

THE MESSAGE.

PRESIDENT IS OPPOSED TO RECOGNITION.

FOR ARMED INTERVENTION.

ASKS CONGRESS TO GRANT ARMED FORCE TO END WAR.

Responsibility for the Maine Horror Remains to be Fixed--Says Recognition of Cubans Would Not Bring Peace--Awaits Action of Congress.

Washington, D. C., April 11.—The president today sent the following message to the congress of the United States:

Obedient to the precept of the constitution which commands the president to give from time to time the congress information of the state of the union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave crisis that has arisen in the relations of the United States to Spain by reason of the warfare that for more than three years has raged in the neighborhood island of Cuba.

IT AFFECTS US.

I do so because of the intimate connection of the Cuban question with the state of our own union, and the grave relation the course which is now incumbent upon the nation to adopt must needs bear to the traditional policy of our government, if it is to accord with the precepts laid down by the founders of the republic and religiously observed by succeeding administrations to the present day. The present revolution is but the successor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous losses to the American trade and commerce, caused irritation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens, and by the exercise of cruel, barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare, shocked the sensibilities and offended the humane sympathies of our people.

A BARBAROUS WARFARE.

Since the present revolution began in February, 1895, this country has seen the fertile domain of our threshold ravaged by fire and sword in the course of a struggle unequalled in the history of the island and rarely paralleled as to the number of combatants and bitterness of the contest by any revolution of modern times where a dependent people, striving to be free, have been opposed by the power of the sovereign state. Our people have beheld a once prosperous community reduced to comparative want, its commerce virtually paralyzed, its exceptional productiveness diminished, its fields laid waste, its mills in ruins and its people perishing by tens of thousands from hunger and starvation. We have found a once peaceful and contented people, in the observance of that strict neutrality which our laws enjoin and which the law of nations watch our own seaports in prevention of any unlawful act in aid of the Cubans.

OUR OWN UNREST.

Our trade has suffered so that the capital invested by our citizens in Cuba has been largely lost and the forbearance of our people has been so severely tried as to beget a perilous unrest among our own citizens, which has inevitably found its expression from time to time in the national legislature, so that the human sympathies to our own body politic engross attention and stand in the way of that close devotion to domestic advancement that becomes a self-contented commonwealth whose primal maxim has been the avoidance of all foreign entanglements. All this must needs awaken concern on the part of this government as well during my predecessor's term as my own.

AN INHUMAN WARFARE.

In April, 1896, the evils from which our country suffers through the Cuban war became so onerous that my predecessor made an effort to bring about a peace through the mediation of this government in any way that might tend to an honorable adjustment of the content between Spain and her revolted subjects. This policy was an effective scheme of self-government for Cuba under the flag and sovereignty of Spain. It failed through the refusal of the Spanish government then in power to consider any form of mediation, or, indeed, any plan of settlement which did not begin with the actual submission of the insurgents to the mother country, and then only on such terms as Spain herself might see fit to grant. The war continued unabated. The resistance of the insurgents was in no wise diminished.

AN INHUMAN POLICY.

The efforts of Spain were increased, both by the dispatch of fresh levies to Cuba and by the addition to the horrors of the strife of a new and inhuman phase happily unprecedented in the modern history of civilized Christian peoples. This policy of concentration and concentration, inaugurated by the Captain General Bando of October 10, 1896, in the province of Pinar del Rio, was thence extended to embrace all of the island to which the power of the Spanish arms was able to reach by occupation or by military operations. The peasantry, including all dwelling in the open agricultural interior, were driven into the garrison towns or isolated places held by the troops. The raising and movement of provisions of all kinds were interdicted. The fields were laid waste, dwellings unroofed and fired, mills destroyed, and, in short, everything that could desolate the land and render it unfit for human habitation or support was commanded by one or the other of the contending powers at their disposal.

By the time the present administration took office a year ago reconcentration—so called—had been made effective over the better part of the four central and western provinces, Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. The agricultural population, to the estimated number of 300,000 or more, was herded within the towns and their immediate vicinages, deprived of the means of support, rendered destitute of shelter, and finally clad and exposed to the most unsanitary conditions.

DEATH RATE INCREASED.

