

Spain has waged war can not be attained. The fire of insurrection may flame or may smoulder with varying intensity, but it can not be extinguished by present methods. The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured is the enforcement of a policy of Cuba in the name of humanity, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the duty and right to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop.

In view of all this, the Congress was asked to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of the war between Spain and the Republic of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government, capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations and the security of its citizens, as well as our own, and for the accomplishment of those ends to use the military and naval forces of the United States as might be necessary, with added authority to continue generous relief to the starving people of Cuba.

The response of Congress, after nine days of earnest deliberation, which the almost unanimous adoption of your body was developed on every point, save as to the expediency of carrying the proposed action with a formal recognition of the republic of Cuba, was a resolution which fell of adoption—the Congress, after conference on the 19th of April, by a vote of 42 to 35 in the senate, and 311 to 6 in the house of representatives, and the following joint resolution declaring:

"First, that the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

"Second, That, in the duty of the United States, the demand, and the government of the United States does hereby demand, that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

"Third, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the military and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

"Fourth, That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control of said island, except for the purpose of maintaining order and tranquillity, and when that is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

This resolution was approved by the Executive on the 20th of April, and a copy was at once communicated to the Spanish minister at this capital, who forthwith announced that his continuance in Washington thereby became impossible, and asked for his passports, which were granted him. He thereupon withdrew from Washington, leaving the protection of Spanish interests in the United States to the French ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian minister. Simultaneously with the communication to the Spanish minister here, General Woodford, the American minister at Madrid, was telegraphed confirmation of the text of the joint resolution, and directed to cancel all communications with the government of Spain, with the formal demand that it at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its forces therefrom, and to carry that act into effect.

That demand, although, as above shown, officially made known to the Spanish envoy here, was not delivered at Madrid. After the instruction reached General Woodford on the morning of April 21, he telegraphed to the Spanish minister of state notified him that upon the President's approval of the joint resolution the Madrid government, regarding the act as equivalent to an evident declaration of war, had ordered its minister in Washington to withdraw, thereby breaking off diplomatic relations between the two countries and ceasing all official communication between their respective representatives. General Woodford thereupon cancelled his passports, and quitted Madrid the same day.

The War Declared.

Spain having thus denied the demand of the United States and initiated that complete form of rupture of relations which attends a state of war, the executive powers authorized by the resolution were at once used by me to meet the enlarged contingencies of a state of war between sovereign states. On April 22, I proclaimed a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast of Cuba; and on the 23rd I called for volunteers to execute the purpose of the resolution. By my message of April 25, the Congress was informed of the situation, and I recommended formal declaration of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Spain. The Congress accordingly voted the resolution, and on the 25th of April, 1898, declaring the existence of such war and including the 21st day of April, and re-enacted the provision of the resolution of April 20, directing the President to use all the armed forces of the nation to carry that act into effect. Due notification of the existence of war as aforesaid, was given April 25, by telegraph, to all the governments with which the United States maintain relations, in order that their neutrality might be ascertained. The various governments responded with proclamations of neutrality, each after its own methods. It is not among the least gratifying incidents of the struggle that the obligations of neutrality were imperiously discharged by all, often under delicate and difficult circumstances.

In further fulfillment of international duty, I issued, April 26, a proclamation announcing the treatment proposed to be accorded to vessels and their cargoes as to blockade, contraband, the exercise of the right of search, and the immunity of neutral flags and neutral goods under the enemy's flag. A similar proclamation was made by the Spanish government, and the rules of the declaration of Paris, including abstention from resort to privateering, have accordingly been observed by both belligerents, although neither was a party to that declaration. Our country, on the other hand, has for half a century of peace with all nations, found itself engaged in deadly conflict with a foreign enemy. Every nerve was strained to meet the emergency. The response to the initial call for 25,000 volunteers was instant and complete, as was also the result of the second call of May 25, for 75,000 additional volunteers. The ranks of the regular army were increased to the limits provided by the act of April 20. On August 2, when it reached its maximum, numbered 241,223 men and approximately. One hundred and three vessels were added to the navy by purchase, one was presented to the government, one loaned, and the four vessels of the International Navigation Company, the St. Paul, St. Louis, New York, and Paris, were chartered. In addition to these the revenue cutters were protected cruisers, three light cruisers, eight gunboats, one dynamite cruiser, eleven torpedo boats, fourteen vessels of the old navy, including monitors. Auxiliary navy, including auxiliary cruisers; twenty-eight

converted yachts; twenty-seven converted gunboats; fifteen converted colliers; fifteen revenue cutters; four light-house tenders, and nineteen miscellaneous vessels.

Much alarm was felt along our entire Atlantic seaboard, lest some attack might be made by the enemy. Every precaution was taken to prevent possibility in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the duty and right to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop.

The auxiliary navy was created under the authority of Congress and was officered and manned by the naval militia of the several states. This organization patrolled the coast, and performed the duty of a second line of defense.

