

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CRISIS IS REACHED.

RECOGNITION OF CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DEPRECATED.

Intervention is Justified—Spain Wants to Arbitrate the Maine Disaster—Cuba's Horrible Condition—President McKinley Says the State of Affairs on the Island is Intolerable.

Washington, April 13.—Following is a summary of President McKinley's message to Congress:

To THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES: Obedient to that precept of the Constitution which commands the President to give from time to time to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave crisis that has arisen in the relations of the United States and Spain by reason of the warfare that now more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba.

The present revolution is but successor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous losses to American trade and commerce, caused irritation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens, and by the exercise of cruel, barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare shocked the sensibilities and offended the humane sympathies of our people.

Since the present revolution began in February, 1895, this country has seen the fertile domain at our threshold ravaged by fire and sword in the course of a struggle unequalled in the history of the island, and rarely paralleled as to the number of combatants and the bitterness of the contest by revolution of modern times where a dependent people, striving to be free, have been opposed by the power of the sovereign State. Our people have beheld a once prosperous community reduced to comparative want, its lucrative commerce virtually paralyzed, its exceptional productivity diminished, its fields laid waste, its mills in ruins, and its people perishing by tens of thousands from hunger and destitution.

As I said in my message of last December, it was not civilized warfare, it was extermination. The only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave. Meanwhile, the military situation in the island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of war, when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio, and carried havoc and destruction up to the walls of the city of Havana itself, had relapsed into a dogged struggle in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish arms regained a measure of control in Pinar del Rio and parts of Havana, but under the existing condition of the rural country, without immediate improvement of their productive situation. Even thus partially restricted, the revolutionists held their own, and their conquests, and submission put forward by Spain as the essential and sole basis of peace seemed as far distant as at the outset. The prospect of such a protraction and conclusion of the present strife is a contingency hardly to be contemplated with equanimity by the civilized world, and least of all by the United States, affected and concerned as we are, deeply and intimately, by its very existence. Realizing this it appeared to be my duty in a spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubans, who have so much to lose by the prolongation of the struggle to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. As a result of much representation and correspondence to this end I submitted on the 27th ultimo, through the United States Minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish government looking to an armistice until Oct. 1, for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the President. In addition, I asked the immediate revocation of the order of reconcentration so as to permit the people to return to their farms and the needy to be relieved with provisions and supplies, the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities so as to afford full relief. The reply of the Spanish Cabinet was received on the night of the 31st ultimo. It offers, as the means to bring about peace in Cuba, to confide the preparation thereof to the insular parliament, inasmuch as the concurrence of that body would be necessary to reach a final result, it being, however, understood that the powers reserved by the Constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished.

These elements of danger and disorder already pointed out have been strikingly

illustrated by a tragic event which has deeply and justly moved the American people. I have already transmitted to Congress the report of the Naval Board of Inquiry on the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana during the night of the 15th of February. The destruction of that noble vessel has filled the national heart with inexorable horror. Two hundred and fifty-eight brave sailors and marines and two officers of our navy, reposing in the fancied security of a friendly harbor, have been hurried to death, grief and woe brought to their homes and sorrow to the nation.

The Naval Court of Inquiry, which, it is needless to say, commands the unqualified confidence of the Government, was unanimous in its conclusion that the destruction of the Maine was caused by an exterior explosion, that of a submarine mine. It did not assume to place the responsibility. That remains to be fixed.

In any event, the destruction of the Maine, by whatever exterior cause, is a patent and impressive proof of a state of things in Cuba that is intolerable. That condition is thus shown to be such that the Spanish Government cannot assure safety and security to a vessel of the American Navy in the harbor of Havana on a mission of peace and rightfully there.

Further referring in this connection to recent diplomatic correspondence, a dispatch from our Minister to Spain, of the 26th ult., contained the statement that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs assured him positively that Spain will do all that the highest honor and justice required in the matter of the Maine. The reply of the 31st ult. also contained an expression of the readiness of Spain to submit to an arbitration all the differences which can arise in this matter, which is subsequently explained by the note of the Spanish Minister at Washington of the 10th inst., as follows: "As to the question of fact which springs from the diversity of views between the report of the American and Spanish boards, Spain proposes that the fact be ascertained by an impartial investigation by experts, whose decision Spain accepts in advance." To this I have made no reply.

