PART II AND JOURNAL JUNIOR

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

William McKinley, President.

His Magnificent Successes—Equal to Exceptional Opportunities—Campaign Promises Kept—Administration Marked an Era—Late President in War and Peace—But Four Years and Six Months in the Presidency.

William McKinley had been president of the United States four years and six months when death put an end to his career. He had thus served only six months in the second term of the presidency, to which he was triumphantly elected in November, 1900. The fifty-four months of the McKinley administration have been among the most critical and eventful in the history of the nation. The war with Spain, so little in itself, gave birth to great events and great policies. It led to a revolution in the foreign policy of the United States and started the republic well on its new career as a great world power. It is hard to get a proper perspective of the history of the present, but there are few observers of national history who do not think that when the history of the nineteenth century is written it will be conceded that it was President McKinley's good fortune to have been in the chair of Washington and Jefferson, Lincoln and Grant, in one of the great epoch-making times in the history of the American nation. That part of President McKinley's first administration which had elapsed when the presidential campaign of 1900 began had been thoroughly committed to the policy of American expansion and the playing of a larger part on the stage of nations. That stand being emphatically indorsed at the polls, the nation became committed to a new policy of tremendous import, the credit for shaping which should be given President McKinley more than any one else.

A Great Olympind.

President McKinley's administration covered one of the most prosperous and successful as well as glorious periods in the nation's life. This period was all the more resplendent by contrast with the gloomy days of the second Cleveland administration. For four years the country had witnessed some 50,000 commercial failures, with liabilities aggregating more than $900,000,000; 177 railroads had passed into the hands of receivers; more than 170 national banks had suspended; farm mortgages were foreclosed by thousands; agricultural exports declined; the balance of trade became adverse; the gold reserve was depleted, and the revenues declined. It was estimated that nearly one-third of the laborers of the United States were thrown out of employment, and a million men clamored for work that was not to be had. The campaign of 1896, in which President McKinley was the nominee of the republican party for the presidency, was fought in the face of these conditions. The republican party was committed to the restoration of the protective tariff system and a reformation of our national financial system upon a sound basis. No sooner was President McKinley inaugurated into office on March 4, 1897, than he called an extra session of congress to act immediately upon the republican promise of tariff legislation. This extra session met on March 15, 1897, and at once took up the consideration of the bill that afterwards became the Dingley tariff act, which became a law on July 24. As was hoped and expected, the new law began at once to yield ample revenue; the first thirty-two months' operation giving a surplus of nearly $60,000,000. The promise of the republican party to give the nation a new currency law was redeemed on March 14, 1900, when the finances of the United States were established on a gold basis. Thus were kept the two great promises made by the party, for the fulfillment of which President McKinley was responsible.

Able Financial Management.

It is proper in this connection to refer to the other features of the financial management which has been so creditable to President McKinley's administration. The refunding of the national debt was undertaken and accomplished in 1900. The unexpected burden of the financial management of the Spanish-American war fell upon the administration in the spring of 1898 and was successfully disposed of by a war revenue measure increasing the internal revenue taxation, and an act authorizing the treasury to borrow $400,000,000, of which $200,000,000 was actually borrowed. These operations were so successfully accomplished that the national credit and revenues were not in the least strained by the heavy expenditures entailed by the war with Spain and the subsequent hostilities in the Philippines which necessitated the enrollment, equipment, maintenance and transport of large bodies of troops. In fact, the entire management of the war finances was conducted with such skill that not for a moment was there any interruption of the tide of prosperity. Industrial and commercial expansion continued as if there had been no war, and at its close the business of the country was greater in volume than at the beginning. The national credit, both at home and abroad, was raised to the highest point in our history. It may be said without fear of dispute that such an achievement is unparalleled in the history of modern nations and affords a marked contrast to the straits to which the treasury of the great British empire has been reduced by the war in South Africa.

Unequaled Prosperity.

Under the stimulus of national solvency encouraging tariff legislation and the acceptance of the gold standard, the prosperity of the four years and a half of President McKinley's administration is almost inconceivable. Industrial activity has everywhere taken the place of idleness and stagnation. Foreign trade has increased by leaps and bounds until the United States has become the greatest exporting nation in the world, with a balance of trade in its favor in three years of upwards of $1,000,000,000, a balance that is at once the admiration and the terror of the industrial nations of Europe. American foreign trade, stimulated by internal prosperity, has rapidly spread itself over the world, attacking the trade of other nations at home and abroad and in its most impregnable strongholds. The volume of internal trade was never so great as during the last years of President McKinley's administration; wages were never so high, and general prosperity never so great.

