

THE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

IT WAS SENT BY THE PRESIDENT MONDAY.

The Whole Document Contains 20,000 Words - A Synopsis Giving the Leading Points is Found Below.

Washington, Dec. 5.—President McKinley's second annual message, which was submitted to Congress to-day contains 20,000 words. The following is a brief synopsis, including some brief excerpts and the more important features:

THE MESSAGE.

"Notwithstanding the added burdens rendered necessary by the war our people rejoice at the very satisfactory and steadily increasing degree of prosperity evidenced by the largest volume of business ever recorded. Manufacturers have been productive, agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns, labor to all fields of industry have been better rewarded. The finances of the government have been successfully administered and its credit advanced to the first rank, while the currency has been maintained at the world's highest standard. The military service under our common flag and for a righteous cause has strengthened the national spirit and served to cement more closely than ever the fraternal bonds between every section of the country."

Reviewing the controversy which led up to the war with Spain, the President takes up the thread of the narrative where it terminated in his last annual message. It concluded:

"It is honestly due to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given reasonable chance to realize her expectations of reform to which she has become irrevocably committed." It became evident, however, that the proposed plans were barren of good results. It is apparent that nothing save the physical exhaustion of Spain or the Cubans and the practical ruin of the island of Cuba could result from the struggle then in progress. At this critical juncture the destruction of the Maine occurred. Concerning it the president says:

DESTRUCTION OF THE MAINE.

"It is a striking evidence of the poise and sturdy good sense distinguishing our national character that the shocking blow, falling upon a generous people, already deeply touched by preceding events in Cuba, did not move them to instant, desperate resolve to tolerate no longer the existence of a condition of danger and disorder at our doors that made possible such a deed, by whomsoever wrought."

The President then sketches the legislation which preceded the war with Spain, reviews at length the work preparation for the event, referring particularly to the enlistment of volunteers, increase of navy and precautionary measures for protection of seacoast cities, and praises highly the aid rendered him by the signal service. He then reviews chronologically the events of the war and referring to Dewey's bold strike in the Philippines says:

DEWEY'S MANILA VICTORY.

"It is destined to mark a memorable epoch in maritime warfare. The effect of this remarkable victory," says the President, "upon the spirit of our people and upon the fortunes of the war was instant. The prestige of invincibility thereby attached to our arms which continued throughout the struggle." The President says, "only reluctance to cause needless loss of life and property prevented the early storming and capture of the city of Manila, and the establishment of absolute military occupancy of the whole group."

Following the memorable trip of the battleship Oregon from San Francisco to Key West and the bombardment of San Juan, to which special reference is made, the President says:

HOBSON'S GREAT HEROISM.

"The next act in the war thrilled not alone the hearts of our countrymen, but the world by its exceptional heroism. June 3 Lieut. Hobson, aided by seven devoted volunteers, blocked the narrow outlet from Santiago harbor by sinking the collier Merrimac 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."

The campaign of Santiago, resulting in the investment and capture of that city is referred to as a brilliant achievement, and a brief review is presented of the decisive naval combat of the war on July 3, resulting in the complete destruction of Cervera's fleet. Concerning it the President says:

DESTRUCTION OF CERVERA'S FLEET.

"Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves, from commanders to gunners, and unnamed heroes in boiler rooms, each and all contributing toward the achievement of this astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in completeness of the event and marvelous disproportion of casualties, it would be invidious to single out any for special honor."

In this connection the President says: "Nor can we be unmindful of the achievements of our builders, mechanics, and artists for their skill in the construction of our warships."

OUR SMALL LOSSES.

Referring to the casualties of the struggle with Spain the President says "it will be observed while our navy engaged in two great battles and in numerous perilous undertakings in blockade and bombardment, and more than 50,000 of our troops were transported to distant lands and engaged in assault, siege, battle and many skirmishes in unfamiliar territory, we lost in both arms of the service a total of 1668 killed and wounded, and in the entire campaign by land and sea did not lose a gun, flag, transport or ship, with the exception of the crew of the Merrimac, not a soldier or sailor was taken prisoner."

THE BOYS WHO DID NOT FIGHT.

The President bears testimony and pays a fitting tribute to the "patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which, eager to be ordered to the post of greatest exposure, fortunately was not required outside the United States." They did their whole duty and earned the gratitude of the nation. The President says: "In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the divine Master for his watchful care over us and His safe guidance, for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgment and offers humble prayer for a continuance of his favors."

