

In their occupied during the entire day the corridors were so crowded by people who desired to be admitted that it was only with difficulty that a person could pass through. These fortunate enough to gain admission were critical in their observations and ready with applause at any particularly strong warlike remark from a member.

**Bingham Hissed.**

Their hearts were for war, and their applause showed it as readily as the hisses given by Mr. Bingham of Pennsylvania, when he made a speech which would have been interrupted by even Mr. Bingham if he had not heard of any war in prospect, that the measure before the House was a peace measure, and that during the debate he had heard more war talk than he had heard in any war since the war of 1812. He declared that there was no connection between the \$50,000,000 national defense bill and Spain, and the assertion was greeted with hisses from the floor on each side and the galleries. Unhappily at this time he was at the head of the line, and he was hissing the country did not want his bravery in Cuba, but his common sense. His long and contemptuous attack from Republican, Democratic and Populist members and the gallery. The Speaker, recognizing the insult to a faithful official, made no attempt to restrain the expressions of dissent and contempt, which became so prolonged that even Mr. Bingham's face flushed. He continued his remarks until he declared the relations between this country and Spain were as friendly as they were a year ago when hisses so interrupted and disconcerted him that after a few other remarks he resumed his seat. He was for the rest of the day the most unpopular man in the House, and apparently appreciating this fact he withdrew to the lobby and remained there until the second call of the roll compelled him to return and vote for the bill.

Mr. Marsh of Illinois, one of the Republicans who enjoyed yesterday the liberty of free speech, after declaring that he would vote for the war measure and referring to suffering Cuba, obtained rapturous applause by saying: "I live for peace, but I work for war."

When the House was prepared for business yesterday it was expected that all that the Committee on Appropriations had unanimously decided to report favorably the bill. This conclusion had been reached the day before, and therefore there was no surprise expressed when Mr. Cannon of Illinois, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, slowly arose and said:

"Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Appropriations I report the following bill with the request that it be passed."

After the bill, which has already been published in The Times, had been read and an agreement reached by which four hours of debate was to be had, Mr. Cannon continued:

"There are several items to this bill, and all except the last are deficiency items. One hundred thousand dollars is necessary to meet obligations that are being incurred and that have been incurred in compliance with the law, because of the insufficiency of appropriations. Gentlemen here understand the theory of the bill, and the expenditures must be made; yet there are times when the Executive, from necessity, proceeds to supply the Government with such material, and the parties furnishing the supplies take the chance of future appropriations. Such a course is not economical, and in a great Government like ours, with the money in the Treasury to meet the expenditures, ought not to be necessary. About the deficiency bill we have recommended, I apprehend there will be no difficulty, but we go a step further, and in the present condition of affairs we recommend the appropriation of \$50,000,000 to be expended at the Executive's complete discretion for national defense. He may expend any or all of it, and we make that \$50,000,000, which we hope will be appropriated, immediately available, and to remain available beyond the let of July next. Ordinarily it would cease to be available on that date. Your committee, on consideration, recommend that it be available until the let of January, next which will cover the period during the probable adjournment of Congress, and the month after this Congress shall assemble, in due course of law, again."

"Now, a word in conclusion. We have got the money in the Treasury to meet this appropriation, and that, too, without resorting, in our opinion, to further taxation. Gentlemen may say that this is an extraordinary appropriation, but the cause it is an unusual one. It is, and the object of your committee in reporting it to you and asking your favorable consideration is that the President of the United States may make such expenditures as are necessary for the purpose of attaining the small army that we have, and of attaining the larger army, so as to enable the United States of America to stand among the great nations of the world, and to maintain in an orderly, decent and just manner our national honor, and nothing more. (Applause.) Some may say that this is a war preparation. I say, in my judgment, and measuring my words, that it is a peace preparation. (Applause.)"

"The Government of the United States cannot afford to do more nor less than will protect the national honor, justice and right. The Government of the United States would not if it could encroach upon the rights of any other nation on earth."

**Democrats for Defense.**

Mr. Rogers, who was to control the time on the Democratic side of the House, followed Mr. Cannon. He said:

"It is indeed gratifying to me, and I suppose to every gentleman on either side of this House, that the representatives of the people of the United States stand shoulder to shoulder, and that there is no division on this subject. (Applause.) The appropriation of \$50,000,000 comes from the Committee on Appropriations, with the hearty and unanimous indorsement of that committee, and we ask the House to adopt the same policy, and to unanimously adopt this measure."

"I agree with the gentleman from Illinois that it is essentially a measure of peace, and it should be regarded not only by the members of the House, but by the country at large."

"The proposition to put \$50,000,000 under the control of the Executive of this great nation cannot and must not be considered as a war measure. It is only a wise policy which gives him the means, when this Congress shall have adjourned, to meet any exigencies that may arise in the present defense. Only this and nothing more is involved in the appropriation of this large sum of money."

