

Mr. A. W. Howard, Auditor  
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## ACT OF INCORPORATION.

### Louisiana and Arkansas Telegraph Company.

Be it known that on this 28th day of January in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and Ninety Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the One hundredth and twenty-second, before me George Spencer a Notary Public, in and for the Parish of Madison State of Louisiana, duly commissioned and qualified and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned, came and appeared the several persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, who declared that availing themselves of the provisions of laws of this State, relative to the organization of corporations for work of public improvement and utility, they have contracted and agreed to do by these presents contract and agree to bind and obligate themselves, as well as such persons as may hereinafter become associated with them to form and constitute a corporation and public utility in law for the object and under the agreement and stipulations as following to wit:

**ARTICLE I.**  
The name and title of this corporation shall be "The Louisiana and Arkansas Telegraph Company," and by that name said corporation shall have power and authority to have and enjoy succession for the full term and period of ninety-nine years from and after the date hereof; to contract, sue, and be sued, to make and use a corporate seal, and the same to break or alter at pleasure, to hold, receive and lease, to purchase and convey as well as mortgage and hypothecate under its corporate name, property, both real and personal, to name and appoint such agents as the interest and convenience of said corporation may require, and to make and establish a by-law, rules and regulations for the proper management and regulation of the said corporation as may be necessary and the same to change and alter at pleasure.

**ARTICLE II.**  
The domicile of said corporation shall be in the parish of Madison in the State of Louisiana, and all citations and other local process shall be served upon the president of the said corporation or in case of his absence, upon the vice president or secretary.

**ARTICLE III.**  
The purpose for which this corporation is established and the nature of its business to be carried on by it are declared and specified to be the transmission of messages by telegraph through the river counties of Arkansas and parishes of Louisiana from Arkansas City to Vidalia, La., via Lake Providence, Tallulah, Newellton, St. Joseph a Water Proof and such other offices as said corporation may establish.

**ARTICLE IV.**  
The capital stock of said corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of (\$25,000) twenty-five thousand dollars, represented by (2500) twenty-five hundred shares of (\$10) ten dollars each, which may be increased if necessary by vote of the board of directors, and the time and manner of payment of said stock are to be determined upon by the board of directors.

**ARTICLE V.**  
The business and affairs of said corporation shall be under the supervision and management of a board of directors composed of seven stockholders to be elected annually on the first Monday in January of each year, said election shall be by ballot and conducted at the office of said corporation, and the directors thus elected shall serve until their successors shall have been elected; a majority of votes cast shall elect, and each share of stock shall be entitled to one vote, either in person or by proxy. Any vacancy occurring in said Board of Directors from any cause what ever shall be filled by election by the remaining directors; four Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and said Board of Directors, at their first meeting in each year, shall elect of their own number a president, a vice-president, who shall ex-officio be the treasurer, a secretary who shall ex-officio be the superintendent and attorney for the corporation. The president and secretary shall appoint, time to time, such officers, managers, operators and other agents as may be deemed necessary for the business and purposes of said corporation, and said directors shall have full power and authority to make and establish, as well as to change and amend and alter, all by-laws, rules and regulations for the support and management of the affairs and business of said corporation.

**ARTICLE VI.**  
Whenever this corporation is dissolved, either by limitation or any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated under the superintendence of three stockholders, to be appointed for that purpose at a general meeting of stockholders, convened after thirty days prior notice, and with the assent of the majority in the amount of the capital stock, said commission shall remain in effect until the affairs of said corporation shall have been fully liquidated, and in case of the death of one or more of said commissioners the survivor or survivors shall continue to act.