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

The peace negotiations which followed the capitulation of Santiago and the preparation and signing of the protocol are discussed at length. Referring to the work of the peace commissioners at Paris the President says: "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. I do not discuss at this time the government of future new possessions which will come to us as a result of the war. Such discussion will be appropriate after the treaty of peace is ratified. In the meantime and until Congress legislates otherwise, it will be my duty to continue the military governments which have existed since our occupation. As soon as we get 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 will be undertaken at the earliest moment consistent with safety and assured success. It is important that our relations with this people be of the most friendly character and our commercial relations close and reciprocal. It will 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 will be free and independent, thus realizing the best aspirations of the Cuban people. Spanish rule must be replaced by just, benevolent and humane government, created by the people of Cuba, capably performing all internal obligations which shall encourage thrift, industry and prosperity and promote peace and good will among all the inhabitants whatever may have been the relations in the past. Neither revenge nor passion should have place in the new government. Until there is complete tranquility restored in the island

and a stable government inaugurated military occupation will be continued.

"The President says with the one exception of the rupture with Spain, the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations during the past year has been marked by cordiality. The president expects the Nicaragua canal commission will shortly be able to report finally.

THE NICARAGUAN CANAL.

"I do not hesitate to express my convictions," says the President, "that considerations of expediency and internal policy as between the several governments interested in the construction and control of an inter-oceanic canal by this route will require the maintenance of the status quo until the canal commission shall have reported and the United States Congress shall have had opportunity to pass finally upon the whole matter." The President regards in view of the newly acquired interests in the Pacific ocean the construction of such a maritime highway now more than ever indispensable.

Concerning the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese empire, the President says our possession among the nations give equitable claim to consideration and friendly treatment in this regard, and it will be his aim to subserve our large interests in the Orient by means appropriate to the policy of our government.

THE CZAR'S PROPOSAL.

Referring to the proposal of the Czar for a general reduction of military establishments the President says: "His majesty was at once informed of the cordial sympathy of this government with the principle involved in his exalted proposal and of the readiness of the United States to take part in the conference."

GREENBACKS TO BE RETIRED.

Alluding to financial affairs the President says: "In my judgment the present condition of the treasury amply justifies the immediate enactment of legislation recommended one year ago; under which a portion of our gold holdings will be placed in a trust fund from which greenbacks will be redeemed upon presentation, but when once redeemed not thereafter to be paid out except for gold."

Will Make No Mistake.

"I had impure blood and was troubled with bad sores and heart disease. Since taking a few bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla all symptoms of my illness have disappeared and my cure seems permanent. Those who take Hood's for a blood purifier will make no mistake." RALEIGH J. SALEY, Lancheater, Va.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills. Easy to take, easy to operate; reliable, sure.

Regardless of Age.

The kidneys are responsible for more sickness, suffering, and deaths than any other organs of the body.

A majority of the ills afflicting people to-day is traceable to kidney trouble. It prevades all classes of society, in all climates, regardless of age, sex or condition.

The symptoms of kidney trouble are unmistakable, such as rheumatism, neuralgia, sleeplessness, pain or dull ache in the back, a desire to urinate often day or night, profuse or scanty supply.

Uric acid, or brick dust deposit in urine are signs of clogged kidneys, causing poisoned and germ-filled blood. Sometimes the heart acts badly, and tube casts (wasting of the kidneys) are found in the urine, which if neglected will result in Bright's Disease, the most dangerous form of kidney trouble.

All these symptoms and conditions are promptly removed under the influence of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. It has a world wide reputation for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases.

No one need be long without it as it is so easy to get at any drug store at fifty cents or one dollar. You can have a sample bottle of this wonderful discovery, Swamp-Root, and a book telling all about it, both sent to you absolutely free by mail. Send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., and kindly mention that you read this liberal offer in the HICKORY PRESS.

BANNER BUSINESS YEAR.

PRESENT YEAR A VERY SUCCESSFUL ONE.

Comparisons for Large Business in the Future will be made with the Figures of 1898.

New York, Dec. 2.—R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade will say tomorrow:

The report of failures for the month of November is extremely gratifying because it shows not only a decrease in number and a smaller amount of liabilities than in any other month excepting those of the summer months since the monthly record began, but because careful analysis shows a striking improvement both in the small and the large failures, and in nearly all classes of industry and trade. Considering that failures are usually smaller in summer months than in November, the monthly return may be considered about the best ever made and shows a condition of financial soundness rarely surpassed.

Nobody can estimate the gain for the iron and steel industry which will result from the past week's transactions in steel rails, which are said to exceed 700,000 tons. Finished products of iron and steel are unchanged in price, although plates and bars are in remarkably heavy demand.

Salqs of wool have been large in November, 29,875,800 pounds in five weeks against \$4,122,400 last year, but they have been effected by important concessions in price. Manufacturers have somewhat larger orders and are more hopeful, but a considerable share of the machinery must inevitably remain idle until the material is cheaper in comparison with the coast of wool and goods in other countries.

The rise of cotton to 5.62 cents which had no other basis than an impression that cold weather and storms late in November might do much harm, re-acted a sixteenth, but rose Friday and closed at the top price with improvement in the goods market. While prices of print cloths are unchanged the prices of some heavy goods and bleached shirtings are a trifle.

