



War Declared

CONGRESS HAS GIVEN NOTICE TO THE WORLD

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 25.—The following bill declaring that war exists between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain was passed by Congress to-day and signed by the President: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

"First—That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist, and that war has existed since the 21st of April, A. D. 1898, including said day, between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain.

"Second—That the President of the United States be and he is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such an extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect."

PRESIDENT SIGNS THE WAR MEASURE

Naval Men Get Ready for the Greatest Sea Fight of Modern Times.

Call Office, Riggs House, Washington, April 25.

With a gold pen in a polished ebony holder, President McKinley at 6:18 o'clock this evening signed the resolutions passed by Congress declaring a state of war to exist between the United States and the kingdom of Spain. There were but two witnesses to this interesting ceremony, Attorney-General Griggs and the faithful Sergeant Loeffler, who has acted as private doorkeeper to every President since Lincoln first entered the White House.

The resolutions were based upon the President's message transmitted to Congress at noon to-day, and after prompt passage by the House were considered in executive session by the Senate. Several amendments were proposed, but all were defeated by decisive votes, the sentiment of the great majority of Senators being that no time should be lost in perfecting the record on which this country must stand in the eyes of the civilized world.

It was just ten minutes past 5 o'clock when Deputies Buchanan and Davis of the Senate and House executive staffs started for the White House with the resolution engrossed on parchment. When they reached the executive mansion the President had retired to his private rooms for a little rest, and they waited forty minutes in the anteroom. As soon as the President reappeared in his office a telephone message brought Attorney-General Griggs, who cast the critical eye of a lawyer over the document and pronounced it regular in form and substance. The President then took the pen both Speaker Reed and Vice-President Hobart had used, and which was furnished by Representative Allen Smith, and

THE MESSAGE CALLING THE DECLARATION

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The President to-day sent to Congress the following message recommending a declaration of war against Spain:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

I transmit to the Congress for its consideration and appropriate action, copies of correspondence recently had with the representative of Spain in the United States with the United States Minister at Madrid, and through the latter, with the Government of Spain, showing the action taken under the joint resolution approved April 20, 1898, for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the Government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect.

Upon communicating to the Spanish Minister in Washington the demand which it became the duty of the executive to address to the Government of Spain in obedience to said resolution, the said Minister asked for his passports and withdrew. The United States Minister at Madrid was in turn notified by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the withdrawal of the Spanish representative from the United States had terminated diplomatic relations between the two countries, and that all official communications between the respective representatives ceased therewith.

I recommend to your especial attention the note directed to the United States Minister at Madrid by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 21st instant, whereby the foregoing notification was conveyed. It will be perceived that the Spanish Government, having cognizance of the joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, and in view of things which the President is thereby required and authorized to do, responds by treating the demands of this Government as measures of hostility, following with that instant and complete severance of relations by its action which, by usage of nations, accompanies an existent state of war between sovereign powers.

The position of Spain being thus made known, and the demands of the United States being denied, with a complete rupture in the intercourse with Spain, I have been constrained in the exercise of the power and authority conferred upon me by the joint resolution aforesaid to proclaim, under date of April 22, 1898, a blockade of certain ports of the north coast of Cuba, lying between Cardenas and Bahía Honda, and of the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba; and further, in exercise of my constitutional powers, and using the authority conferred upon me by the act of Congress approved April 22, 1898, to issue my proclamation dated April 22, 1898, calling for volunteers in order to carry into effect the said resolution of April 20, 1898. Copies of these proclamations are herewith appended.

In view of the measures so taken, and with a view to the adoption of such other measures as may be necessary to enable me to carry out the expressed will of the Congress of the United States in the premises, I now recommend to your honorable body the adoption of a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain and I urge speedy action thereon to the end that the definition of the international status of the United States as a belligerent power may be made known, and the assertion of all its rights and the maintenance of all its duties in the conduct of a public war may be assured.

Executive Mansion, Washington, April 25, 1898. WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

sixty seconds later The Call bulletin service had flashed the news to San Francisco that the resolutions had been signed by the Chief Executive. Now that all technicalities under the strictest construction of interna-

tional law have been complied with and it has been advertised to the world that we are at war with Spain, the Navy Department is anxious to give the order that will mean the

SPAIN'S FLEET COMING, MANILA TO BE ATTACKED, MARINES LAND IN CUBA

ST. VINCENT, Cape Verde Islands, April 25.—The Spanish battleship Pelayo and the two swift cruisers which were expected to-day and for which the formidable fleet now in this harbor has been waiting have not arrived. As I have cabled the Herald-Call from time to time, the four first-class cruisers, the three torpedo-boats and the three torpedo-boat destroyers here have recoiled each morning and kept their fires banked waiting for the Pelayo and the other ships. They were to start at once on their westward voyage.

