

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

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WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 15, 1897

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

He must be a poor American, says the N. Y. Tribune, who is not pleased with the president's utterances concerning Cuba. The simple record of the achievements of the administration in the last nine months, as modestly rehearsed, is ample to satisfy the most zealous upholder of American rights and honor. There were more than a score of American citizens in Cuban jails, some of them under sentence of death. Today, at the demand of this government, everyone is at liberty. Spain refused to consider any mediation or representations by this government looking to cessation of hostilities. Now she "appreciates the friendly purposes of this government" and "admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba, and that it desires for peace are just." Those two facts indicate a success of American diplomacy in dealing with Spain quite without precedent in the long history of Cuban troubles. To what extent the United States has influenced the Spanish government in its radical change of attitude toward Cuba is not even to be speculated upon. The facts of record are these:

Nine months ago Spain declared that the only way to pacify Cuba was to reduce the insurgents to submission, and it was trying to do the latter by means of what the president justly describes as not civilized warfare, but extermination. Against that cruel policy the United States government firmly and earnestly protested. Today Spain has "recalled the commander whose brutal orders inflamed the American mind and shocked the civilized world. She has modified the horrible order of concentration." And, in good faith above all question, she offers to Cuba a scheme of reforms and self-government comparable with the most liberal ever made by a parent country to a colony.

In this immeasurably ameliorated state of affairs, what is the further duty of this nation? On this point the president is troubled with no doubts, nor should any one be who thoughtfully reads his convincing discussion of it. Forcible annexation would be a crime. He does not consider it. Recognition of independence or belligerency would be inadvisable, largely for the very same reasons which twenty-two years ago constrained this government to withhold such action. The extended quotation from President Grant's message of December, 1875, which the president makes, is entirely apt to the existing situation. Recognition, and the consequent exercise of the right of search on the seas and seizure of goods contraband of war would be onerous and embarrassing to this country, and, while theoretically serving both belligerents alike, would practically, for obvious reasons, operate heavily to the advantage of Spain.

Other foreign topics are of less importance, and receive less attention in the message, though they are all treated in a straightforward and convincing manner. Ratification of the Hawaiian annexation treaty is urged, on grounds of fitness, right and justice, and not of mere expediency, and assurance is given that friendly relations with Japan will not be jeopardized thereby. The scaling controversy with Great Britain is still unsettled, and the president is perforce content to report that nego-

tiations are in progress. An earnest word is spoken in behalf of international arbitration, and a liberal policy for the promotion of American representation at the Paris World's Fair of 1900 is urged.

With these and a few minor topics briefly considered, the foreign relations of the country are dismissed. That no routine rollcall of the nations of the globe is made, according to the stereotyped formula, is not to be construed into neglectfulness of American interests or unwillingness to lay complete statements of affairs before congress and the people. It merely means, no doubt, that in an eminently practical and business-like manner the president has chosen to devote his message to thorough presentations of topics of general and commanding interest, leaving the rest for the inquiry of those whom it may concern. In this he will win the gratitude of a people too often wearied with prolix and perfunctory chronicles of small beer.

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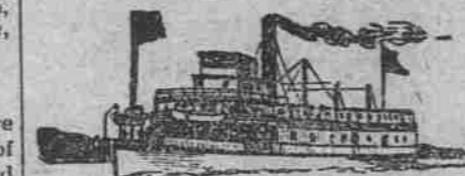


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