

THE ANNUAL MESSAGE

The President's Address to Congress.

OUR LATE WAR A FEATURE

No Suggestions Made Regarding the Government of Our New Territories—Foreign Relations Generally Satisfactory—Hawaiian Annexation.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: Notwithstanding the added burdens...

Still animated by the hope of a peaceful solution and obeying the dictates of duty, no effort was relaxed to bring about...

By my last annual message, very full consideration was given to the question of the duty of the government of the United States toward Spain and Cuba...

Setting aside, as logically unfounded or practically inadmissible, recognition of the Cuban situation as a belligerent...

Within a few weeks previously she had announced comprehensive plans which I was confidently assured could be effected...

Authority to Intervene.

Grieved and disappointed at this barren outcome of my sincere endeavors to reach a practicable solution, I felt it my duty to meet the question to Congress...

Preparations for War.

At this juncture, on the 15th of February last, occurred the destruction of the battle-ship Maine...

The response of Congress, after nine days of earnest deliberation, during which the almost unanimous sentiment of your body was developed on every point...

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belief that it needed but a brief executive suggestion to congress to receive immediate answer to the duty of making instant provision for the possible and perhaps speedily probable emergency of war...

That this act of provision came none too soon was disclosed when the application of the fund was undertaken. Our ports were practically undefended...

It is sufficient to say that the outbreak of war, when it did come, found our nation not unprepared to meet the conflict...

In responding to that presentation I also shared the hope which the envoys had expressed that the maintenance of peace would affirm the humanity and moderation of the United States...

Proposal of an Armistice. Still animated by the hope of a peaceful solution and obeying the dictates of duty, no effort was relaxed to bring about...

By my message of April 25, congress was informed that the cabinet had recommended formal declaration of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Spain...

Due notification of the existence of war as aforesaid was given April 25 by telegraph to all the governments with which the United States maintained relations...

In further fulfillment of international duty, I issued, April 26, a proclamation announcing the treatment proposed to be accorded to the neutral nations...

Our country thus after an interval of 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...

Four battle-ships of the first class, 1 battle-ship of the second class, 2 armored cruisers, 6 coast-defense monitors, 1 armored ram, 12 torpedo-boats, 2 dynamite cruisers, 11 torpedo-boats, 10 old vessels of the old navy, including monitors...

Auxiliary cruisers—28 converted yachts, 27 converted tugs, 1 converted collier, 4 converted light-tug tenders and 10 miscellaneous vessels.

Multiple alarm was felt along the entire Atlantic seaboard lest an attack might be made by the enemy. Every precaution was taken to prevent possible injury to our great cities lying along the coast.

The auxiliary navy was created under the authority of congress, and was officered and manned by the volunteers of the several States.

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disclaims any disposition or intention to disregard sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

Rapture of Negotiations. This resolution was approved by the executive on the next day, April 20. A copy was at once communicated to the Spanish minister...

Simultaneously with its communication to the Spanish minister at Madrid, was telegraphed confirmation of the text of the joint resolution and directed to the Spanish minister at Madrid...

Spain saying that upon the president's approval of the joint resolution the act of an equivalent to an evident declaration of war had ordered its minister in Washington to withdraw...

On April 21 I proclaimed a blockade of the northern coast of Cuba including the ports of Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba...

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...

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the establishment of telegraphic and telephonic facilities at camps at Manila, at Santiago and in Porto Rico...

In Porto Rico, cable communication was opened over a discontinued route, and on land, the purposes of commanding officers were kept in telegraphic and telephonic communication with the division commanders...

The national defense fund of \$50,000,000 was expended in large part by the army and the navy, and the objects for which it was used are fully shown in the reports of the several secretaries...

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Hobson's Heroism.

The next act in the war thrilled not alone the hearts of our countrymen, but the world, by its exceptional heroism...

By June 7 the cutting of the last Cuban cable isolated the island. Thereafter the invasion was vigorously prosecuted...

On June 22 the advance of the invading army under Major-General Shafter landed at Daiquiri, about 15 miles east of Santiago...

On the 24th the first serious engagement took place in which the First and Tenth regiments of the First volunteer cavalry...

Progress of the Conflict.

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...

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25, after a brief assault upon the works by the land forces, in which the squadron assisted, the capital surrendered unconditionally...

Total Casualties. 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, 194; total, 312.

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 60,000 of our troops were engaged in distant lands and engaged in assault and siege and battle and many skirmishes in unfamiliar territory...

The Red Cross. In this connection it is a pleasure for me to make terms of cordial approbation of the timely and generous work of the American National Red Cross...

On August 7, 1898, the date of landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, and 21 days from the surrender of Santiago, the United States troops commenced their march to the interior...

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