As the scarcity of food increased with the devastation of the depopulated areas of production, destitution and want became misery and starvation. Month by month the death rate increased in an alarming ratio. By March, 1897, according to conservative estimates from official Spanish sources, the mortality among the reconcentrados from starvation and the diseases thereto incident, exceeded 50 per centum of their total number. No practical relief was accorded to the destitute. The overburdened towns, already suffering from the general dearth, could give no aid.

SPANISH CHARITY.

So-called zones of cultivation, established within the immediate area of effective military control about the cities and fortified camps proved illusory as a remedy for the suffering. The unfortunate, being for the most part women and children, with aged and helpless men, enfeebled by disease and hunger could not have tilled the soil, without tools, seed or shelter for their own support or for the supply of the cities. Reconcentration adopted avowedly as a war measure in order to cut off the resources of the insurgents, proved a predestined result. As I said in my message of last December, it was not civilized warfare; it was extermination. The only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave.

Meanwhile the military situation in the island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of the war, when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio and carried havoc and devastation to the walls of the city of Havana itself, had relaxed into a dogged struggle, in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish arms regained a measure of control in Pinar del Rio and parts of Havana, but under the existing conditions of the rural country without immediate intervention for Cuba, their productive situation was thus partially restricted. The revolutionists held their own and their submission, put forward by Spain as the essential and sole basis of peace, seemed as far distant as at the outset. At this state of affairs, my administration found itself confronted with the grave duty of its duty. My messages of last December reviewed the situation and detailed the steps taken with a view of relieving its acuteness and opening the way to some form of honorable settlement.

The assassination of the prime minister, which led to a change of government in Spain. The former administration pledged the subjugation without concession, gave place to that of a more liberal party, committed long in advance to a policy of reform involving the wider principle of honor to Cuba and her people. The overtures of this government came through their own envoy and General Woodford and looking to an immediate and effective amelioration of the condition of the island, although not accepted to the extent of admission of neutrality in any shape or form, met by assurances that home rule in an advanced phase would be forthwith offered to Cuba without waiting for the war to end, and that more humane methods should henceforth prevail in the conduct of hostilities.

Incidentally with these declarations, the new government of Spain continued by its predecessor of testifying friendly regard for this nation by releasing American citizens held under one charge or another connected with the insurrection, so that, by the end of November not a single American citizen remained in a Spanish prison.

While these negotiations were in progress the increasing destitution of the unfortunate reconcentrados and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention. The measure of relief extended to the suffering American citizens among them by the judicious expenditures through the consular agencies of the money appropriated expressly for their relief, was promptly approved May 24, 1897, and a similar scheme of aid to the great body of sufferers. A suggestion to this end was acquiesced in by the Spanish authorities.

FEED SPAIN'S VICTIMS.

On the 24th of December last I caused to be issued an appeal to the American people, inviting contributions in money and kind to the relief of the starving sufferers in Cuba. Following this on the 8th of January by a similar public announcement of the formation of a central Cuban relief committee, with headquarters in New York city, composed of three members, representing the American National Red Cross and the religious and business elements of the community. The efforts of that committee have been untiring and accomplished much. Arrangements for free transportation to Cuba have greatly aided the charitable work. The president of the American Red Cross and the representatives of other contributory organizations have generously visited Cuba and cooperated with the consular general and the local authorities to make effective distribution of the relief collected through the efforts of the central committee. Nearly \$200,000 in money and supplies has already reached the sufferers, and more is forthcoming. The supplies are admitted free of duty and transportation to the interior has been arranged, so that the relief, at first necessarily confined to Havana and the larger cities, is now extended throughout most, if not all, of the towns where suffering exists. Thousands of lives have already been saved. The necessity for a change in the condition of the reconcentrados is recognized by the Spanish government. Within a few days past the orders of General Weyler have been revoked, the reconcentrados are, it is said, to be permitted to return to their homes and aided to resume the self-supporting pursuits of peace; public works have been ordered to give them employment, and a sum

of \$600,000 has been appropriated for their relief.

WHAT THE END MUST BE.

The war in Cuba is of such a nature that, short of subjugation or extermination, a final military victory for either side seems impracticable. The alternative lies in the physical exhaustion of the one or the other, or perhaps of both—a condition which in effect ended the ten years' war by the truce of Zanjon. The prospect of such a protraction and conclusion of the present strife is a contingency hardly to be contemplated with equanimity by the civilized world, the least of all by the United States, affected and injured as we are, deeply and intimately, by its very existence.