First Step in Expansion.

The first step in that territorial and commercial expansion policy which is commonly accepted as the distinguishing feature of President McKinley's career in the presidential chair was begun shortly after his first inauguration, when a treaty of annexation of the Hawaiian islands was adopted. This undertaking, delayed in one way and another, was finally accomplished in March, 1898, when by joint resolution Hawaii was annexed to the United States. Last year that country was by a special act of congress organized as a territory, the constitution and revenue laws of the United States being extended to it. Thus was added to the United States one of the richest island groups in the world, with a large trade and a geographical position of great strategic value whether in commerce or war.

The Revolt of Cuba.

The problem of Cuba, then in revolt against Spain, was a legacy from the Cleveland administration which early occupied the attention of President McKinley and his advisers. In a measure President McKinley was committed to some action in behalf of the Cubans by the republican national platform of 1896 which expressed a hope for the success of the Cubans in their determined contest for liberty. The first point of contact with Spain came immediately after President McKinley's inauguration when he took up the question of the confinement of twenty-eight American prisoners in Cuban prisons and secured their release. The reconcentration policy of General Weyler, at that time the Spanish governor general of Cuba, and the horrors that followed its cruel application, aroused American sympathy for the sufferers and indignation at Spanish methods. At the height of this outburst of feeling Dupuy de Lome, Spanish minister at Washington, wrote a letter grossly reflecting upon President McKinley, which being published, resulted in De Lome's immediate withdrawal from the United States.

Then came the momentous event which, in view of the ardent sympathy of the American people for the Cubans, their indignation at Spain and the irritation caused by many smaller events, made American military intervention in Cuba inevitable. On the night of Feb. 15, 1898, the battleship Maine was blown up in the harbor of Havana with a loss of life of 266 men and two officers. President McKinley, reluctant to enter upon war, but now seeing that war was inevitable, at once conferred with the leaders of both the great national parties, and on March 8 a bill appropriating $50,000,000 for national defense was introduced into congress and unanimously passed. On March 28 the president sent to congress the findings of the naval board to inquire into the destruction of the Maine, and on the following day Senator Foraker introduced resolutions recognizing the independence of Cuba. Events now moved rapidly, and on April 18 the conference committee of house and senate adopted resolutions declaring that the people of the island of Cuba "are and of right ought to be free and independent," and asserting it to be the duty of the United States to demand that the government of Spain relinquish its authority in Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from that island. The president was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States to carry the resolutions into effect, thus practically declaring war.

The American ultimatum was handed to the Spanish minister on April 19, and on April 25 it was declared that war existed between the United States and Spain. The first shot was fired on April 27, when Admiral Sampson's squadron bombarded the forts of Matanzas. Battles now followed each other in rapid succession. On May 1 Admiral Dewey won his immortal victory over Admiral Montojo in the harbor of Manila, and preparations were made to land troops in both the Spanish West and East Indies. The regular army was rapidly placed on a war footing and 278,000 volunteers were called out. The events of this short and decisive war are too fresh in the public mind to require detailed chronicling. Suffice it to say that on July 3 Admiral Cervera's squadron was annihilated off Santiago, and on July 17 General Toral, in command of the Spanish troops at Santiago surrendered, and that on Aug. 13 Manila surrendered to General Merritt and Admiral Dewey. Peace negotiations began as early as the latter part of July, and on Aug. 12 the protocols were signed preliminary to a treaty of peace. The independence of Cuba, the cession of Porto Rico, and one of the Ladrones to the United States, and the temporary retention of Manila by the Americans were made the basis of the protocol, the final disposition of the Philippines being left to a joint Spanish and American commission. This commission met at Paris, and on Jan. 4 the treaty formulated by it was transmitted to the senate, and after a long debate was ratified by that body Feb. 6, 1899. The Spanish claim to the Philippines was ceded to the United States in consideration of a money payment of $20,000,000.

Disposition of the Philippines.

