

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY'S MESSAGE.

(Continued from page 1.)

Company, the St. Paul, St. Louis, New York and Paris, were chartered. In addition to these the revenue cutters and the lighthouse tenders were turned over to the Navy department and became temporarily a part of the auxiliary navy.

Regarding Dewey's victory at Manila the President says:

The first encounter of the war, in point of date, took place April 27, when a detachment of the blockading squadron made a reconnaissance in force at Matanzas, shelled the harbor forts and destroyed several new works in construction.

The next engagement was destined to mark a memorable epoch in maritime warfare. The Pacific fleet, under Commodore Dewey, had lain for some weeks at Hong Kong. Upon the proclamation of neutrality being issued and the usual twenty-four hours' notice being given, it repaired to Maris bay, near Hong Kong, whence it proceeded to the Philippine Islands under telegraphed 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 war ships and a transport, besides capturing the naval station and forts at Cavite, thus annihilating 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 not a vessel was materially injured. For this gallant achievement the Congress, upon my recommendation, fittingly bestowed upon the actors preferment and substantial reward.

The effect of this remarkable victory upon the spirit of our people and upon the fortunes of war was instant. A prestige of invincibility therefore attached to our arms, which continued throughout the struggle. Reinforcements were hurried to Manila under the command of Major General Merritt and firmly established within sight of the capital, which lay helpless before our guns. On the 7th day of May the government was advised officially of the victory at Manila and at once inquired of the commander of the fleet what troops would be required. The information was received on the 15th day of May and the first army expedition sailed May 25 and arrived at Manila June 30. Other expeditions soon followed, the total force consisting of 641 officers and 15,058 men.

Leading up to the Santiago campaign President McKinley reports:

On May 30 Commodore Schley's squadron bombarded the forts guarding the mouth of Santiago harbor. Neither attack had any material result. It was evident that well ordered land operations were indispensable to achieve a decided advantage.

The next act in the war thrilled not alone the hearts of our own countrymen, but the world, by its exceptional heroism. On the night of June 3 Lieutenant Hobson, aided by seven devoted volunteers, blocked the narrow outlet from Santiago harbor by sinking the collier Merrimac in the channel, under a fierce fire from the shore batteries, escaping with their lives as by a miracle, but falling into the hands of the Spaniards. It is a most gratifying incident of the war that the bravery of this little band of heroes was cordially appreciated by the Spaniards, who sent a flag of truce to notify Admiral Sampson of their safety and to compliment them upon their daring act. They were subsequently exchanged July 7.

By June 7 the cutting of the last Cuban cable isolated the island. Thereafter the invasion was vigorously prosecuted. On June 10, under a heavy protecting fire, a landing force of 600 marines from the Oregon, Marblehead and Yankee was effected in Guantanamo bay, where it had been determined to establish a naval station. This important and essential port was taken from the enemy after severe fighting by the marines, who were the first organized force of the United States to land in Cuba.

The position so won was held, despite the desperate attempts to dislodge our forces. By June 16 additional forces were landed and strongly entrenched. On June 22 the advance of the invading army under Major General Shafter landed at Baiquiri, about fifteen miles east of Santiago. This was accomplished under

great difficulties, but with marvelous dispatch. On June 23 the movement against Santiago was begun. On the 24th the first serious engagement took place, in which the First and Tenth cavalry and the First volunteer cavalry, General Young's brigade of General Wheeler's division, participated, losing heavily. By nightfall, however, ground within five miles of Santiago was won. The advantage was steadily increased. On July 1 and 2 a severe battle took place, our forces gaining the outer works of Santiago and El Caney and San Juan were taken after a desperate charge and the investment of the city was completed. The navy co-operated by shelling the town and coast forts. On the day following this brilliant achievement of our land forces, July 3, occurred the decisive naval combat of the war. The Spanish fleet, attempting to leave the harbor, was met by the American squadron, under command of Admiral Sampson. In less than three hours all the Spanish ships were destroyed, the two torpedo boats sunk and the Maria Teresa, Almirante Oquendo, Vizcaya and the Cristobal Colon driven ashore. The Spanish admiral and over 1,300 men were taken prisoners, while the enemy's loss of life was deplorably large, some 600 perishing. On our side but one man was killed and one man seriously wounded. Although our ships were repeatedly struck, not one was seriously injured. Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves, from the commanders to the gunners and the unnamed heroes in the boiler rooms, each and all contributing to the astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event and in the marvelous disproportion of casualties, it would be invidious to single out any for special honor. Deserved promotion has rewarded the more conspicuous actors—the nation's profoundest gratitude is due to all of those brave men who by their skill and devotion in a few short hours crushed the sea power of Spain and wrought a triumph whose decisiveness and far-reaching effects can be scarcely measured. Nor can we be unmindful of the achievements of our builders, mechanics and artisans for their skill in the construction of our war ships.