HIS DUTY AS HE SEES IT.

Realizing this, it appears to be my duty, in a spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubans, to have so much to lose by the prolongation of the struggle, to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. To this end I submitted, on the 27th ult., as a result of much representation and correspondence, through the United States minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish government looking to an armistice until October 1, for the negotiation of peace, with the good offices of the president.

In addition I asked the immediate revocation of the order of reconcentration, so as to permit the people to return to their homes, to be relieved with provisions and supplies from the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities, so as to afford full relief.

The reply to the Spanish cabinet was received on the night of the 31st ultimo. It offers, as the means to bring about peace in Cuba, to confide the negotiation of the armistice to the powers, inasmuch as the concurrence of that body would be necessary to reach a final result; it being, however, understood that the powers reserved by the constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban parliament does not meet until the first of May next, the Spanish government would not object, for its part, to accept at once a suspension of hostilities, if asked for by the insurgents from the general-in-chief, to whom it would pertain, in such case, to determine the duration and conditions of the armistice.

The propositions submitted by General Woodford and the reply of the form of brief memorandum, the texts of which are before me—and are substantially in the language above given. The function of the Cuban parliament in the matter of "provisional intervention" is not expressed in the Spanish memorandum; but from General Woodford's explanatory reports of preliminary discussions preceding the final conference it is understood that the Spanish government stands ready to give the insurgents full powers to settle the terms of peace with the insurgents, whether by direct negotiations or indirectly by means of legislation does not appear.

With this last overture in the direction of immediate peace and its disappointing reception by Spain, the message was brought to the end of his effort.

In my annual message of December last I said: "Of the untried measures there remain: Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; and intervention to end war by imposing a rational and intervention in favor of one or the other party."

QUOTES GRANT.

I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be criminal aggression. Thereupon, I reviewed these alternatives, in the light of President Grant's measured words, uttered in 1875 when he was asked to sign a guaranty, destructive and cruel barbarities in Cuba, he reached the conclusion that the recognition of the independence of Cuba was impracticable and indefensible; and that the recognition of belligerency was not warranted by the facts according to the tests of public law.

I commented especially upon the latter aspect of the question, pointing out the inconveniences and positive dangers of a recognition of belligerency, which, while adding to the already onerous burden of neutrality within our own jurisdiction, could not in any way extend our influence or effective offices in the territory of hostilities. Nothing has since occurred to change my views in this regard, and I recognize as fully now as then that the issuance of a proclamation of neutrality within our own jurisdiction, could not in any way extend our influence or effective offices in the territory of hostilities. Nothing has since occurred to change my views in this regard, and I recognize as fully now as then that the issuance of a proclamation of neutrality within our own jurisdiction, could not in any way extend our influence or effective offices in the territory of hostilities.

QUESTION OF INTERVENTION.

Turning to the question of intervention at this time, the independence of the present insurgent government in Cuba, we find safe precedents in our history from an early day. They are well summed up in President Jackson's message to congress, December 21, 1826, on the subject of recognition of the independence of Texas. He said: "In all the contentions that have arisen out of the revolutions of France, out of the disputes relating to the crews of Portugal and Spain, out of the separation of the American possessions of both from the European governments, and out of the numerous and constantly recurring struggles for dominion in Spanish America, so wisely consistent with our just principles has been the action of our government that we have, under the most critical circumstances, avoided all censure and encountered no other evil than the production of a more prompt re-arrangement of good will in those against whom we have been, by force of evidence, compelled to decide.

"It has thus made known to the world that the uniform policy and practice of the United States is to avoid all interference in disputes which do not relate to the internal government of other nations, and eventually to recognize the authority of the prevailing party without reference to our particular interests and views or to the merits of the original controversy. But on this, as on every other occasion, safety is to be found in rigid adherence to the principle.

"In the contest between Spain and the revolted colonies we stood aloof and waited not only until the ability of the new states to protect themselves

was fully established, but until the danger of their being again subjugated had entirely passed away. Then, and not until then, were they recognized. Such was our course in regard to Mexico herself.