The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests which give us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop. In view of these facts and these considerations I ask the Congress to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of the hostilities between the government of Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations, ensuring peace and tranquillity and the security of its citizens as well as our own, and to use the military and naval forces of the United States as may be necessary for these purposes. And in the interest of humanity, and to aid in preserving the lives of the starving people of the island, I recommend that the distribution of food and supplies be continued, and that an appropriation out of the public treasury to supplement the charity of our citizens. The issue is now with Congress. It is a solemn responsibility. I have exhausted every effort to relieve the intolerable condition of affairs which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me by the Constitution and the law, I await your action.

Yesterday and since the preparation of the foregoing message official information was received by me that the latest decree of the Queen Regent of Spain directs Gen. Blanco, in order to prepare and facilitate peace, to proclaim a suspension of hostilities the duration and details of which have not yet been communicated to me.

This fact with every other pertinent consideration, will, I am sure, have upon your just and careful attention in the solemn deliberations upon which you are about to enter. If this measure attains a successful result, then our aspirations as a Christian, peace-loving people will be realized.

If it fails it will be only another justification for our contemplated action.

SPAIN'S LATEST SCHEME.

TRYING TO GAIN TIME

GENERAL BLANCO ORDERED TO SUSPEND HOSTILITIES.

The Captain-General is to Prepare a Way for Peace—The European Powers Advised This Action—Of Course, Spain May Demand Her Will if the Patriots Fight On and She Continues Preparations.

Madrid, April 13.—The Cabinet has issued an official note which says that the Ministers have authorized Captain-General Blanco to suspend hostilities in Cuba for such time as he thinks convenient in order to prepare the way for peace.

Gen. Correa, Minister of War, has made the following statement, which may be taken as summing up the reasons why the war party within the Government adopted the concession made by their colleagues: "It is a mistake to say that the Government has granted an armistice to the rebels. I would not have agreed to that. I would rather have left the Cabinet, for such action would be tantamount to recognizing the rebels as belligerents. What the Government agreed to in response to the invitation of the powers is this: 'Not to prosecute hostilities for such time as Gen. Blanco may deem expedient as preparatory to peace. I acceded to this cessation of hostilities because to reject the suggestion of the powers would have been to divorce Spain from the whole world. If I left the Cabinet I should be bequeathing an evil heritage to my successor.'"

"I believe that Gen. Blanco will proclaim the concession of a truce, and also the willingness of the Government to offer indulgent terms to the rebels. If during the truce there are important submissions, if the United States withdraws its men-of-war from the neighborhood of Cuba and the Philippine Islands, all will be well, and a way to peace will be speedily arranged; but if not, then the war will be continued in Cuba, and the powers will be obliged to ask of the United States absolute neutrality and the dissolution of the filibustering committee in New York."

"All this does not prevent the Spanish Government from continuing to make military preparations and to place the Peninsula, the Canary and Balearic Islands and Porto Rico in a state of defence."

The report that the condition of the armistice include the withdrawal of the American fleets from waters near Cuba and the Philippine Islands is reproduced everywhere, but there is nothing to substantiate its truth.

HAVANA'S GRAVE FLIGHT.

The Cuban Forces Threaten to Make a Dash Upon the City.

Havana, Cuba.—The Cubans are gathering in considerable numbers around Havana and threaten to make a dash on the capital at any moment. The situation is so grave in this respect that General Arolas, Colonel Pagelan, and a delegation of the Artillery Department inspected and reinforced the fortifications on the outskirts of the city.

General Arolas, who is the Spanish military commander of Havana, intends to reinforce still further the strategical positions, fearing that the Americans may land an army, and the Cubans, joining them, may lead them to the weakest points on the land side. It is a well known fact that Havana is practically defenseless by land.

The exact number of Cuban soldiers now in Havana province is 3,000. From Pinar del Rio 4,000 more can come within twenty-four hours.

Signals Says Spain Blew Up the Maine. Washington, D. C.—Captain Signale has been examined by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He stated it to be his opinion that his vessel, the Maine, was blown up by a submarine mine located by the Spanish authorities. When asked explicitly whether it was fired by the Spanish authorities or not, he asked to be excused from answering. He said that the buoy to which the Maine was anchored was the most unfrequented buoy in the harbor, and that the submarine mine under the Maine must have been of the very largest size, one only made for governments.

