M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE

(Continued from First Page.)

not be referrable to the central government for decision, shall be submitted to the courts.

That the government of Zaharata has entered upon a course from which recession with honor is impossible can hardly be questioned; that in the few weeks it has existed it has made earnest of the sincerity of its professions is undeniable. I shall not impugn its sincerity nor should impatience be suffered to embarrass it in the task it has undertaken. It is honestly due to Spain and to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations and to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things to which she stands irrevocably committed. She 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 has undertaken the care of the helpless and permit those who desire to resume the cultivation of their fields to do so and assures them of the protection of the Spanish government in their lawful occupations. She has just released the Competitor prisoners, heretofore sentenced to death and who have been the subject of repeated diplomatic correspondence during both this and the preceding administration.

Not a single American citizen is now under arrest or in confinement in Cuba of whom this government has any knowledge. The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensible conditions of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain, as well as equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes, that action will be determined in the line of the indisputable right and duty. It will be faced without hesitancy or hesitancy, in the light of the obligation this government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity.

Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense ourselves, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be honorable and enduring. It shall hereafter be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world.

THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION.

By a special message dated the 16th day of June last, I laid before the senate of the United States a treaty signed that day by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the Republic of Hawaii, having for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian islands as an integral part of the United States and under its sovereignty. The senate having removed the injunction of secrecy, although the treaty is still pending before that body, the subject may be properly referred in this message but the necessary action of congress is required to determine by legislation many details of the eventual union, should the fact of annexation be accomplished, as I believe it should be.

While consistently disavowing from a very early period any aggressive policy of absorption in regard to the Hawaiian group, a long series of discussions through three-quarters of a century has proclaimed the vital interest of the United States in the independent life of the islands and their intimate commercial dependency upon this country. At the same time it has been repeatedly asserted that in no event could the enmity of Hawaiian statehood cease by the passage of the island under the domination or influence of another power than the United States. Under these circumstances the logic of events required that annexation before offered but declined, should in the ripeness of time come about as the natural result of strengthening the ties that bind us to those islands and be released by the free will of the Hawaiian state.

The treaty was unanimously ratified without amendment by the senate and president of the Republic of Hawaii on the 10th of September last and only awaits the favorable action of the American senate to effect the complete absorption of the islands into the domains of the United States. What the conditions of such a union shall be, the political relation thereof to the United States the character of the local administration, the quality and degree of the elective franchise of the inhabitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory or the enactment of special laws to fit the peculiar condition thereof, the regulation of needs of labor therein and all matters upon which the treaty has wisely relegated to congress.

If the treaty is confirmed, as every consideration of dignity and honor requires, the wisdom of congress will see to it that avoiding abrupt assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the highest franchises of citizenship, and having due regard to the geographical conditions, the just provisions for self-rule in local matters with the largest political liberties as an integral part of our nation will be accorded to the Hawaiians.

No less is due to a people who after nearly five years of demonstrated capacity to fulfill the obligations of self-governing statehood, come of their free will to merge their destinies in our body politic.

The questions which have arisen between Japan and Hawaii by reason of the treatment of Japanese laborers emigrating to the islands under the Hawaiian-Japanese convention of 1888 are in a satisfactory stage of settlement by negotiation. This government has not been invited to mediate and on the other hand has sought no intervention in that matter, further than to evince its kindliest disposition toward such a speedy and direct adjustment between the two sovereign states in interest, as shall comport with equity and honor. It is gratifying to learn that the apprehensions at first displayed on the part of Japan lest the cession of Hawaii's national life through annexation might impair her privileges to which Japan properly laid claim, have given place to uprightedness in the government and sincerity of its purpose to deal with all possible interior questions in the broadest spirit of friendliness.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

As to the representation of this government to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rico, I have concluded that Mr. William L. Merry, confirmed as minister of the United States to the states of Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, shall proceed to San Jose, Costa Rica, and there temporarily establish the headquarters of the United States in those three states. I took this action for what I regarded as the paramount interests of this country. It was developed upon an investigation by the secretary of state that the governor of Nicaragua, while not unwilling to receive Mr. Merry in his diplomatic equality, was unable to do so on account of the compact concluded June 20, 1895, whereby that republic and those of Salvador and Honduras forming what is known as the Greater Republic of Central America, had surrendered to the representative diet there of their to receive and send diplomatic agents. The diet was not willing to accept him because he was not accredited to that body. I could not accredit him to that body because the appropriation law of congress did not permit. Mr. Baker, the present minister at Managua, has been directed to present his letters of recall.