**ARTICLE VII.**  
This act of incorporation may be changed, modified or altered, or said corporation may be dissolved with the assent of the majority in amount of the

## FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

### A SUMMARY OF A WEEK'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE CAPITOL.

**War Declaration Passed Both Houses and Was the Only Important Act of the Law Makers the Past Week--Short and Uninteresting Session.**

**SENATE.**  
**MONDAY**—The senate had scarcely convened when the message of the president, urging congress to declare the existence of war between the United States and Spain, was laid before it, and was referred to the foreign relations committee. Consideration of the naval appropriation bill was then resumed, the pending question being upon the amendment offered to regulate the price of armor. The bill as amended was passed. The bill for the better organization of the line of the army of the United States and providing for the three battalion formation was called up and the amendments offered by the committee were agreed to without division. The bill passed. At 2:55 p.m. the senate was informed that the house had passed an act declaring a state of war existing between the United States and Spain. The message was at once read to the senate and the senate immediately went into secret executive session to consider the resolution. The vice-president signed it and was conveyed to the house, and that body would not endorse the senate's amendments, whereupon a conference was asked for and agreed to. The senate, at 5:35, adjourned.

**TUESDAY**—During the two hours of the senate today the conference report on the army reorganization bill was agreed to and the measure engrossed and signed. The remainder of the session was devoted to the passage of seventy-four private pension bills and numerous measures from the general calendar. At 2 o'clock the senate went into executive session and at 2:15 p.m. adjourned.

**WEDNESDAY**—The senate was in session but one hour and a half today, during which time no important business was transacted. At 1 o'clock the senate went into executive session, and at 1:25 adjourned.

**THURSDAY**—Again today the senate was in the attitude of waiting for business to reach it. A few bills of unimportant character were passed, but no business of general interest was transacted. The senate at 1:40 p.m. went into executive session and at 2 o'clock adjourned.

**FRIDAY**—The Spanish fleet in the Gulf of Mexico was reported to the senate by the conference on the naval appropriation bill was presented and agreed to. The measure as perfected carries a little more than \$75,000,000. No other business of importance was transacted. Adjourned until Monday.

## HOUSE.

**MONDAY**—The house of representatives today passed the bill declaring the existence of a state of war between the United States and the kingdom of Spain, in a manner which cannot fail to impress the world. The representatives voted for it without a word of debate, without a dissenting vote and without a roll call, but with a solemn appreciation of the gravity of their momentous action. There was no excitement; no word or question. It was only in the great cheer that went up from the floor and galleries when the speaker announced its passage. After the president's message was read the committee on foreign affairs framed the resolution. It was passed, signed by the speaker and on its way to the senate in an hour and six minutes. At 5:10 the house adjourned.

**TUESDAY**—The war revenue bill was reported to the house today and by an arrangement made the date will begin tomorrow and continue in the night session until Friday. The contested election case of Wise vs. Young, from the second Virginia district, was decided today in favor of the contestant, Dr. Wise, who is a Republican, by a party vote. The senate amendments to the naval appropriation bill were non-concurred in and a conference requested. At 4:50 the house adjourned.

**WEDNESDAY**—The general debate upon the measure framed by the ways and means committee to meet the extraordinary expenditures of the war with Spain opened in the house today. It will continue through to-morrow and on Friday at 3 o'clock the vote will be taken. There was a signal absence of that partisan rancor which has always heretofore characterized debates on revenue measures. Both sides, speaking through their respective leaders, Messrs. Dingler and Bailey, concurred in the necessity which existed for the immediate raising of hundreds of millions to prosecute the war, but the opposing doctrines which they held clashed at the outset as to the methods by which revenue should be raised. At 5 o'clock the house recessed until 8 o'clock. The night session of the house was devoted to brief speeches by members who were unable to secure time during the day. At 10:30 the house adjourned.

**THURSDAY**—The general debate on the war revenue bill closed to-night after eight and a half hours of speech-making. The debate lacked both spirit and interest. There was little discussion of the internal revenue features of the bill. The committee arose, and at 5:35 took a recess until 8 o'clock. The night session was occupied by brief speeches, many of them mere pegs upon which members, under leave to print, could hang speeches in the Congressional Record. At 10:30 the house recessed until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

**FRIDAY**—The house convened at 10 o'clock this morning to allow two hours more of general debate on the

## LOUISIANA HAPPENINGS.

### EVENTS OF A GREAT STATE IN INTERESTING FORM.

**New Levees Accepted--Arrested for Murder--Serious Accident to an Old Saddle--A Destructive Wreck--Other Items of Interest.**

**Bank Clearings.**  
New Orleans bank clearings for week ending Tuesday were \$7,674,920 an increase of 20.4 per cent. over corresponding week last year.