THE TEXAS PRECEDENT.

It is true that with regard to Texas the civil authority of Mexico has been expelled, its invading army defeated, the chief of the republic himself captured, and all present power to control the newly organized government of today annihilated within its confines. But on the other hand there is, in appearance at least, an immense disparity of physical force on the side of Texas. The Mexican republic under another executive is rallying its forces under a new leader and menacing a fresh invasion to recover its lost domain.

Upon the issue of this threatened invasion, the independence of Texas may be considered as suspended, and were there nothing peculiar in the situation of the United States and Texas, our acknowledgement of its independence at such a crisis should scarcely be regarded as consistent with that prudent reserve with which we have hitherto held ourselves bound to treat all similar questions.

Thereupon Andrew Jackson proceeded to consider the risk that there might be imputed to the United States motives of selfish interests in view of the former claim on our part to the territory of Texas and of the avowed purpose of the Texans in seeking recognition of independence as an incident to the incorporation of Texas in the union; concluding thus: "The course, therefore, seems to dictate that we should still stand aloof and maintain our present attitude, if not until Mexico itself, or one of the great foreign powers shall recognize the independence of the new government, at least until the lapse of time has passed, and the events shall have proved beyond cavil or dispute the ability of the people of that country to maintain their separate sovereignty and to uphold the government constituted by them. Neither of the contending parties can unjustly complain of this course. By pursuing it, we are but carrying out the long established policy of our government, a policy which has secured to us respect and influence abroad and inspired confidence at home."

These are the words of the resolute and patriotic Jackson. They are evidence that the United States, in addition to the test imposed by public law as to the condition of the recognition of independence by a neutral state (to wit, that the revolted state shall "constitute in fact a body politic having a government in substance, as well as name, and possessing the elements of stability and forming de facto, if left to itself, a state among the nations reasonably capable of discharging the duties of state) with the observation that if the measure obtains a successful end then our ends as a peace-loving people will be reached.

RECOGNITION NOT DUE.

If it fails it will only be another justification for our justified action has imputed for our motives in dealing with cases like these, the further condition that recognition of independence is not due to a revolted dependency until the danger of its being again subjugated by the parent state has entirely passed away. This condition, as in fact, applied in the case of Texas. The congress to whom President Jackson referred the question as "one probably leading to war," and therefore a proper subject for that body by whom war alone can be declared, and all the other conditions of the recognition of independence must be furnished, left the matter of the recognition of Texas to the executive, providing merely for sending a diplomatic agent, when the president should be satisfied that the republic of Texas has become "an independent state."

It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection possesses beyond dispute the attributes of statehood which alone can demand the recognition of belligerency by a neutral party. The same requirements must certainly be no less seriously considered when the graver issue of recognizing independence is in question, for no less positive test can be applied to the greater act than to the lesser, while, on the other hand, the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the internal policy of the recognizing state, form important factors when the recognition of belligerency is concerned, are secondary if not rightly eliminable factors when the real question is whether the community claiming recognition is or is not independent beyond peradventure.

OPPOSES RECOGNITION.

Nor from the standpoint of expediency do I think it would be wise or prudent for this government to recognize at the present time the independence of the so-called Cuban republic. Such recognition is not necessary in order to enable the United States to intervene and pacify the island. To commit this country to the recognition of any particular government in Cuba might subject us to embarrassing conditions of international obligation toward the organization so recognized. In case of intervention our conduct would be subjected to the approval or disapproval of such government and we would be required to submit to its direction and assume to it the mere animus of the actively ally of the one party or the other.

As to the first it is not to be forgotten that during the last few months the relation of the United States has virtually been one of friendly intervention in many ways—ways, not so conclusive, but all tending to the exertion of a potential influence toward an ultimate pacific result just and honorable to all interests concerned. The spirit of all our acts hitherto has been an earnest, unselfish desire for peace and prosperity in Cuba, untarnished by differences between us and Spain, and unstained by the blood of American citizens.

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FORCIBLE INTERVENTION.