Mr. Godfrey Hunter has likewise been accredited to the governments of Guatemala and Honduras, the same as his predecessor. Guatemala is not a member of the Greater Republic of Central America, but Honduras is. Should this latter government decline to receive him, he has been instructed to report this fact to his government and await its further instructions.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

A subject of large importance to our country and increasing appreciation on the part of the people is the completion of the great highway of trade between the Atlantic and Pacific known as the Nicaragua canal. Its value to American commerce is universally admitted. The commission appointed under date of July 24th last "to continue the surveys and examinations authorized by the act approved March 2, 1895, in regard to the proper route, feasibility and cost of construction of the Nicaragua canal, with a view of making complete plans for the entire work of construction of such canal," is now employed in the undertaking. In the future I shall take occasion to transmit to congress the report of this commission, making at the same time such further suggestions as may then seem advisable.

BIMETALLISM.

Under the provisions of the act of congress approved March 3, 1897, for the promotion of an international agreement respecting bimetallism, I appointed on the 11th day of April, 1897, Hon. Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado; Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, and Hon. Charles J. Payne, of Massachusetts, as special envoys to represent the United States. They have been diligent in their effort to secure the concurrence and co-operation of European countries in the international settlement of the question, but up to this time have not been able to secure an agreement contemplated by their mission.

The gratifying action of our great sister republic of France in joining this country in the attempt to bring about the agreement between the principal commercial nations of Europe, whereby a fixed and relative value between gold and silver shall be secured, furnishes assurance that we are not alone among the larger nations of the world in realizing the international character of the problem and in the desire of reaching some wise and practical solution of it. The British government has published a resume of the steps taken jointly by the French ambassador in London and the special envoys of the United States with whom our ambassador in London actively co-operated in the presentation of this subject to her majesty's government. This will be laid before congress. Our special envoys have not made their final report, as further negotiations between the representatives of this government and the governments of other countries are pending and in contemplation. They believe that the doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the possibility of maintaining the stability of the parity between the metals and kindred questions may yet be solved by further negotiations.

RECIPROCITY.

Meanwhile, it gives me satisfaction to state that the special envoys have already demonstrated their ability and fitness to deal with the subject and it is to be earnestly hoped that their labors may result in an international agreement which will bring about recognition of both gold and silver as money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of both metals upon a basis which shall work no injuries to any class of our citizens.

In order to execute as early as possible the provisions of the third and fourth sections of the revenue act approved July 24, 1897, I appointed the Hon. John A. Kasson, of Iowa, a special commissioner plenipotentiary to undertake the requisite negotiations with foreign countries desiring to avail themselves of these provisions. The negotiations are now proceeding with several governments, both European and American. It is believed that by a careful exercise of the powers conferred by that act, some grievances of our own and of other countries in our mutual trade relations may be either removed or largely alleviated and that the volume of our commercial exchanges may be enlarged with advantages to both contracting parties.

Most desirable from every standpoint of national interests and patriotism is the effort to extend our foreign commerce. To this end our merchant marine should be improved and enlarged. We should do our full share of the carrying trade of the world. We do not do it now. We should not be laggard longer. The inferiority of our merchant marine is justly humiliating to the national pride. The government by every proper constitutional means should aid in making our ships familiar visitors at every commercial port of the world, thus opening up new and valuable markets to the surplus products of the farm and factory.

PROTECTION FOR SEALS.

The efforts which have been made during the terms by my predecessor to secure better protection to the fur seals in the North Pacific ocean and Bering sea were renewed at an early date by this administration and have been pursued with earnestness. Upon my invitation the governments of Russia and Japan sent delegates to Washington and an international conference was held during the months of October and November last, wherein it was unanimously agreed that under the existing regulations the species of useful animals was threatened with extinction and that an international agreement of all interested powers was necessary for their adequate protection.

The government of Great Britain did not see proper to be represented at this conference, but subsequently sent to Washington as delegates the expert commissioners of Great Britain and Canada, who had during the past two years visited the Pribyloff island and who met in conference similar commissioners on the part of the United States. The result of this conference was an agreement on the part of the important facts connected with the condition of the seal herd heretofore in dispute which should place beyond controversy the duty of the governments concerned to adopt measures without delay for the preservation and restoration of the herd. Negotiations to this end are now in progress, the result of which I hope to be able to report to congress at an early day.

International arbitration cannot be omitted from the list of subjects claiming our consideration. Events have recently served to strengthen the general views on this question expressed in my inaugural address. The best sentiment of the civilized world is moving toward the settlement of differences between the nations without resorting to the horrors of war. Treaties embodying these humane principles on broad lines without in any way imperiling our interests or our honor shall have my constant encouragement.