"Right here and now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that in my judgment, should it be required that this money should be expended, that it will be expended honorably, wisely and economically, and that for one among the dangers and difficulties existing, I intend to give an honest, hearty and sincere support to the Administration, to the end that peace may be subserved and that the dignity and honor of the American people may be maintained."

Mr. Dockery (Dem.) was the next to speak on the bill. He said:

"Mr. Speaker, I will detain the House but a few moments. When confronted as we are by such an emergency as the present one, I believe that no American citizen will falter or hesitate as to his duty. Divided as we are into different political parties in our internal affairs, yet in our relations with other powers we present an unbroken front here today. (Applause.) Mr. Speaker, party lines fade away in the presence of an emergency in this chamber, and this side stands ready to join the other side in all proper measures to protect this country and uphold its dignity and honor. (Applause.)"

"This bill places at the disposal of the Executive for national defense \$50,000,000, a sum sufficient, in the opinion of the Committee on Appropriations, to meet any emergency which may arise between now and the let of January next. It was reported by the committee unanimously, and I support it here and now."

"Mr. Speaker, it is hardly necessary that I should say that the American people have inherited through great tribulations the priceless blessing of liberty and self-government. We have inherited these blessings through the valor of the illustrious military and naval heroes of former struggles. Let us show ourselves today to be worthy descendants of our forefathers, who fought the revolution, and the other patriots who fought our later wars, and uphold the President in this crisis that is now here. (Applause.)"

"Mr. Speaker, time is passing, and I desire to say only one word in conclusion. Let there be no discordant note on this floor in response to the universal voice of the American people summoning us here and now to stand by the Government and authorize this appropriation."

**Better Late Than Never.**  
Mr. Livingston (Dem.) thought that this was an emergency that should have been recognized twelve months ago. He said:

ration on our part to meet that which may come, but which we hope will be some. In view of the fact, however, that we are to be unreasonably prepared. We pray for peace and yet we realize that we should prepare for war if it is necessary."

"We rise above party lines here today, there are no Democrats, Republicans, or Populists here, but American citizens, patriots, all, whether from the Gulf of Mexico or from the sparkling waters of Maine. We respond to the demands of our President and vote for this money as patriots, and so we answer the question:

"Breathes there a man with a soul so dead,  
Who never to himself has said,  
This is my own, my native land?"

"In response to the demands of our President and vote for this money as patriots, and so we answer the question: 'Breathes there a man with a soul so dead, who never to himself has said, this is my own, my native land?'"

"I think, sir," said Mr. Pittney, "that the preparations that the American people will be able to make will be an object lesson to the world, and that we intend to peace, not only in this emergency, but to a lasting and honorable peace for future generations. We hope that there will be no conflict. We desire peace with honor—but we lay a solemn emphasis on the word honor. It comes first. It is the most important. It is the end." (Applause.)

Mr. Boutwell (Rep.) Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, was the next speaker. He was granted five minutes by Mr. Cannon, but said he did not desire so much time, as it seemed to him that this was a time for action and not for talk. He said that the sentiment thus far expressed indicated that there was no need of argument on the matter.

"I rise simply to state," said he, "that I am instructed to recognize the National Affairs to express its hearty sympathy and support for this measure devoting \$50,000,000 of the public funds to the use of the President of the United States for such measures as, in his judgment, may at any time be necessary for the public defense, or in any way to protect and uphold the dignity of the American Republic. My only regret is that this measure could not have been presented, as I expected it would be, by itself, to stand out alone as a grand expression of the confidence and patriotism of an American Congress, proclaiming not only to our country, but to the nations of the world, that in a time of great emergency, the legislative branch of the American Government is ready to vote millions of dollars of the public money to uphold and maintain the honor and dignity of the nation. I am justified in saying at this time that I have taken occasion to give the President of the United States from day to day the strongest possible assurance of my confidence that, at any moment that he might demand, the Congress of the United States would vote him not only \$50,000,000, but \$100,000,000 just as quickly. I shall vote for this bill with great pleasure."

Mr. Hopkins, Republican, of Illinois, said, in view of the fact that the President was thoroughly conversant with all the circumstances surrounding the relations between Spain and the United States, he was better prepared to judge of the necessity of the called-for appropriation, and also better able to spend the money advantageously.

Mr. Cooper, Democrat, of Texas, said that, with more than half a hundred reports, there was not one-tenth of the number that could be protected from the assault of an enemy, and he thought it was high time to appropriate money for defense.

**Mr. Warner's Plain Talk.**  
A Republican member of the House from Illinois, Mr. Warner, ridiculed the theory that this was a peace measure. He declared that it was a war measure, and that he supported it more willingly than if it meant peace. "Everybody outside of this chamber who is able to read and write," said he, "knows that it is a war measure, just as much as if the President had called for 7,000 volunteers. I do not believe that any man could find a division in this chamber on political lines. It is a war measure, and that is the reason that every American on this floor is in favor of it. (Applause.)"