Under the direction of the chief of engineers, submarine mines were placed at the most exposed points. Before the outbreak of the war, permanent harbor defenses were constructed, which had been constructed at nearly all important harbors. Most of the torpedo material was not to be found in the market, and had to be specially manufactured. Under date of April 18, district officers were directed to make preliminary measurements, and to the actual attaching of the loaded mines to the cables, and on April 22, telegraphic orders were issued to place the loaded mines in position.

The aggregate number of mines placed in position at the principal harbors of the United States, and in the waters of the United States, was 1,000. Preparations were also made for the planting of mines at certain other harbors, but owing to the early destruction of the Spanish fleet, these mines were not placed.

The signal corps was promptly organized and put into operation. Its operations during the war covered the electrical connection of all coast fortifications, the establishment of telephonic and telegraphic facilities for the camps at Manila, San Francisco, and Porto Rico. It was constructed through three hundred miles of line at ten great camps, thus facilitating military movements from those points in a manner heretofore unknown in military administration. Field telegraph lines were established from Manila, and later the Manila-Hong Kong cable was reopened.

In Porto Rico cable communications were opened over a discontinued route, and on land the headquarters of the commanding officer was kept in Manila, and telephone communication with the division commanders on four different lines of operations.

There was placed in Cuban waters a completely outfitted cable ship, with war cables and cable gear, suitable both for the construction of new cables, and for the maintenance of the cables belonging to the enemy and the establishment of our own. Two ocean cables were destroyed under the enemy's batteries at Santiago. The day previous to the landing of General Shafter's corps at Calamara, within twenty miles of Santiago, a cable communication between the government and the government of Spain, with the formal demand that it at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its forces therefrom, and to carry that act into effect.

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RESUME OF THE WAR.

The President Recites Briefly the Salient Features.

It is not within the province of this message to narrate the history of the extraordinary war that followed the Spanish declaration of April 21, but a brief recital of its more salient features is appropriate. The first encounter of the war in point of date took place April 27, when a detachment of the blockade squadron made a reconnaissance in force at Matanzas, shelled the harbor forts, and demolished several new works in construction.

The next engagement was destined to mark a memorable epoch in maritime warfare. The Pacific fleet, under Commodore George Dewey, had lain for some weeks at Hong Kong. Upon the issued proclamation of neutrality being issued, the commodore, twenty-four hours before he sailed, was ordered to Manila, near Hong Kong, whence it proceeded to the Philippine Islands under telegraphic orders to capture or destroy the formidable Spanish fleet then assembled at Manila. At daybreak on the 1st of May the American force entered Manila bay and after a few hours' engagement, effected the total destruction of the Spanish fleet, consisting of ten warships and a transport, besides capturing the navigation and the command of Manila, and the Spanish naval power in the Pacific ocean and completely controlling the bay of Manila, with the ability to take the city at will. Not a life was lost on our ships, the wounded only numbering seven, while on the Spanish side, 1,800 were killed and 1,300 were taken prisoners.

For this gallant achievement the Congress, upon my recommendation, fitly bestowed upon the actors preference and substantial reward.

The effect of this remarkable victory upon the minds of our people and upon the fortunes of the war was instant. A prestige of invincibility thereby attached to our arms, which continued throughout the struggle. Reinforcements were hurried to Manila and the command of the American force entered Manila bay and after a few hours' engagement, effected the total destruction of the Spanish fleet, consisting of ten warships and a transport, besides capturing the navigation and the command of Manila, and the Spanish naval power in the Pacific ocean and completely controlling the bay of Manila, with the ability to take the city at will. Not a life was lost on our ships, the wounded only numbering seven, while on the Spanish side, 1,800 were killed and 1,300 were taken prisoners.

On the 7th day of May, the government was advised officially of the victory, which was followed by the capture of the more strikingly shown than in the several engagements leading to the surrender of Santiago, while the prompt movements and successful victories won by our arms, and the complete and firm establishment within sight of the capital, which lay helpless before our guns.

No Divided Victory.

Only reluctance to cause needless loss of life and property prevented the early storming and capture of the city, and thereafter the absolute military occupancy of the whole group. The insurgents meanwhile had resumed the active hostilities suspended by the unexpected truce of December, 1897. The forces invested Manila from the north, while the Spanish forces were being established by Admiral Dewey and General Merritt, from attempting an assault. It was fitting that whatever was to be done in the way of decisive operations in that quarter should be accomplished

by the strong arm of the United States. Obeying the stern precept of war which enjoins the overcoming of the adversary and the extinction of his power wherever available as the speedy and sure means to win a peace, divided victory was not permitted. Every responsibility attending the enforcement of a just and advantageous peace could be thought of.

Following the comprehensive scheme of general attack, powerful forces were assembled at various points in the island, and the Spanish navy was completely destroyed. Cuba and Porto Rico, meanwhile, passed under the control of our arms. At several exposed points, on May 11, the cruiser Wilmington and torpedo boat Winslow were unsuccessful in an attempt to capture the Spanish fleet. The Spanish fleet, however, was completely destroyed. The Spanish fleet, however, was completely destroyed.

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By June 7 the cutting of the last Cuban cable isolated the island of Cuba, and the Spanish fleet, however, was completely destroyed.

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