understands them is presented with an apparent disposition to charge us with failure in this regard. This charge is without any basis in fact. It could not have been made if Spain had been cognizant of the constant efforts this government has made at the cost of millions and by the employment of the administrative machinery of the nation at command to perform its full duty under the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vessel from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be a sufficient end.

Throughout all these horrors and dangers to our own peace, this government has never in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to itself the determination of its policy and course according to its own high sense of right and in consonance with the dearest interests and convictions of our own people—should the prolongation of the strife so demand.

Of the untried measures there remain only recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That by our code of morality would be criminal aggression.

Opposed to Recognition.

I regard the recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents as now unwise and therefore inadmissible. Should that step hereafter be deemed wise as a measure of right and duty the executive will take it.

Intervention upon humanitarian grounds has been frequently suggested and has not failed to receive my most anxious and earnest consideration. But should such a step be now taken when it is apparent that a hopeful change has supervened in the policy of Spain toward Cuba? A new government has taken office in the mother country. It is pledged in advance to the declaration that all the effort in the world cannot suffice to maintain peace in Cuba by the bayonet; that vague promises of reform after subjugation afford no solution of the insular problem, that with a substitution of commanders must come a change of the past system of warfare for one in harmony with a new policy which shall no longer aim to drive the Cubans to the "horrible alternative of taking to the thicket or succumbing in misery," that the reforms must be instituted in accordance with the needs and circumstances of the time and that these reforms, while designed to give full autonomy to the colony and to create a virtual entity and self controlled administration, shall yet conserve and affirm the sovereignty of Spain by a just distribution of powers and burdens upon a basis of mutual interest untroubled by methods of selfish expediency.

It is honestly due to Spain and to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations and to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things to which she stands irrevocably committed. She has recalled the commander whose brutal orders inflamed the American mind and shocked the civilized world. She has modified the horrible order of concentration and undertaken to care for the helpless and permit those who desire to resume the cultivation of their fields to do so and assures them of the protection of the Spanish government in their lawful occupations. She has just released the "Competitor" prisoners, heretofore sentenced to death, and who have been the subject of repeated diplomatic correspondence during both this and the preceding administration.

Not a single American citizen is now under arrest or in confinement in Cuba of whom this government has any knowledge. The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensible condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain as well as equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes that action will be determined in the use of indisputable right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy in the light of the obligation this government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor and to humanity.

Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense courses, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion or selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of

Maiden Letter.

After a few weeks absence I will try to give you some news.

Mr. Lester Fox is much improved and hope he will again be restored to health.

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, of Stanley, were here with Mr. Fox while he was very sick.

Miss Lillie Crouse spent Saturday in Newton.

Mr. J. C. Hunter and family will move to Charlotte in a few weeks. Mr. Hunter has accepted a position with Mr. S. H. Youngblood.

After a long time all our mills have again started on full time day and night.

I am indeed sorry for our correspondent from Maiden to the Newton Enterprise who has not yet breezed any of the McKinley prosperity. I am certain if he will look around at the industry of our town he can soon see great difference in various ways. A little more than twelve months ago not one of our cotton mills was running and you could look around on the street and see from one to two dozen people standing around most any time of day idle, nothing to do. The merchants had nothing to do. Now our mills are running day and night and every one of our idle people have gone. Where are they? They are at work making money and they are spending it with the merchants, consequently they all have work and are making money. Now you can hardly pick up a man to do a small job of work because they are employed daily and don't care to do little turns. We have three cotton mills in Maiden, all of which are running on full time day and night and employing between four and six hundred hands which were out of employment a little more than a year ago.

We have a roller mill which last year only ran two to three days in a week. For the past six or eight months the mill has been running on full time every day and partly at night. Employment for every one and good wages. What more do we want?

If that is not a breeze of "prosperity" I don't know what to call it. I think you would be safe in calling it almost a cyclone. Our speakers said if McKinley was elected confidence would be restored and every man could get regular employment and good wages. Manufacturing enterprises would be started and money would flow. Every man could find employment.

Since the mills have started the wood waggons are beginning to run daily.

Only those of us who were out of employment last year appreciate the McKinley breeze of prosperity.

Misery mongers are those who do not really suffer affliction but make a trade of it and it is often a very thriving business, too. They are scattered among every class of people, but they belong especially to the Democrats.

The jealous Democrat always looks at the worst side of whatever is done. Every one must see daily instances of people who complain from a mere habit of complaining. With some Democrats growling is chronic.

But we ought to bear in mind that growling never did any one any good and with all grows very uncomfortable to the parties who indulge in it.

POODLE.

The Greatest Discovery Yet.

W. M. Repine, editor Tiskilwa, Ill., "Incl." says: "We won't keep house without Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs, and Colds. Experimented with many others, but never got the true remedy until we used Dr. King's New Discovery. No other remedy can take its place in our home, as in it we have a certain and sure cure for Coughs, Colds, Whoop-Cough, etc." It is idle to experiment with other remedies, even if they are urged on you as just as good as Dr. King's New Discovery. They are not as good, because this remedy has a record of cures and besides is guaranteed. It never fails to satisfy. Trial bottles free at Snuford Drug Co.'s Drug Store.

Boston Democrats have renominated Josiah Quincy for mayor. An attempt to obtain an endorsement of the Chicago platform failed and a Bryan Democrat will be a candidate against Mr. Quincy.

Continued on Page 6.