**Celebrated With a Banquet.**  
The Blita Springs Hotel, Mrs. Aubert proprietress, just completed, was thrown open Saturday night to the public with a grand banquet and ball.

**Resolved to Stay at Home.**  
The members of Company C of Lake Providence, who a few days ago volunteered their services, being unable to get a sufficient number to form a company, have resolved to stay at home until further notice.

**Camp Conventions.**  
Assistant Manager Ferguson of the East Louisiana Railroad says in case the camp is established at Abita Springs his company will run a wire into camp if the troops will furnish an operator. The soldier boys can then get the news on the grounds.

**Serious Freight Wreck.**  
A serious freight wreck occurred early Friday morning on the Louisiana Western division of the Southern Pacific, just outside of Lafayette. Five cars loaded with oil, bicycles and assorted goods were derailed and completely demolished. A broken axle or spreading rail is the supposed cause of the accident. No one was hurt.

**They Want Commanders.**  
All the Confederate organizations in New Orleans had a joint meeting Saturday night, and urged that the president appoint such men as John B. Gordon, Wade Hampton, Stephen D. Lee, W. L. Cabell, James Longstreet, Joseph Wheeler, Fitzhugh Lee and others among the generals, and pledging themselves and their sons to defend Old Glory.

**New Levees Accepted.**  
Capt. F. M. Kerr, of the State Board of Engineers, was in Shreveport Saturday. He stated that he had just inspected a new levee in Bossier parish which was 1000 feet long, 400 feet wide, which was 1080 feet long, 8500 cubic yards. Both levees were accepted.

**Donaldsonville's Quota.**  
Friday morning eleven Donaldsonville volunteers took their departure for Baton Rouge, where they will be merged with the Pelican Guards of that city. A field band played on the streets, and the volunteers left amidst the cheers of hundreds of people assembled on the river front. The following is the list of volunteers: Frank Ayraud, Jules Ayraud, Richard Ayraud, E. N. Pugh, Jr., Frank Sims, Coppeneux, Slater, Scheynsnyder, Rodrigue, Jr., Alece Mollere.

**Ten Million Dollar Enterprise.**  
The corner-stone of the central power station of the New Orleans drainage system has been laid with the ceremonies peculiar to such occasions. The event marks the anticipated beginning of the grandest piece of work ever attempted by the city of New Orleans, involving as it does, or probably will before completion, the expenditure of at least ten millions of dollars. This is about the largest outlay for a single item in the public works of the city at one time.

**Epworth League Conference.**  
The Epworth League Conference of the Louisiana Annual Conference met Friday morning at Alexandria, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Rev. B. P. White, presiding. Rev. F. S. Parker, of Lake Providence, and H. H. Ahrens, of New Orleans, were elected secretaries. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. S. J. Davies, of Clinton. The subject, "Characteristic of our Times," was ably discussed by Revs. G. D. Parker, S. J. Davies and F. S. Parker. Miss Lizzie May Sligh, of Mansfield, read a most interesting paper.

**He Selected a Poor Camping Place.**  
Friday morning about 2 o'clock Chas.mond, an old United States soldier, had a narrow escape from death. He had become thoroughly enthused in the war and had determined to go and join the company of which he was once a member. In his wanderings he got tired and slept on the Texas and Pacific railroad track, near Allendale. At the hour indicated he was struck and hurled thirty-five feet. When picked up he was unconscious. He received all necessary attention, and is doing well, but suffering with a few bruises.