The forcible intervention of the United States as a neutral to stop the war, according to the large dictates of humanity and following many historical precedents where neighboring states have interfered to check the hopeless sacrifice of life by internecine conflicts beyond their borders, is justifiable on national grounds. It involves, however, hostile constraint upon both the parties to the contest, as well to enforce truce as to guide the eventual settlement. The grounds for such intervention may be briefly summarized as follows:

CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

First—In the cause of humanity and to put an end to the barbarities, bloodshed, starvation and horrible miseries now existing between the warring parties to the conflict are either unable or unwilling to stop or mitigate. It is no answer to say this is all in another country, belonging to another nation and is therefore none of our business. It is especially our duty for it is right at our door.

Second—We owe it to our citizens in Cuba to afford them that protection and indemnity for life and property which no government there can or will afford, and to that end to terminate the conditions that deprive them of legal protection.

Third—The right to intervene may be justified by the very serious injury to the commerce, trade and business of our people and the wanton destruction of property and devastation of the island.

Fourth—And which is of the utmost importance—the present condition of affairs in Cuba is a constant menace to our peace and entails upon this government an enormous expense. With such a conflict waged for years in an island so near us and with which our people have such trade and business relations—where the lives and liberties of our citizens are in constant danger and their property destroyed and themselves ruined—where our trading vessels are liable to seizure and are seized at our very door by warships of a foreign nation, the expedients of filibustering that we are powerless to prevent altogether and the irritating question and entanglements thus arising—all these and others that I need not mention, with the resulting strained relations, are a constant menace to our peace and compel us to keep on a semi-war footing with a nation with which we are at peace.

These elements of danger and disorder already pointed have been strikingly illustrated by a tragic event which has deeply and justly moved the American people. I have already transmitted to congress the report of the naval board of inquiry on the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana during the night of the 15th of February. The destruction of that noble vessel has filled the national heart with inexplicable horror. Two hundred and fifty-eight brave sailors and marines and two officers of our navy, reposing in the quiet security of a friendly harbor, have been hurried to death, grief and want brought to their homes and sorrow to the nation.

AN INTOLERABLE CONDITION.

In any event, the destruction of the Maine, by whatever exterior force, is a patent and impressive proof of a state of things in Cuba that is intolerable. That condition is thus shown to be such that the Spanish government cannot assure safety and security to a vessel of the American navy in the harbor of Havana on a mission of peace, and rightfully there.

Further, referring, in this connection, to recent diplomatic correspondence, a dispatch from our minister to Spain of the 26th ult., contained the statement that the Spanish minister for foreign affairs assures him positively that Spain will do all that the highest honor and justice requires in the matter of the Maine. The reply above referred to of the 1st ult., also contained an expression of the readiness of Spain to submit to an arbitration all the differences which can arise in this matter, which is subsequently explained by the note of the Spanish minister at Washington of the 19th inst., as follows:

"As to the question of fact which springs from the diversity of views from the report of the American and Spanish boards, Spain proposes that the fact be ascertained by an impartial investigation by experts, which decision Spain accepts in advance."

To this I made no reply.

One of the simplest burglar alarms recently patented consists of a metal disk on which is mounted a spring-actuated hammer, which is held open by pressing two metal strips together and inserting them in a crack in the door or window, the hammer descending as soon as the strips are released and exploding a cap or cartridge.

A German inventor has designed a ventilated shoe for summer wear in which the major portion of the upper is cut in thin strips, in which are placed or interwoven cross-strips sewed at each end of the upper, a lining of canvas or other porous and absorbent fabric supporting the strips.

Dinner pails are being fitted with bails which will permit their attachment to the top bar of a bicycle frame, the bail having a circular spring formed on either side close to the pail, with spring braces extending to the cover to prevent a sudden jar or swing.

Umbrellas are prevented from dripping water over the floor when inverted by a neat little rubber device formed of a cone with an opening in the peak which slips over the tip of the umbrella and acts as a cup to catch the water.

THE CUBAN RELIEF TRAIN.

CHEERS GREET ITS PROGRESS THROUGH NEBRASKA.

Plattsmouth Turns Out, and Union, and Nebraska City--Covered with Banners--What It Contained--Four Cars of Meat.

Omaha, Neb., April 10.—The interest and enthusiasm manifested at the depot in Omaha when the Cuban relief train was intensified many fold all along the Missouri Pacific line, while people congregated to witness the passing of the train. The Shifra bordering the track out along Sherman avenue were half a dozen sightseers who frantically waved handkerchiefs and shouted themselves hoarse. The children from the Saratoga school were in a body, and the platform at Oak Chatham station was crowded.