PARIS EXPOSITION.

The acceptance of this government of the invitation of the republic of France to participate in the universal exposition of 1900 at Paris was immediately followed by the appointment of a special commissioner to represent the United States in the proposed exposition with special reference to the securing of space of an adequate exhibition on behalf of the United States.

The special commissioner delayed his departure for Paris long enough to ascertain the probable demand for space by American exhibitors. His inquiries developed an almost unprecedented interest in the proposed exposition and the information thus secured enabled him to justify an application for a much larger allotment of space for the American section than had been reserved by the exposition authorities. The result was particularly gratifying in view of the fact that the United States was one of the last countries to accept the invitation of France.

The reception accorded our special commissioner was most cordial and he was given every reasonable assurance that the United States would receive a consideration commensurate with the proportions of our exhibit.

The report of the special commissioner as to the magnitude of the coming exposition and the demand for space for American exhibits supplies new arguments for a liberal and judicious appropriation by congress to the end that an exhibit fairly representative of the industries and resources of our country may be made in an exposition which will illustrate the world's progress during the 19th century. The exposition is intended to be the most important and comprehensive of the long series of international exhibitions of which our own Chicago was a brilliant example, and it is desirable that the United States should make a worthy exhibit of American genius and skill.

The president urges the necessity of a change in the existing laws relating to Alaska, and invites the attention of congress to the reported destitution of miners in the Yukon country.

If reports of the suffering are verified he thinks every effort at any cost should be made to carry them relief.

Of the sale of the Kansas Pacific railroad which is set for December 16th, the president says:

The government rather than accept less than its claim should become the bidder and thereby owner of the property.

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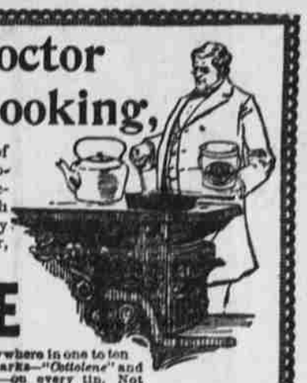

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ALBERT LEWIS DROWNED.

Knappa, Or., Dec. 6.—(Special to the Astorian.)—Albert Lewis, a young man 23 years of age, stepson of P. C. Havard, while out duck hunting was drowned near Svensen, last evening.

Young Lewis left his home at Svensen early yesterday morning in a canoe to hunt ducks in the tide lands just abreast of Burnside point. One of the neighbors coming home in his boat at 6 p. m. saw an upturned canoe, and a searching party set out at once and at 7 o'clock this morning the body was found lying in about three feet of water. It is supposed that while in the act of discharging his gun the canoe upset and Lewis in falling struck his head on the edge of the canoe, as the body had a black mark over the left eye, and was rendered unconscious, otherwise he would not have drowned in the shallow water.

ASTORIA ABROAD.

The building of the Astoria and Columbia river railroad has aroused the energies of the people of Astoria to the accomplishment of still greater things, and we may reasonably expect to see Astoria become one of the most important cities of the coast. The portage railway scheme at the rapids above The Dalles has been abandoned, and the survey of a canal will doubtless be ordered by the next congress. The completion of this canal will permit boats to ply the upper Columbia and reach points far up the Snake, Clearwater and other tributaries. The cost of transporting grain to tide water would be materially lessened and the amount that would flow in from eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, and Idaho would make Astoria one of the greatest grain shipping centers on the continent. Nor is this all. The Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis and other tributaries to the Columbia, which conjoin at points far below Portland, each penetrate limitless belts of timber, which will make Astoria's lumbering interests the most extensive in the world. Astoria is in position to secure a share of the Alaska trade, and to this end her citizens are laboring assiduously. Astoria is in an extensive timber belt, she has coal and iron, and her fishing industry is extensive and important. We believe the Nicaragua canal will be built; it ought to be, and its completion will enable all coast cities to give better wholesale rates than can Portland or other inland cities. It costs $100 to tow a vessel from Astoria to Portland for the reason that it is not a deep water harbor. Partially loaded they proceed to Astoria where additional cargo is received which has to be lightered down the Columbia. With the completion of the Nicaragua canal Astoria will become the gateway for out-going shipments from the Rocky Mountain states to the Atlantic seaboard, and for the incoming of merchandise from eastern markets for states in the middle west. The centering of these interests at Astoria is cause for Portland's alarm, and greater energy than the people of Portland have ever yet manifested will have to be aroused if she would hold her place among the important cities of the coast.—Oakland Gazette.

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