All is changed this evening. There is a report, which I was assured by one in authority is not without foundation, that the Pelayo and two crack cruisers of the Spanish navy, accompanied by three tor-

BATTLESHIP DRAWS THE FIRE OF THE GUNS OF MATANZAS.

HAVANA, Cuba, 6 p. m., April 24 (via Kingston, Jamaica, April 25).—The day passed quietly, with no change in the position of the blockading ships. A battleship and a torpedo boat before Matanzas intimated to neutral vessels to put to sea. They captured a small Spanish schooner. Later in the day events were forced by another battleship which steamed close in reconnoitering. Morill Fort opened fire on her, and she retired without returning fire. Demonstrations were made against Cardenas an Mariel, one vessel against the former and three against the latter.

pedo-boats and four torpedo-boat destroyers, have gone across the Atlantic. I was also assured by the same authority that the officials of the Madrid Government will endeavor to make good the statement attributed to them

that the squadron now in port would sail to-morrow morning to join the Pelayo and her fleet. I was unable to confirm this, but from indications it is evident that the fleet will not remain long in this harbor. Four cruisers were to-day filled with coal. Not only were the bunkers filled, but every available place in the ships was utilized. This is shown by the fact that about 7000 tons was placed aboard the four cruisers.

I made every effort to ascertain authoritatively the names of vessels with the Pelayo, but was unable to do so in time to cable to-night. It was officially reported that the Pelayo sailed from Cadiz on April 17, and on April 20 she was reinforced by the armored

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MANILA WILL BE ATTACKED BY SATURDAY

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HONGKONG, April 26.—1 A. M.—Before this dispatch appears in type Commodore Dewey's squadron of seven fine warships will have sailed from Mirs Bay to attack Manila.

Cousul Williams will arrive here early to-day and will be taken to Mirs Bay in a specially chartered steamer.

The fleet will sail immediately after his arrival. An attack on Manila will probably have been made by next Saturday.

Commodore Dewey regards Mr. Williams' work in Manila so highly that he will not start till Mr. Williams is ready to accompany him, but it is believed there will be no delay on this score.

The Spaniards have one good cruiser at Manila, the Reina Christina of 3500 tons, four effective gunboats of less than 1200 tons and half a dozen smaller craft of no fighting value.

Manila has a few modern guns mounted, but will be powerless against such a force as that of the American fleet.

NEW YORK, April 25.—The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: Navy Department officials expect that within three days a decisive battle will have been fought between the American and Spanish naval forces operating in the waters of the Philippines.

Commodore Dewey's squadron steaming at the rate of ten knots

an hour ought to reach Manila by to-morrow afternoon and it is expected by Secretary Long and other department officials that the vessels will be in action immediately after their arrival unless the Spanish men-of-war should prefer to remain inside mined harbors.

Of primary importance, the offi-

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BOLD AMERICAN MARINES LANDED ON CUBAN SOIL

On board Herald-Call dispatch boat Somers N. Smith, with blockading fleet off Havana, April 25.—Yesterday we lay quite close in, in a little cove twenty miles west of Havana, and news reached us that food has already reached famine prices in Havana since the war commenced. For three years in Cuba supplies for the population have had to be procured from the United States.

Now this source is closed and the price of fresh meat is stated to be \$2 a pound in Havana. What must be the condition of the reconcentrados under this state of affairs may be imagined. The officers of the Fern, who know something of the situation there, say Havana has been eating mule flesh for at least a week.

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ON BOARD Call-Herald dispatch boat Somers N. Smith, with blockading squadron off Havana, April 25.—There is still no bombardment of Havana. The peaceful blockade continues, and deeds of heroism are being performed by the American navy. Here is one: The torpedo boat Porter is as fleet as an express train, has a dare-devil crew and an intrepid commander. Lieutenant John C. Fremont is the commander's name. He is a son of the famous Path-

finder, and a "chip of the old block."

Under the darkness of last night Lieutenant Fremont with the Porter made a landing on the north coast of Cuba with a small force in search of information. He did not meet any Spanish troops, but was ready to fight them if he had met them, and he