The struggle both in the peace commission and in the senate was over the question of the cession by Spain to America of the Philippines. Subsequent revelations have shown that while at first the president had not made up his mind regarding the Philippines, as negotiations proceeded at Paris he finally led the way in deciding to take the responsibility of insisting upon the cession of the whole archipelago. The confirmation of the treaty was hastened by the insurrection of the Tagalos, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, who on Feb. 4 had attacked the American troops in Manila under the command of General Elwell E. Otis. The president at once took steps to suppress this rebellion. There had been determined opposition in the senate to the annexation of the Philippines, and it was in the debate over this portion of the treaty that the anti-imperialism agitation was born. At first the people of the country had been at sea on the question of the annexation of the Philippines, and there had been a good deal of feeling that Aguinaldo represented a real revolutionary movement among a people capable of self-government, and that it was the duty of the United States at once to assist in the erection of an independent government in the Philippines, as it had bound itself to do in Cuba. But until Manila had actually been occupied

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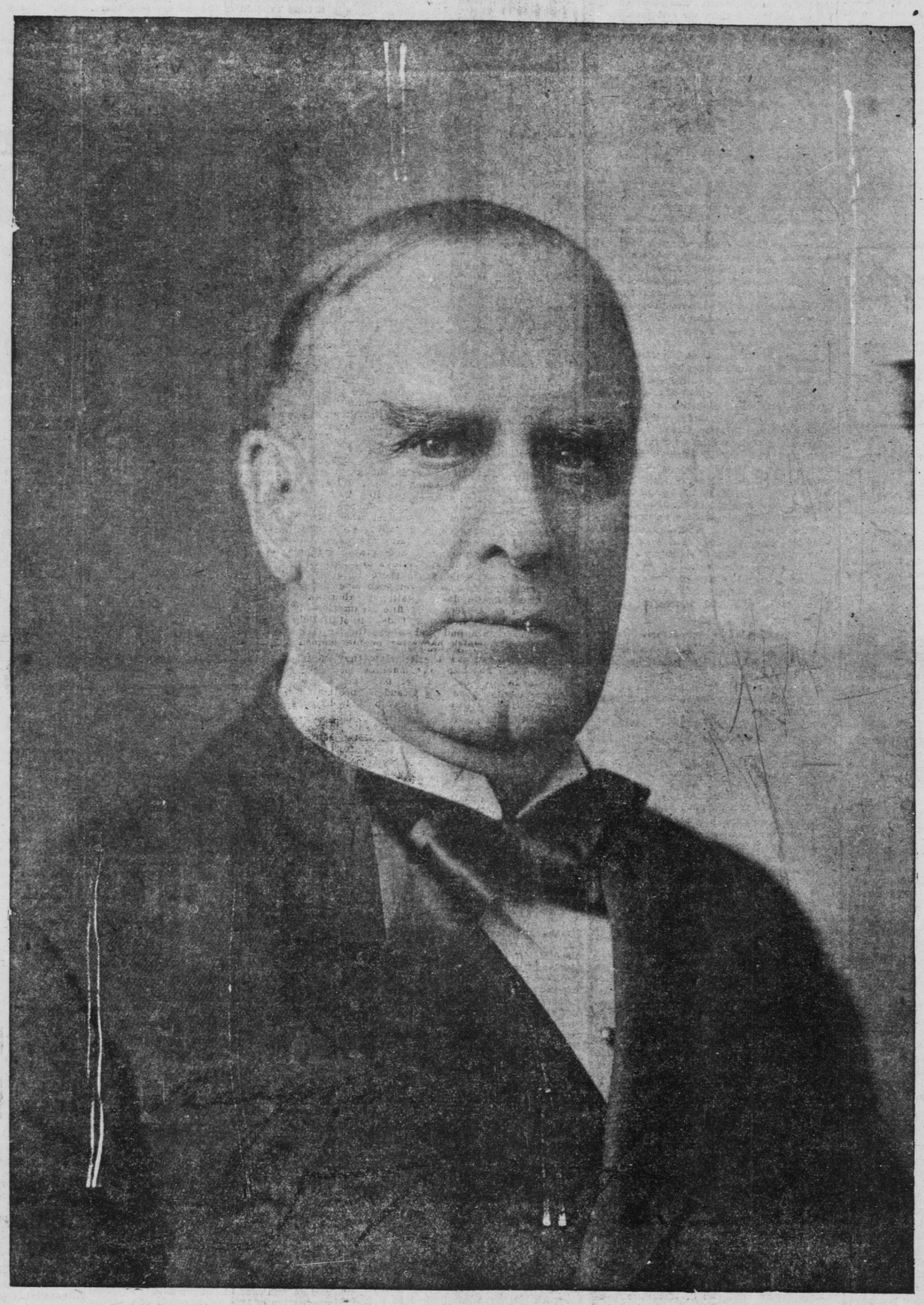

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

A Life Full of Triumphs.