Big Liners for the Navy. New York, N. Y.—Several of the vessels of the North German Lloyd Mediterranean service have been offered to the Government. Gustav H. Schwab, of the New York office of the company, has made the offer to the Naval Auxiliary Board, and it is possible that negotiations looking to their purchase will be opened shortly. The largest and best-equipped vessels will not, however, be sold. In the Mediterranean service are the Emden, Ems, Wern, Kaiser Wilhelm II. and Adler. The American line steamer Illinois will be inspected shortly at Philadelphia.

Spain's "Hornets" Prepare for Sea. St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands.—The Spanish torpedo fleet is making hurried preparations for sea. Each one of the torpedo boats and destroyers has been loaded to its full capacity. The torpedo boats carry from eighteen to twenty-five tons and the destroyers a hundred tons each. The crews are in good condition and are very enthusiastic. Senior Villamil, the commander of the fleet, is momentarily expecting orders from Madrid.

Spain's Big Cruisers at Porto Rico. San Juan de Porto Rico.—The Spanish cruisers Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo, which sailed from Havana last Saturday, have arrived here. The officers were much surprised to hear that the torpedo flotilla had been turned back to the Cape Verde Islands by storm. It is believed here that the two big warships were to act as convoys for the torpedo fleet, and that both would attack the United States at or near Key West.

GEN. LEE CALLED NORTH.

To Tell of His Investigations Regarding the Maine Explosion.

Key West, Fla.—Consul-General Lee has gone North in the belief that his presence is wanted in Washington to give information about the probabilities in Cuba during the next fortnight. He did not receive instructions until he reached Key West. Vice-Consul Springer and Consul Barker of Sagua are also instructed to report at headquarters. This was construed as indicating the opinion in official quarters that an early re-opening of the American Consulates in Cuba is not probable.

General Lee may be able to add some knowledge to what is already known regarding the plot by which the Maine was blown up, though not, perhaps, to the extent of fixing the conspiracy officially on the Spanish Government. After the de-



GENERAL PITHECH LEE.

parture of the Sampson Court of Inquiry it was left to him to follow up the clues regarding conspirators. While the Board reported its inability to fix the responsibility for the explosions on any persons or person, it was well understood that the suspicions of its members were definite.

Perhaps General Lee would not feel justified in making stronger assertions officially than did the Board about the identity of the conspirators, yet he uncovered enough to satisfy him that a single fanatic could not have fixed the mine which blew up the Maine in Havana Harbor or have fired it. Whether some of the junior officers who were stationed at the arsenal under Weyler were directly implicated in the plot may be a matter of individual opinion rather than of demonstrative evidence.

Washington, D. C.—General Lee has arrived here. On his journey north he was accorded the most magnificent receptions and demonstrations ever given to a public official. It was a continuous oration from start to finish and kept him busy making speeches and thanking the enthusiastic populace. When asked about the Maine he said: "The Maine matter and all other matters will receive prompt attention."

Fleeing from Porto Rico.

St. Thomas.—An outbreak against foreigners, especially Americans, is expected at San Juan de Porto Rico at any moment, and so serious has the situation become that United States Consul P. C. Hanna has been ordered to this island for safety. The Consul and all the members of the American colony spent the night on board the British steamer Virginia. The people have become very turbulent. The military has not been able to prevent bloodshed. Riots have occurred in many towns.

Spanish Spies Are at Work.

Washington, D. C.—Spanish spies are sharply watching the developments of the American navy, besides keeping an inquisitive eye on the work of fortifying the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. There is reason to believe that the authorities will shortly decline to make public any information respecting the destination of vessels, even their departure from a port at which they may be stationed.

Torpedo Boat Rowan Launched. Seattle, Wash.—The United States torpedo boat Rowan, the first war vessel built in the State of Washington, has been successfully launched.

THE MARKETS.

Produce. Since our last report there has been a slight advance in prices all round. Quotations are as follows: Wheat, 100% @ 100%; Corn, 34% @ 94%; Oats, 29% @ 29%.

CREAM AND MILK.

The average daily receipts of milk and cream at the different railroad distributing points in and near New York for the week have been as follows: Fluid milk, 25,529 cans; condensed milk, 162 cans; cream, 446 cans.

The Exchange price is 2 1/2 cents a quart net to the shipper.

BUTTER.

Creamery—West, extra..... @ 21 1/2
First..... @ 21 1/4
Thirds to seconds..... @ 20 1/2
State—Seconds to thirds..... @ 20
State Dairy type, extra..... @ 18 1/2
Factory, Fresh, firsts..... @ 14 1/2

CHEESE.