The wheat market has been weaker with heavy western receipts and has declined 1/2c. Atlantic exports have been 6,123,056 bushels, flour included for the week against 4,187,632 last year and Pacific exports 1,810,225 against 1,857,959 last year, and for five weeks the total exports have been 28,304,863 bushels against 22,122,709 last year.

Within the same time corn exports have been 14,490,238 bushels against 12,881,532 last year and the price has risen 1/2c. It is a most significant fact which all interested may keep well in mind that exports of wheat about equal the greatest ever known in any crop year thus far, but are accompanied by corn exports also but slightly exceeded in the year of greatest movement heretofore.

The possibility that foreign dependence on American food supplies is permanent, may be worth considering.

Failures for the week have been 281 in the United States against 306 last year and nineteen in Canada against twenty eight last year.

New York, Dec. 2.—Bradstreet's to-morrow will say:

The business world enters on the closing month of the year with so many favorable and so few depressing features in sight as to leave little doubt that the year 1898 as a whole must hereafter furnish the basis for estimate when comparisons for large business are to be made. Nearly all obtainable statistics and reports as to the volume of business point to the present year having heavily exceeded any former year in the amount of business done and though comparisons as regards prices are not so favorable as in earlier years, notably 1892 and 1896, when quotations of most staples were considerably higher, still the expansion in trade due to increased population and enlarged foreign demand for our products has resulted in an aggregate volume of business done considerably in excess of any former years.

In the general business world the leading event of the week has undoubtedly been the placing of very large orders, estimated at between 500,000 and 700,000 tons of steel rails, more than one-quarter of the entire country's annual production, at which if not entirely satisfactory to the com-

paring rail mills, are encouraging. Normal prices of steel rails show little change from those ruling some time ago, but quotations for Bessemer iron and steel billets reflects the stimulating influence of the removal of the uncertainty regarding the placing of this large volume of rail business.

Foreign demand for our food products has continued an encouraging feature of the cereal situation and wheat prices particularly are a little lower on the week, notwithstanding very heavy farmers deliveries and increasing domestic stocks. Exports this week are the largest ever reported.

Corn and oats, which appear to have temporarily parted company from wheat are higher on the week on improved speculative buying and enlarged export trade. The ocean freight situation is slightly easier and the supply of tonnage shows some enlargement. The price situation generally is an encouraging one and advances largely outnumber declines. The early arrival of winter weather in the south has tended to make smaller cotton crop estimates more popular and enlarged speculative and spot purchases have advanced prices for this staple.

The advent of winter weather has tended to reduce the demand for building lumber, which in some markets was depressed during the summer because of the activity in building. A rather better tone is, however, now reported and the opening of the new year is awaited with confidence. Recent advances in prices of pine and spruce lumber are well maintained, stocks in dealers' hands are not at all heavy and advices both from the yellow pine markets of the north and northwest are that a heavy output has been as a rule satisfactorily handled.

To Declare Bellamy's Seat Vacant.

It is learned from a Republican of prominence that the plan of the Representatives shall stand John D. Bellamy, Democratic Congressman elect from the sixth district, aside when he comes to be sworn in, and that as soon as a Speaker is elected, they shall put a resolution through declaring that there was no republican form of government in the sixth district at the late election and that therefore Bellamy's seat is vacant.

Oliver H. Dockery has also employed counsel to contest Bellamy's election, his counsel being W. W. Dudley and Mitchener, of Washington.

Governor Russell was to day informed as to the facts regarding the claim of the United States against North Carolina. In 1856, \$58,000 of bonds of the Western North Carolina Railroad were bought by the Indian Trust Fund as an investment, with Indian funds. The State, after the civil war, ceased to pay the interest, and the bonds were then transferred to the United States government, which assumed the debt and pays interest on the \$58,000. These bonds are in two batches. In one are 740 coupons of \$50 each, and in the other batch \$1,838 coupons, making total interest due \$80,340, the grand total being \$138,340, which the government now holds against the State. The Comptroller of the Treasury gives an opinion that he has the right to credit any State claims on this debt, and that allowance by the War Department will be credited on it. The Governor is informed that it will be necessary to secure passage of a relief bill by Congress, ordering the War Department to make payment of the war claims without regard to the old debt above alluded to. The fact is further ascertained that while the State Auditor has, as stated, issued warrants for \$23,650 of war claims, none of these warrants have been paid.—Raleigh Correspondent Charlotte Observer.

What It Means.

When we advertise that we will guarantee Dr. King's New Discovery, Electric Bitters, Bucklen's Arnica Salve, or Dr. King's New Life Pills, it means that we are authorized by the proprietors to sell these remedies on a positive guarantee, that if purchaser is not satisfied with results, we will refund the purchase price. These medicines have been sold on this guarantee for many years and there could be no more conclusive evidence of their great merit. Ask about them and give them a trial. Sold at Shuford Drug Co.