**Moore Soldiers Leave.**  
The Moore volunteers left Saturday night for New Orleans and the town went wild over them, the streets over which the men marched and all vacant places about the depot were packed with cheering men and crying women. The men formed in Court Square and from there marched to the depot, escorted by Henry W. Allen Camp, U. C. V., headed by the Moore band. As the train drew out of the depot on its way to Nicksburg the band played, the spectators and soldiers cheered and even the women waved their handkerchiefs.

**Alleged Spy's Pica.**  
John Wald, the young man captured at Port Eads with damaging evidence in his possession, and who is believed

## WAR REVENUE BILL BEFORE THE HOUSE.

was taken up at 10 o'clock for the amendment under the five minute rule. At 4 o'clock the bill under the order was reported to the house. As chairman Dingler had no opportunity to offer the amendments agreed upon by the majority of the ways and means committee, I as a substitute, a bill containing these amendments, there was no question as to the regularity of the proceeding, but the speaker held that it was in order. There were many protests from the Democratic side against this parliamentary move, and Mr. Bland insisted upon the reading of the substitute in full. The reading occupied almost a hour. The vote was then taken on the final passage of the bill and it was passed, 181-131, after which the house adjourned.

**SATURDAY**—The bill for consideration of the conference report upon the naval appropriation bill, presented on yesterday. The report was rejected after three hours' debate and further conference will follow. A resolution insisting upon clotting the amendment, was adopted, 118 to 42, and the naval bill was again sent to conference. Adjourned until Monday.

## NEWS RECORD.

**Of the Current Spanish-American Conflict.**  
**MONDAY**—Congress unhesitatingly passed the bill declaring the existence of a state of war between this country and the kingdom of Spain, without a murmur of dissent. The war department called on the States for their quotas of volunteers. The big Spanish steamship Panama, with a number of Spanish refugees on board, and a very valuable cargo, and the steamer Calalina, were captured.

**TUESDAY**—Orders were received by the American squadron to attack Manila. European nations announce their neutrality.

**WEDNESDAY**—The first engagement of the war took place today. Admiral Sampson bombarded, silenced and pretty well destroyed the Spanish batteries in position and in course of construction at the entrance of the harbor of Matanzas, Cuba. He did it with the flagship New York, the monitor Puritan and the cruiser Cincinnati. The enemy returned the fire, but could not hit any of our vessels. The Asiatic squadron, under command of Admiral Dewey, left Hong Kong for Manila.

**THURSDAY**—The Spanish fleet in the Gulf of Mexico was reported to the house by the conference on the naval appropriation bill was presented and agreed to. The measure as perfected carries a little more than \$75,000,000. No other business of importance was transacted. Adjourned until Monday.

**FRIDAY**—Official notification of the shelling of Matanzas received. The Spanish fleet left Cape Verde Islands. Port Cabanas, a small fortified town thirty-five miles west of Havana, on the northern coast of Cuba, was fired on by the New York, and the fort demolished. The firing lasted fifteen minutes.

**SATURDAY**—The Queen Regent of Spain appealed to Czar to assist her in fighting the United States.

**Emperor and Kaiser Disagree.**  
The Vienna correspondent of a London journal tells a tall story to the effect that Emperor William left Dresden last Saturday after a disagreement with Emperor Francis Joseph, arising from a heated discussion had in the afternoon relative to the Spanish-American imbroglio, in which the Austrian emperor vainly tried to convince the kaiser that it is his duty and interest to assume, if not an unfriendly attitude toward the United States, a more friendly neutrality to Spain. Emperor William reiterated that Germany's interests pointed to a policy of strict neutrality and the retention of the good will of the mighty republic. Emperor Francis Joseph was much hurt by the kaiser's heated, impulsive language and plainly showed his displeasure at the banquet given in the evening. The situation grew so unpleasant that Emperor William took his departure before the close of the banquet.