"War is healthy. We have been without one for thirty-five years, and for a just cause the young men of this country will welcome war with cheers. The war from 1812 to 1865 made us a better and stronger people, and the war coming on now will strengthen us in the same way."

"While I have the greatest respect for the President and his statesmanship and his loyalty, I will say that for some time I have been restive under the restraint which has been put upon legislation looking to the aid of those brave people who have been in long struggles for their independence. Before this bill was introduced I had determined therefore to follow my own inclinations and judgment and vote for any and every measure that looked to the giving of the Cubans not only belligerent rights, but independence and freedom from the Spanish yoke. (Applause.)"

"I have felt humiliated that this great Government should be actively adding the Spanish monarchy to starving people, whose only desire was the freedom we now enjoy."

"This state of affairs, in which we are patrolling our coasts with armed vessels to keep supply from reaching the insurgents, should cease, and cease at once. I do not want a war, but war is preferable to a dishonorable peace."

"We should, without further delay, give the Cubans the status of belligerents, and demand that Spain treat them as human beings, and if Spain, for this reason, declares war against us, let it come."

**A Virginian on Guard.**  
Mr. Hay, of Virginia, touched a responsive cord that resounded in immense applause, when he said in the course of his remarks: "Today a Virginian is on guard at Cuba, and we know full well that there is a spirit in our land today which breathes somewhat of war. Our relations with some other countries are such that this appropriation is thought to be necessary, and while we say it is a peace measure, yet it carries with it the idea of military power. It is a large sum of money to place in the hands of a President of the United States, yet an Executive can trust in this matter, and in giving my consent to this cause, I feel that the money is in the hands of a wise and true President. Again I vote for this bill because it indicates preparation on our part to meet that which may come, but which we hope will be some."

"I do not believe that any man could find a division in this chamber on political lines. It is a war measure, and that is the reason that every American on this floor is in favor of it. (Applause.)"

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**The Only Speaker on the Measure**  
The only speaker on the measure who failed to elicit the appreciation of his listeners was Mr. Bingham (Rep.) of Pennsylvania, and he announced that he was in favor of the bill. He said:

"I think that outside of what might be called 'yellow journalism,' I have heard more war talk in this chamber today than in my whole experience in public life. If the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations is to be commended for any act, it is for bringing this measure in as a paragraph of the deficiency bill. 'I do not consider that the remarks made here today touching on the past bravery of the nation and calling on its loyalty as being pertinent to this legislation. I care nothing for the personnel of the family from Virginia (hisses); we do not want his personnel brought in here, and we do not want his personnel. He has had one war, and that is sufficient for the honor of the nation.'"

Mr. DeArmond of Missouri, who has been persistent during this session of Congress to have some action taken whereby the Cubans might be benefited, said that he was glad to see at last a measure which ultimately would result in giving freedom to the Cubans received so heartily. He said he had sought to awaken that spirit on previous occasions which would rise above party and which would see only our country and our country's rights and honor. "And now the House is about to do that which will place our country before the world fairly for what she is and what she has been," said he, "and whatever may come, American manhood and American honor shall be maintained. The spirit of American patriotism sends greeting and sympathy across the waters to this struggling little island, whose brave people are fighting for the blessings of independence and freedom."

**MR. KNOWLES' BROADSIDE**  
He Responds to the Providence Board of Trade.

**A PATRIOTIC PHILIPPIC**

New England Skylocks Who Seek to Make the Country's Distress Profitable Haunted Without Gloves—Gold, as Usual, Attacks the Country in Time of Need.

It is altogether likely that the Providence Board of Trade will cancel Representative Freeman Knowles from its list of correspondents. That the men who constitute the board will be disturbed by a communication mailed yesterday by Mr. Knowles is not likely. A pack of hyenas who will seek to turn a disaster like that which fell upon the American Navy in Havana Harbor to profitable account is so lost to all sense of decency that they cannot hope to understand the patriotism that animates a man like Knowles.

A copy of the following circular has been received by every member of Congress:

Providence Board of Trade,  
Providence, Rhode Island.  
Your earnest attention is called to the following preamble and resolution passed by the Providence Board of Trade, Tuesday, March 1, 1898, and being favorably endorsed by the sound business men of Rhode Island: Whereas ordinary prudence requires that a national financial system be established in time of peace, and whereas the destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor has fixed the public mind as never before upon the present unsettled and precarious condition of national finances, and whereas an interval of time seems granted us, in which to remedy existing defects in our national financial system, be it resolved, That we hereby approve the reorganization of the national financial system, as proposed by the executive committee of the Indianapolis conference, and we urge upon Congress the speedy adoption of these resolutions. The object of this resolution is to establish a national financial system, which shall be a permanent gold basis, which is the same that is used by all other great powers among nations.