State—Full cream, new, large Small..... @ 8 1/2
Part skimmed good to prime..... @ 8
Full skimmed..... @ 5

EGGS.

State and Penn.—Fresh # doz. 10..... @ 10 1/2
Jersey—Fancy..... @ 11
Western, Choice..... @ 10 1/2

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, # bbl..... @ 2 00 @ 2 50
Onions, white, # bbl..... @ 1 00 @ 1 50
Red, # bbl..... @ 1 00 @ 1 50
Turnips, # bbl..... @ 1 00 @ 1 50

LIVE POULTRY.

Fowls, # lb..... @ 12 1/2
Chickens, # lb..... @ 11
Turkeys, # lb..... @ 11
Ducks, # pair..... @ 50
Geese, # pair..... @ 75
Broilers, # pair..... @ 25

SEAFOOD POULTRY.

Turkeys, # lb..... @ 11
Squabs, # lb..... @ 10
Western, dry packed..... @ 10 1/2
Towls, State & Penn., # lb..... @ 11

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

Honorable S. Hubert, counsel for the Cuban Junta, declared the Cubans could not accept any interference by the United States which did not include absolute independence for Cuba, and if American troops were landed in Cuba on other terms would as a last resort resist them by force of arms. The Junta promptly repudiated the last part of the statement.

Special reports show that nearly every State in the Union is preparing for war. Militia is being recruited to full strength, equipments are being overhauled and supplies got ready. Preparations for quick mobilization are being made. Many companies of volunteers are being organized. Several States have provided war funds for emergency.

The man who made for Spain the mine which he is convinced blew up the Maine, J. P. Gibbons, of London, called a signed statement. He says it was a ground mine containing 500 pounds of gunpowder, and could not possibly have been exploded except by an officer of the Spanish Government.

Representative Lorrimer, of Illinois, says General Lee told Captain Sigbee that when the Maine was blown up he electric lights in Havana were extinguished, showing electrical connection with the destruction of the battleship. General Lee will tell what he knows to Congress.

Minister Woodford says that delay in making for peace in Spain, but all reported facts point to a growing conviction there that war is inevitable. The General has been instructed by the State Department to leave Madrid when he sees fit.

The New York Life Insurance Company has offered the Government a loan of \$10,000,000 on its own terms. An official in the Sub-Treasury says that New York City would probably respond to a war call with a loan of \$200,000,000.

Most of the ships of Spain's navy are gathered at Cadix. But instead of any squadron being ordered to American waters, neither squadron assembling at Cadix is anywhere near ready for sea, much less for fighting.

Lieut.-Commander Maria, of the Vermont, and Judge Advocate of the Maine Board of Inquiry, has been assigned to command the steam yacht Savannah, to be made into a light armored cruiser, and named the Scorpion.

John Stewart Cross, of Baltimore, has offered property worth \$10,000 for the establishment of a school for the orphaned and a home for the widows of the men who perished on the Maine.

A large quantity of submarine mine cable was in the Havana arsenal until about a month before the arrival of the Maine. It then disappeared. Its disposition has not been made known.

The work of planting mines in Hampton Roads has begun. Officers of the diving squadron received orders from Washington that war was a matter of only two or three days.

The fortification of New York harbor has been pushed so rapidly within some weeks that naval experts declare that the city is safe from the attack of any foreign fleet at Chicago.

The battleship Texas started for Hampton Roads. Improvements have been made in her turret mechanism and ammunition hoists. The Mayflower is almost ready for sea.

The United States may purchase the new Chilean cruiser O'Higgins if a price can be agreed upon. Chile is said to be dicker with both the United States and Spain.

Spain demanded that the American fleet at Key West be withdrawn as a condition precedent to the granting of an armistice to the insurgents. The President refused.

Governor Otero, of New Mexico, has offered a regiment of Spanish-speaking cavalry to Secretary Alger, who said their services would be accepted if needed.

Herbert G. Nichols, who stole \$150,000 from Browning, King & Co., of Chicago, was captured in New York after he had baffled pursuit for over five years.

General Graham, commander of the Department of the Gulf, recommends Atlanta, Ga., as the point for the mobilization of our troops.

A cable from London reports that American agents in Hamburg have bought the fast steamer Columbia and Normania.

The Government has received offers from 1,000,000 volunteers. In case of war, however, the militia will be utilized first.