Sketch of William McKinley's Remarkable Career—His Ancestry, Early Life and Services During the War of 1861-5—His Political Career and Public Services—A Lovable Personality—His Methods of Conciliation.

William McKinley, twenty-fifth president of the United States, was born in Niles, Ohio, Jan. 29, 1843. On his father's side his ancestry was Scotch-Irish. His forefathers came to America 150 years ago. Authentic records trace the "McKinlays" in Scotland back to 1547, where "James McKinlay, trooper," was an ancestor. The crest of the McKinlay clan was a mailed hand holding an olive branch with the motto, "Not too much."

Mr. McKinley's direct ancestors came to this country from the north of Ireland and in 1743 settled in York county, Pennsylvania, at Chanceford township, where his son David, the McKinley of the revolution and great grandfather of the president, was born in May, 1755. After serving in the war he remained in Pennsylvania till 1814, when he went to Ohio, where he died in 1840. The grandmother of the president, Mary Rose, came from a Puritan family that fled from England to Holland and came to Pennsylvania with William Penn. Wm. McKinley, Sr., father of the president, was born in Pennsylvania in 1807, married in 1829 Nancy Campbell Allison of Ohio, whose father was of English extraction. The union was blessed with nine children, William being the seventh.

Education and the War.

William McKinley obtained his education in the public schools at Niles, Ohio, at Union seminary, where he persued his studies till he was 17. In 1860 he was sent to Allegheny college, Meadville, Pa., where he entered the junior class and would have graduated but for the failure of his health, due to severe study. He taught in the public schools and joined the Methodist church.

When the war broke out in the spring of 1861 he was clerk in the Poland postoffice. He at once enlisted as a private in Company E of the Twenty-third volunteer infantry. This was on June 11, 1861.

General William McKinley Osborne, now consul general in London, gives the following account of his enlistment with his young cousin:

There was a great excitement at that time, and hundreds of people followed the soldiers. Will and I were among them. We drove in a buggy over to Youngstown, and there saw the company leave for Columbus. On our way back to Poland that night, we discussed the matter together and decided that it was our duty to volunteer, and we thought that the men who stayed would be despised by the community.

When we reached home, Will told his mother what he had concluded to do, and she at once replied: "Well, boys, if you think it is your duty to fight for your country, I think you ought to go." A few days after this, I left Poland for home and told father I wanted to go to the army. I knew he would allow me to go, as Aunt Nancy advised. I was not disappointed. My father was a democrat, but he was a liberal man. told me I could do as I wished, and he gave me some money (it was gold, I remember,) to fit me out. Will McKinley left Poland and we went to Cleveland together. From there we went to Columbus and enlisted at Camp Chase. General Fremont swore us in. Our enlistment was in cold blood, and not through the enthusiasm of the moment. It was done as McKinley has done the most of things of his life—as the logical offspring of careful conclusion.

Deeds of Valor Recounted.

The battle of Antietam was followed by engagements at Buffington's Island, Ohio, and at Cloyd Mountain, in which latter the Twenty-third Ohio again did deeds of valor. Several other battles were fought between the date of that of Cloyd Mountain and July 24, 1864, on which date a battle was fought at Kernstown, near Winchester, Va., in which the Twenty-third Ohio lost over 150 men and officers. General Russell Hastings, who took part in it, gives a glimpse of McKinley during that engagement.

They were in the same regiment, on the same staff, and slept under the same blanket. On the union side was only Crook's corps, some 6,000 strong, while opposed to it was the full force of Early's army. The odds were too great, so, after some severe fighting, Hayes' brigade, which was engaged, drew back in the direction of Winchester

Just at that moment, says General Hastings, it was discovered that one of the regiments was still in an orchard where it had been posted at the beginning of the battle. General Hayes, turning to Lieutenant McKinley, directed him to go forward and bring away that regiment, if it had not already fallen. McKinley turned his horse and, keenly spurring it, pushed it at a fierce gallop obliquely toward the advancing enemy.

A sad look came over Hayes' face as he saw the young, gallant boy pushing rapidly forward to most certain death. * * * None of us expected to see him again as we watched him push his horse through the open fields, over fences, through ditches, while a well-directed fire from the enemy was poured upon him, with shells exploding all around, about and over him.

Close to Exploding Shell.

Once he was completely enveloped in the smoke of an exploding shell, and we thought he had gone down; but no, he was saved for better work for his country in his future years. Out of this smoke emerged his wiry little brown horse, with McKinley firmly seated and as erect as a hussar.