**Spanish Spies at Work.**  
St. Louis representatives of powder manufacturing concerns were warned Saturday that two Spanish spies were in St. Louis and were planning to blow up powder mills and magazines near that city. The information was laid before Chief of Detectives Desmond, and he immediately detailed men to investigate. The informant is Captain Alfred H. J. Bailes, of the Cuban army, who has been in St. Louis about a month. He says these men have been gathering every possible bit of information about St. Louis. Two of them, Captain Bailes said, visited Jefferson Barracks and left for Eureka, Mo., Friday. The powder magazines of a number of St. Louis companies are situated at Eureka and telegrams of warning have been sent there.

**Wants to Accept the Challenge.**  
The challenge to Gen. Lee and Captain Sigbee by Lieut. Carranza, of the Spanish army, has aroused a North Carolina, W. N. Ballard, of Asheville, formerly on the police force there, has written Gen. Lee requesting in case the general does not desire to meet the Spanish officer on the field of honor, that he be allowed to take the general's place.

**Powder Mill Exploded.**  
A bolt of lightning struck one of the buildings of the Clippier Gap (Placer county) Powder company Saturday. There were two explosions, one that blew up the glaze and the other the grinding mill. One man was killed. Clippier Gap mill makes only blasting powder miners' use.

## FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

### DISPATCHES SECURED BY WIRE AND CABLE.

**European Nations Likely to Object to Any Radical Action of America in the Philippines--The Spanish Fleet on Its Way to America.**

The Spanish squadron, consisting of the first-class cruisers Vizcaya, Almirante Oquendo, Infanta Maria Teresa and Cristobal Colon, and the three torpedo boat destroyers Furor, Terror, and Pluton, is stouping westward across the Atlantic and probably will be heard from next at Porto Rico. The admiral received his sailing orders late Thursday night, and early the next morning the vessels put to sea--this time for some strategic and active move. The squadron has not changed its course to any appreciable extent. There was only one inference to be drawn--that was that the fleet was at last on its way across the Atlantic.

**May Cause Grave Trouble.**  
There may be diplomatic troubles in store for the American government growing out of the movement of the American ships upon Manila. Intimations come that Germany, and possibly France, will protest against the seizure of the Philippines on the diplomatic ground that Cuba is the only bone of contention. The protest, it is made, will be a "diplomatic" one; but the fact that France is showing great naval activity is regarded with suspicion in certain quarters. Congress and the administration do not "officially" believe a protest will come, but if it does, it will be treated as a protest on paper.

**Were Regarded as Witches.**  
News of a case of African superstition resulting in a bloody crime reached Paducah, Ky., from the lowlands of Massee county, Ill. While Johnson White and his wife, colored, were entering the door of their home near Cache Bridge, returning from church, a volley was fired at them from ambush. Both fell, the husband wounded in eighteen places with heavy shot and the woman in seventeen. She is reported as dying, while White is in a dangerous condition. Because of sudden prosperity, the couple had been charged with being witches by the ignorant Negroes of the neighborhood.

**Coal Mine Caved in Underground.**  
At Durver near Wilkesbarre, Pa., Friday a rumbling noise was heard and without warning houses were shaken and chimneys fell. Many were held fast in their homes, and men with axes battered in the doors to set them free. The cave-in occurred inside the halstead coal mine of the Delaware Lackawanna and Western railroad company. To add to the consternation, the water main burst and the water poured in an incessant torrent into the cellars and the huge fissures of the cave. Seven men were known to be in the mine, but five of them ascended the shaft safely. Scores of buildings are wrecked, among them the German Catholic church.

**Train Robbery in Texas.**  
The west-bound Southern Pacific passenger train No. 20, was taken in charge by four masked men at Comstock, Tex., at midnight Friday, and two miles west of the station the express car and engine were detached and ran a short distance. The robbers wrecked the through safe and took the entire money contents, amounting to \$20,000. The express car was badly wrecked by the explosion. No one was injured. The robbers took a trail straight toward the Mexican border and a posse is now in hot pursuit.