At Druid Hill an even larger number thronged close to the track, and nearly every other car was armed with a flag, which was vigorously waved.

The Lake and Hamilton street viaducts were massed of people and their cheering drowned the rumble of the train. Porches were doctored with from each of whom gave evidence of strong Cuban sympathies by waving handkerchiefs, which could be seen in many instances when the outlines of the waver could be barely discerned.

At Walnut Hill and West Side stations all available space was occupied on both sides of the train for an instant of the two-minute stop at the latter place did the hubbub subside. Not less than 10,000 people turned out to see the train between the upper end of the Omaha yards and the Union Pacific switch at South Omaha, where the passenger which had helped over the train was detached. No stop was made at South Omaha, but 1,500 people elbowed each other there as they shouted their approval.

THE SOLDIERS CHEER IT.

As the train thundered by Fort Crook the soldier boys were out in force and they joined in the greeting that by this time came to be looked for as a matter of course. A brief stop was made to register and when one enthusiastic blue coat yelled, "I wish we were going with you," it was repeated by a chorus of "You bet," and "That's what!"

The train reached Plattsmouth thirty minutes late, owing to the enormous weight that was strung out behind the engine, but Plattsmouth waited patiently, and was represented by an immense delegation at the depot. The Plattsmouth car was speedily given the place at the head of the train, to which it was entitled. Not alone by the 48,000 pounds of provisions provided by the people, but by the beauty and completeness of its decorations. The car was completely covered with banners and bunting. At the top was the banner sent from Omaha and at the bottom another, equally large, bearing the words: "Donated by the citizens of Plattsmouth, Neb."

The intervening space was covered with bunting, and not a square inch of the car was visible. Festoons and rosettes of bunting dotted the space not covered with lettering, and flags were attached wherever such a thing was possible. Enthusiastic photographers and camera flashes were out in force, and one party waxed eloquent because he obtained a ten by twelve picture.

It was at Union that the enthusiasm seemed to reach the limit; the whole population of that town was at the depot. A space had been roped off to keep the little folks from crowding on the track, and there they were lined up striving to outvie their elders as the train rolled in. No sooner had the line of cars come to a standstill than a long banner was produced from somewhere as if by magic, and in less time than it takes to write it that banner was so securely nailed to a car that a team of horses will be required to pull it off. They did not wait to pick out any particular car, and the one that happened to stop in front of the center of the crowd now bears a long white banner, stretching its entire length, and bearing in artistic lettering the following inscription:

"Union's greeting for Cuban's Relief Train. Hurrah for Nebraska, the World-Herald and Free Cuba or Fight."

After the banner had been tightly secured by stanchions and bolts at the edges of the strip, men vied with each other in pushing children and women up to the car to let them drive an additional tack as evidence of their sentiment and patriotism. There were fully forty hammers in the crowd, and it was evident that it meant business from the start. It was breaks out Union can be depended on for several regiments if it turns out troops in proportion to its Cuban enthusiasm.

It was after leaving Plattsmouth that the first sign of trouble appeared, and for a few minutes it looked as though the latest accident would be the straw to break the railway back. The hill out of Plattsmouth is a hard one and before its top was reached the much-vaunted No. 834 began to look like an overrated machine. The fireman shoveled coal until he was black in the face, much deeper than his complexion, and the engineer, Moran, looked correspondingly glum. In spite of all that could be done the speed grew slower and slower until just as the train came almost to a standstill the engine pushed her pilot inch by inch over the brow of the hill and the agony ended.

"Won by an eyelash," said the sporty fireman, while the engineer drew a long breath and remarked: "It's a mighty good thing a sparrow didn't light on that train." It was none too soon, for just then the drops of rain that had been threatening began to fall and the slippery track meant immediate trouble.

At the next stop a telegraphic request was made for another pusher to help over the Nebraska City hill and the Lincoln passenger train, then due at Union, was held back to afford this service. A delay of an hour and a quarter was met with before reaching Nebraska City, to wait for a pile outfit to get out of the way, and the county seat of Otoe county was finally reached at 8:45, two hours and a quarter behind the schedule.