March 1, 1898.  
Representative Knowles, after reading the unpatriotic and cold-blooded proposition, concluded to honor it with a reply. The reply was sent yesterday. It is as follows:

House of Representatives, U. S.,  
Washington, D. C., March 8, 1898.  
George W. Knowles, Secretary Providence Board of Trade, Providence, R. I.

Dear Sir: Replying to your circular letter of March 1, I beg to say that I can find no language to express my abhorrence of men who will seek to take advantage of the patriotism of the people to form a financial system upon them which means their enslavement.

In your circular you say: "Whereas, the destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor has fixed the public mind as never before upon the present unsettled and precarious condition of the national financial system, be it resolved, That we hereby approve the reorganization of the national financial system, as proposed by the executive committee of the Indianapolis conference, and we urge upon Congress the speedy adoption of these resolutions." You are the same class as those who took advantage of the people's patriotism in 1891-95, to fasten upon the nation a system of bondage by which you have absorbed the entire product of labor ever since the war. You are of the same class who stole a bill through Congress in 1871 by which silver was clandestinely demonetized, and the gold standard established. This class would not hesitate to sell our country for gold.

I beg to say that there is no such thought in the minds of any portion of the people, aside from the skylocks and robbers class who seek to fasten upon the people a system of financial slavery which will reduce them to practical serfdom. You are the same class as those who took advantage of the people's patriotism in 1891-95, to fasten upon the nation a system of bondage by which you have absorbed the entire product of labor ever since the war. You are of the same class who stole a bill through Congress in 1871 by which silver was clandestinely demonetized, and the gold standard established. This class would not hesitate to sell our country for gold.

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**NEWS FROM ALEXANDRIA**

**Important Business Transacted at a Meeting of the City Council.**

Alexandria, March 8.—A lengthy session of the city council was held tonight, when many matters of interest to the citizens were disposed of. A communication was received from Mayor Simpson, relative to the condition of affairs of the office of the city works, with suggestions from the city, Mr. Bayne, who has been engaged in examining the books of the office, as to the best methods of keeping the accounts and conducting the business of the office.

Mr. Snowden moved that the expert be engaged to examine the records of the office during the years 1895 and 1896. He explained that his desire was to ascertain if the city works had been paying attention to the city, and if the accounts had been correctly kept. Several members expressed the opinion that the examination of the old books of the office was a useless expenditure of money, as it was admitted that should the accounts of the office covering the period referred to be incorrect the city was not in a position to recover any shortage that might be found. The motion, however, prevailed.

The motion was adopted. Mr. Snowden reported adversely on the petition of Ashby Bledsoe for a reduction of taxes on certain property, and the report was adopted.

Mr. Smith, from the committee on streets, submitted an ordinance providing for the paving of King Street, from Royal Street to Fairfax Street, with "asphalt sheet, asphalt block or vitrified brick," under the new thirty-third section of the city charter. The ordinance, which was referred back to the committee, provides that the property owners on the square referred to shall be notified to appear and show cause why the work should not be done.

On the recommendation of the committee on streets \$200 was appropriated for the renewal of iron pipes at street crossings.

A resolution requiring the Washington, Alexandria and Mr. Vernon Company to remove its tracks from Columbus and Cameron Streets, which had been laid on the table at a previous meeting of the common council, was, on the motion of Mr. Smith, taken up and passed by a vote of 10 to 8. The resolution had been introduced on a petition from nearly every property owner on the streets referred to, including the Washington Southern Railway Company, who own a square of ground on Cameron Street. It was contended the electric railway company ran its cars on the tracks on the two streets named at irregular intervals, and only then for the purpose of collecting the fares of the company. When the resolution reached the board of aldermen that body noncommenced in the action of council, and returned the paper to that body, where it was taken up and passed by a vote of 10 to 8.

A petition of the Robert Parry Brewing Company offering to pay two-thirds of the cost of laying an improved pavement on North St. Asaph Street, was referred to the committee on streets.

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A resolution requiring the Washington, Alexandria and Mr. Vernon Company to remove its tracks from Columbus and Cameron Streets, which had been laid on the table at a previous meeting of the common council, was, on the motion of Mr. Smith, taken up and passed by a vote of 10 to 8. The resolution had been introduced on a petition from nearly every property owner on the streets referred to, including the Washington Southern Railway Company, who own a square of ground on Cameron Street. It was contended the electric railway company ran its cars on the tracks on the two streets named at irregular intervals, and only then for the purpose of collecting the fares of the company. When the resolution reached the board of aldermen that body noncommenced in the action of council, and returned the paper to that body, where it was taken up and passed by a vote of 10 to 8.

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