With the catastrophe of Santiago Spain's effort upon the ocean virtually ceased. A spasmodic effort toward the end of June to send her Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Camara to relieve Manila was abandoned, the expedition being recalled after it had passed through the Suez canal. The capitulation of Santiago followed. The city was closely besieged by land, while the entrance of our ships into the harbor cut off all relief on that side. After a truce to allow the removal of non-combatants, protracted negotiations continued from July 3 to July 15, when, under menace of immediate assault, the preliminaries of surrender were agreed upon.

The total casualties in killed and wounded in the army during the war was as follows: Officers killed, 23; enlisted men killed, 257; total, 280; officers wounded, 118; enlisted men wounded, 1,464; total, 1,577; of the navy, killed, 17; wounded, 67; died as result of wounds, 1; invalided from service, 6; total, 91.

It will be observed that while our navy was engaged in two great battles and in numerous perilous undertakings in the blockades and bombardments, and more than 50,000 of our troops were transported to distant lands and engaged in assault and siege and battle and many skirmishes in unfamiliar territory, we lost in both arms of the service a total of 1,688 killed and wounded; and in the entire campaign by land and sea we did not lose a gun or a flag or a transport or a ship, and with the exception of the crew of the Merrimac not a soldier or a sailor was taken prisoner.

On August 7, forty-six days from the date of landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba and twenty-one days from the surrender of Santiago, the United States troops commenced embarkation for home, and our entire force was returned to the United States as early as August 24. They were absent from the United States only two months.

It is fitting that I bear testimony to the patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of greatest exposure, fortunately was not required outside of the United States. They did their whole duty, and like their comrades at the front, have earned the gratitude of the nation. In like manner, the officers and men of the army and of the navy who remained in their departments

and stations of the navy, performing most important duties connected with the war, and whose requests for assignment in the field and at sea it was compelled to refuse because their services were indispensable here, are entitled to the highest commendation. It is my regret that there seems to be no provision for their suitable recognition.

In this connection it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial approbation the timely and useful work of the American National Red Cross, both in relief measures, preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assemblage and later, under the able and experienced leadership of the president of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba. Working in conjunction with the government authorities, and under their sanction and approval, and with the enthusiastic co-operation of many patriotic women and societies in the various States, the Red Cross has fully maintained its already high reputation for intense earnestness and ability to exercise the noble purpose of its organization, thus justifying the confidence and support which it has received at the hands of the American people. To the members and officers of this society and all who aided them in their philanthropic work, the sincere and lasting gratitude of the soldiers and the public is due and is freely accorded.

In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the Divine Master for His watchful care over us and His safe guidance, for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgment and offers humble prayer for the continuance of His favor.

Pursuant to the fifth article of the protocol, I appointed William R. Day, lately Secretary of State; Cushman Davis, William P. Frye and George Gray, Senators of the United States, and Whitelaw Reid, to be peace commissioners on the part of the United States. Proceeding in due season to Paris they were there met on the first of October, by five commissioners on the part of Spain. The negotiations have made hopeful progress; so that I trust soon to be able to lay a definite treaty of peace before the Senate, with a review of the steps leading to its signature.

I do not discuss at this time the government of the future of the new possessions which will come to us as the result of the war with Spain. Such a discussion will be appropriate after the treaty of peace shall be ratified. In the meantime and until Congress has legislated otherwise, it will be my duty to continue the military government which has existed since our occupation and give its people security in life and property and encouragement under a just and beneficent rule.

As soon as we are in possession of Cuba and have pacified the island, it will be necessary to give aid and directions to these people to form a government for themselves. This should be undertaken at the earliest moment consistent with safety and assured success. It is important that our relations with these people shall be of the most friendly character, and our commercial relations close and reciprocal. It should be our duty to assist in every proper way to build up the waste places of the island, encourage the industry of the people and to assist them to form a government which shall be free and independent, thus realizing the best aspirations of the Cuban people.