**Bombardment of Cabanas.**  
In answer to volley fire from Spanish cavalry on shore at Cabanas, thirty-eight miles west of Havana, Friday evening, the New York sent eleven shells in direction of Spanish, eleven shells were silenced after first shot from the New York. Whether any Spaniards were killed or wounded was not ascertained. Spanish bullets were not observed to come anywhere in the vicinity of the flagship, which at once returned to station off Morro. Spaniards would never have been fired upon had they not provoked the attack.

**Quick Justice.**  
Wm. Bestor and Wm. Waller, the men arrested for the murder of an aged couple and the burning of the bodies at Black Earth, Wis., Wednesday night, pleaded guilty to the crime at Madison, Wis., Saturday morning, and sentenced to life imprisonment, and taken to the State prison that afternoon. They were landed in prison 30 hours after the crime was committed.

**To Fight Yellow Fever.**  
Dr. John Guiteras, the Philadelphia representative of the Cuban Junta, has been ordered by the government to proceed at once to Tampa, Fla., where he will take charge of the plans for guarding the health of United States troops, and fighting yellow fever.

**Burned While Asleep.**  
Fire destroyed the saloon of James Terry in Bridgeport, Tex., Friday night, and Henry Steel, who was asleep in the upper story, was burned to a shapeless mass. It is thought that the fire was incendiary. A coal oil can was found near the building.

**Will Expel American Citizens.**  
A special dispatch from Madrid says that the Spanish government is on the point of expelling all citizens of the United States from Spain.

## AMERICANS VICTORIOUS.

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

**Reports from Madrid--The Anxiously Awaited News of the Battle in Asiatic Waters Tell of the Great Loss Inflicted on Spain--An Exciting Engagement.**

Commodore Dewey's squadron won a decisive victory in Philippine waters. The expected naval battle was fought off Manila Sunday morning between 5 and 9 o'clock, resulting in the annihilation of nearly all the fighting ships of the Spanish fleet. Spanish advices show that both of Admiral Montejos' cruisers, the Castilla and the Reina Christina, the latter a flagship, were destroyed by fire. A gunboat, probably the Don-Juan-De-Austria, was blown up; two other vessels, the gunboat Ulion and the auxiliary cruiser, Minidano, were severely damaged. Captain Cadarzo, of the Reina-Christina, was killed. A considerable loss of life is reported on the Spanish vessels. There is no authentic information as to the injuries received by the American fleet. A Spanish report, briefly referring to the great battle, says they sustained heavy damage and heavy loss on their side and that their wounded were landed on the shores of the bay. At the conclusion of the engagement, Commodore Dewey's ships anchored in the bay. None of the American ships were destroyed from the information at hand. As to the composition of the Spanish fleet it appears that but two unarmored gunboats and two or three gunboats escaped destruction or severe damage. Spanish reports say that several were sunk, "to avoid capture."

**Dark Prophecy, but Probable.**  
Major-General Brooke, in his address to the Young Men's Business League in Chattanooga Friday night called attention to the short-sighted policy of the government in not maintaining a large standing army, stating that the army was now halted at Chickamauga because of the insufficiency of its numbers, and intimated that the delay in investing Cuba was due to the unpreparedness of the army. "Let me venture a prophecy, as a result of the war," said he. "Many wives will become widows; mothers will lose sons, and sweethearts their lovers before this business is over."

**Showered With Flowers.**  
The two regiments ordered from the Mobile campment to Tampa by the war department, the Tenth and Twenty-second, left that city Friday night in high spirits. The trains pulled out amid cheers and yells and a shower of flowers from a big delegation of ladies. The sides of the coaches were lettered with patriotic inscriptions, the most appropriate of which was "Remember the Maine."

**Pacific Coast Excited.**  
Senators Perkins and White of California called upon Secretary Alger Saturday morning to urge upon him the necessity of fortifying the coast towns of California as greatly excited over the rumor that their defenseless condition has been exposed to Spain by a mysterious woman at Santa Cruz. Secretary Alger said he would do what he could.