McKinley gave the colonel the orders from Hayes to fall back, saying, in addition: "He supposed you would have gone to the rear without orders." The colonel's reply was: "I was about concluding I would retire without waiting any longer for orders. I am now ready to go wherever you shall lead, but, lieutenant, I 'pintedly' believe I ought to give those fellows a volley or two before I go." McKinley's reply was: "Then up and at them as quickly as possible," and as the regiment arose to its feet the enemy came on in full view. Colonel Brown's boys gave the enemy a crushing volley, following it up with a rattling fire, and then slowly retreated toward some woods directly in their rear. At this time the enemy halted all along Brown's immediate front and for some distance to his right and left, no doubt feeling he was touching a secondary line, which should be approached with all due caution. During the hesitancy of the enemy, McKinley led the regiment through these woods on toward Winchester.

As Hayes and Crook saw this regiment safely off, they turned and, following the column, with it moved slowly to the rear, down the Winchester pike. At a point near Winchester, McKinley brought the regiment to the column and to its place in the brigade. McKinley greeted us all with a happy, contented smile—no effusion, no gushing palaver of words, though all of us felt and knew one of the most gallant acts of the war had been performed.

As McKinley drew up by the side of Hayes to make his verbal report, I heard Hayes say to him: "I never expected to see you in life again."

He was soon promoted to sergeant, lieutenant, captain and lastly to major by brevet "for gallant and meritorious services at the battles of Opequan, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill. He participated in the last great act of the war, the grand review at Washington in 1865.

Law and Politics.

After the war Major McKinley began the study of law at Poland and Youngstown, Ohio, completed his course at the law school at Albany, N. Y., and was admitted to the bar at Warren, Ohio, in March, 1867. He settled soon after at Canton, Ohio, and achieved popularity and success at the bar. He was an ardent republican, and in 1869 was elected prosecuting attorney for the county in the face of a former hostile majority. In 1871 he failed of re-election by 45 votes. After this he practiced law for five years. In 1875, at the height of the greenback craze, he made many speeches for honest money and specie payments. In 1876 he was nominated for congress and elected by 3,300 majority. He entered congress on the day his old colonel assumed the presidency and remained in high favor with him. Here his first work was opposition to the Fernando Wood tariff bill, designed to cripple the protective system. In 1880 Speaker Randall appointed him to succeed President Garfield on the ways and means committee, an honor much sought for and which came to him unsolicited. From this time on he was repeatedly re-elected to congress and became known as the champion of the American protective system.

On April 16, 1890, he introduced from the committee the general tariff measure which has since borne his name. His speech on May 7 in support of this measure fully sustained his reputation as an orator and a dispassionate advocate. The bill became a law Oct. 6, 1890.

From this time on Mr. McKinley was much in the public eye. The rest of his life is too well known to need extended notice. He was elected governor of Ohio in 1891. He was nominated for the presidency at St. Louis in 1896 on the first ballot and triumphantly elected, receiving 271 electoral votes against 176 for Mr. Bryan. He was nominated for a second term in 1900 and again elected by a still greater majority, both popular and electoral.

Story of His Marriage.

Major McKinley married, Jan. 25, 1871, Miss Ida Saxton, daughter of James Saxton. Her grandparents were among the founders of Canton a century ago. Her father was a banker of large means. She had many admirers, but preferred Major McKinley from the moment of their acquaintance. Tradition has it that they first met on their way to their respective churches, she to the Presbyterian, he to the Methodist. The home life of President McKinley, in its beauty and tenderness, was both charming and ideal. Two daughters were born to them—Katie, on Christmas, 1871, and Ida, in 1873—but both died in early childhood. Mrs. McKinley's health never rallied from these two sorrows.

Character of the Man.

President McKinley was not naturally combative. He preferred to employ peaceful rather than aggressive methods in the accomplishment of an object. He never fought unless circumstances forced it; yet he dominated always, and when a policy was determined upon it was carried out. He has often been pictured as yielding, but that was unjust. When he had a purpose in view it mattered not to him whether he won what might be termed a personal victory so long as the purpose was accomplished. He used tact, was courteous and considerate at all times, and avoided enmities. This was both natural and a matter of policy, a course far more successful in the long run than aggression.

The president consulted unreservedly with his cabinet on all important questions, with congressional leaders of both parties and with prominent men throughout the country, giving due weight to all judgments and opinions. He kept in close touch with public sen-