Chaplain Chadwick, of the Maine, has been given a lieutenant's rank and ordered to join the fleet at Key West.

Senator Proctor wired to a constituent that he wanted no European mediation on this continent.

The cruiser Cincinnati ran aground in Key West Harbor, but was floated without much damage.

Five hundred mounted Navajo Indians have offered their services to Uncle Sam.

FROM ACROSS THE SEA.

Rome.—It is learned from the Foreign Office that the contract for the sale of the Italian cruiser Garibaldi to Spain has been suspended until a solution shall have been reached of the Spanish-American crisis. In taking this action, which essentially prevents Spain from getting the cruiser for use against the United States, the Government has paid heed to the pro-American feeling prevailing here.

London.—A dispatch received in this city from Madrid says that Minister Woodford has called to Washington saying that the publication of his statement in the Madrid press has done good in the capital and will do the same throughout Spain.

Vienna.—Upon the initiative of Austria a majority of the powers have charged their Ambassadors at Madrid and Washington to offer their good offices to secure the maintenance of peace in the interests of humanity.

London.—The Chronicle prints a report that one of two Spanish warships are prowling about off Queenstown in the track of vessels plying between the United States and Great Britain.

MINE-MAKER'S STORY.

THE BATTLESHIP MAINE WAS LIBERALLY DESTROYED.

J. P. Gibbons Declares That the Explosive Was Intentional—Whereas the Investigation Shows That the Mine Was Blown Up.

Following is the startling story of the man who made the mine which blew up the battleship Maine:

The only submarine mine which have been supplied to the Spanish Government since 1895-97 were mines manufactured under my own patents. I then supplied them with fifty ground mines, twenty-five buoy mines, each with a charge of 100 pounds of gunpowder, and fifteen electric contact mines, exploded either on contact or by observation from above, each containing a charge of 100 pounds of gunpowder.

The mines sent to Havana would still retain full effectiveness. They will last under water for an indefinite period.

In 1895-97 the Spanish Government ordered a fresh supply of my patent mines. Whether they went to Havana or not is immaterial.

One of the mines supplied in 1897 is still fully capable of causing the destruction of the Maine.



JOHN PATRICK GIBBONS.

In fact, I am convinced, from all the surrounding circumstances, that no other agency could have caused it.

In direct contradiction of the statements of the Secretary of the Spanish Legation at Washington and of General Weyler that there are no submarine mines in Havana Harbor, I solemnly affirm that I shipped the above mines for Havana and Ferrol on a Spanish ship, the property of the Spanish Government, and delivered by Spanish naval officers, with two captains, to the West India dock, London.

My mines are in plentiful communication with the shore, and it is possible that they could be exploded except by design.

I am convinced also that the explosion of the mine which destroyed the Maine was the work of one or two men, for these reasons:

First.—A vessel carrying submarine mines or mined, upon starting, the direct closer would move merely as a steamer on the harbor, or about, warning the officer in charge that he was in contact with the mine.

Second.—Before the officer is in a position to fire the mine he must obtain one of two keys. One is held by the officer in charge of the diving station. He then must unlock the glass door over which the electric has fallen and insert a red danger plug in the insulated switch.

Third.—He must insert a plug in the switch of the firing battery, which is done with a locking armature, which must be unlocked by a danger point is arrived at.

Fourth.—The firing key must be pressed on to the contact, which completes the circuit, which causes the detonator, by which the mine is exploded.

I have not the slightest doubt that the mine which destroyed the Maine was destroyed with a 100-pound ground mine as invented and supplied by me.

There is a consensus of opinion that the first explosion was accidental, that it established one of its own grounds.

The forward magazine contained 500 pounds of gunpowder, which would blow up the deck, but it is probable that neither it would be exploded, igniting the 1,500 pounds in the middle magazine. Even if the explosion of both would be impossible of detonating, the 1,500 pounds of wet gunpowder in the forward magazine. Had that quantity of cotton been detonated, not a vestige of the Maine would remain.

The only practical way of destroying the mine that sunk the battleship was by undermining the bottom of the ship, and the intention here was to blow up the mine, until the ship without a mine floated.

I am satisfied that the explosion was caused by a ground mine, which was exploded by observation from above, and that it was intended to blow up the ship.

I am prepared to make a statement that this is the true story of the Maine.

—JOHN PATRICK GIBBONS.

These elements of danger and disorder already pointed out have been strikingly