Spanish rule must be replaced by a just, benevolent and humane government, created by the people of Cuba, capable of performing all international obligations and which shall encourage thrift, industry and prosperity and promote peace and good will among all the inhabitants whatever may have been their relations in the past. Neither revenge nor passion should have a place in the government. Until there is complete tranquility in the island and a suitable government inaugurated, military occupation will be continued.

With the exception of the rupture with Spain, the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations has been marked with a cordiality and the close of the eventful year finds most of the issues that necessarily arise in the complex relations of sovereign states adjusted or presenting no serious obstacles to a just and honorable solution by amicable agreement.

The sympathy of the American people has justly been offered to the ruler and the people of Austro-Hungary by reason of the affliction that has lately befallen

in the assassination of the empress-queen of that historic realm.

On the 10th of September, 1897, a conflict took place at Latimer, Pa., between a body of striking miners and the Sheriff of Luzerne county and his deputies in which twenty-two miners were killed and forty-four wounded, of which ten of the killed and twelve of the wounded were Austrian and Hungarian subjects. This deplorable event naturally aroused the solicitude of the Austro-Hungarian government, which, on the assumption that the killing and wounding involved the unjustifiable misuse of authority claimed reparation for the sufferers. Apart from the searching investigation and the peremptory action of the authorities of Pennsylvania, the federal executive took appropriate steps to learn the merits of the case, in order to be in a position to meet the urgent complaint of a friendly power. The Sheriff and his deputies, having been indicted for murder, were tried and acquitted, after protracted proceedings and the hearing of hundreds of witnesses, on the ground that the killing was in the line of their official duty to uphold law and preserve public order in the State. A representative of the department of justice attended the trial and reported its course fully. With all the facts in its possession, this government expects to reach a harmonious understanding on the subject with that of Austro-Hungary, notwithstanding the renewed claim of the latter after learning the result of the trial for indemnity for its injured subjects.

Pending the consideration by the senate of the treaty signed June 16, 1897, by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawaii, providing for the annexation of the islands, a joint resolution to accomplish the same purpose by accepting the offered cession and incorporating the ceded territory into the Union, was adopted by the Congress and approved July 7, 1898. I thereupon directed the United States steamer Philadelphia to convey Rear Admiral Miller to Honolulu and entrusted to his hands this important legislative act to be delivered to the president of the republic of Hawaii with whom the admiral and the United States minister were authorized to make appropriate arrangements for transferring the sovereignty of the islands to the United States. This was simply but impressively accomplished on the 12th day of August last, by the delivery of a certified copy of the resolution to President Dole, who thereupon yielded up to the representative of the government of the United States the sovereignty and public property of the Hawaiian Islands.

Pursuant to the terms of the joint resolution and in exercise of authority thereby conferred upon me, I directed that the civil, judicial and military powers theretofore exercised by the officers of the government of the republic of Hawaii should continue to be exercised by those officers until Congress shall provide a government for the incorporated territory, subject to my power to remove such officers and to fill vacancies. The President, officers and troops of the republic thereupon took the oath of allegiance to the United States, thus providing for the uninterrupted continuance of all the administrative and municipal functions of the annexed territory until Congress shall otherwise act.

Following the further provision of the joint resolution, I appointed the honorables Shelby M. Cullom, of Illinois, John T. Morgan, of Alabama, Robert R. Hitt, of Illinois, Sanford B. Dole, of Hawaii, and Walter F. Grear, of Hawaii, as commissioners to confer and recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian Islands as they should deem necessary or proper. The commissioners having fulfilled the mission confided to them, their report will be laid before you at an early day. It is believed that their recommendations will have the earnest consideration due to the magnitude of the responsibility resting upon you to give such shape to the relationship of those mid-Pacific lands to our home union as will benefit both in the highest degree, realizing the aspirations of the community that has cast its lot with us and elected to share our political heritage, while at the same time, justifying the foresight of those who for three-quarters of a century have looked to the assimilation of Hawaii as a natural and inevitable consummation, in harmony with our needs and in fulfillment of our cherished traditions.

The proposal of the Czar for a general reduction of the vast military establishments that weight so heavily upon many

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