

INDEPENDENT.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 9, 1897.

# OVERCOAT SAMPLES.

We show one hundred and twelve distinct styles of Overcoats ranging in price from four dollars and a quarter to nineteen dollars and a half. The significance of this statement is this—we buy more Overcoats and sell more Overcoats five times over than any one store in the great West. This will account for the fact that our prices are always twenty and in many cases thirty per cent lower than any other house. Our order for one line of Overcoats for this season necessitated seven thousand yards of material and it took the mill five weeks to fill that one order alone. We only show two samples of Overcoat goods in our Catalogue 16, but we issue a special card of Overcoat samples which is sent on request to those wishing to get a better idea of our line. Ask for **Supplementary Card No. 6** if you want to buy an Overcoat at the right price.

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he had a little more and demand the entire government debt against the road or bid it in and run it. The government has been running half the roads for the last five years under and through the courts and has made a success of it.

The president craves economy, but it means a steady increase of expenditures, every congressman will want a public building and will get it too if he has to tear down one to make a place for it.

Almost everybody in the state of Nebraska and thousands in other states have heard of the great Red Ribbon Temperance worker, Col. Geo. B. Skinner, better known as Bishop Skinner. Thousands have been influenced for good by his words and his work. He has now been dead two years and no stone marks his resting place. His estate was bankrupt when he died. We now want to erect a creditable monument over his grave. A fund has been started and an organization effected to accomplish the wish of his many friends. Please send us a dime, a dollar or five dollars as a Christmas present. It seems that every person who knew the Bishop would desire to contribute to his monument. Reply to Miss Emma J. Hedez, secretary and treasurer or to H. W. Hardy, president; Skinner Monument Association. Remittances may be sent also to A. G. Wolfenbarger, president Red Ribbon Club, Lincoln.

Will sell until Saturday night—Mothers Friend boys waists, 50c. ones at 25c. 25c. ones 15c. PAINE & WARREN.

### COMING TO THE FRONT.

J. A. Edgerton's Matter Being Accepted and Printed in the Best Periodicals in the Nation.

During the past week, the Youth's Companion, of Boston, Mass., the greatest young people's paper in America, has accepted one of Mr. Edgerton's poems. The Atlanta Constitution, the greatest literary and newspaper of the South, published one of Mr. Edgerton's pieces in the issue of Sunday, Nov. 28. One of the largest German papers of Chicago accepted one of Mr. Edgerton's longer poems, translated it into German and published it in the first column on the first page of its Sunday issue. The American Illustrated Monthly, of Chicago, of November, published a fine cut, and an extended sketch of the young author in which it described him as "a rising light in the literary field." The National Labor Tribune, The Rocky Mountain News, The World's Advance Thought, The Caucasian and many others have also accepted and published poems from Mr. Edgerton, in the last week or two.

These indicate that the forthcoming book "Voices of the Morning" will be a pronounced success. Every Populist in Nebraska should have a copy of the beautiful little book. Save up a dollar and buy it as a Christmas present for your wife and daughter. Orders should be sent in at once for the holiday trade. Address the INDEPENDENT, Lincoln, Neb.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

### M'KINLEY ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

#### CURRENCY REFORM—CUBA.

Prompt Legislation to Correct Financial Complications Urged—Greenbacks and Gold—Gage's Plans Commended—Grant's Cuban Declaration Quoted—Annexation—Indians.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Following is the President's message to Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth Congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government with many of whose Senators and Representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgement to a beneficent Providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation.

Peace and good will with all the nations of the earth remain unbroken.

A matter of genuine satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most engross us are lifted far above either partisanship, prejudice or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common good and the result of no division of ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of national obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen to whatever party he belongs or to whatever section of the country he may reside.

The extra session of this Congress which closed during July, last, effected important legislation, and, while its full effect has not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value for the time will be required and the people satisfied with its operations and results thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

**Currency Reform Urged.**  
Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of Congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency.

The evil of the present system is found in the great control to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money, that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot be longer heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people, even under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only an expensive charge upon the government, but a dangerous menace to the national credit.

It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government against bond issues for repeated redemption. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the immediate redemption of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their redemption. We have \$900,000,000 of currency which the government by solemn enactment has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold but the government. The banks are not required to redeem in gold. The government is obliged to keep equal with gold all its outstanding currency and coin obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid in every kind of money but gold, and the only means by which the government can with certainty get some more borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most needs it.

If no further legislation is had, and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then Congress should give the Secretary of the Treasury authority to sell bonds at long or short periods, but at a rate of interest than is now authorized by law.

I earnestly recommend as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government that when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed, the gold so received shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold.

This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers the gold and gets it from the government he should not receive back from the government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a non-interest-bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return again to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt.

In my view it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the business of providing all the gold for existing notes secured by taxes. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of the gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government, and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be, with or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped.

The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and save us from future embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration.

I concur with the secretary of the treasury in his recommendation that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the face value of the bonds which they have deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes secured by deposits of such bonds be reduced to one-half of 1 per cent per annum.

I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their needs.

I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of ten dollars and upwards.

If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of Congress, then I shall at once request that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

**The Conflict in Cuba.**  
The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal, pertaining to its foreign relations, concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurgents.

The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose at this time to recall its remarkable increase in character, its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The civilized code of war has been disregarded, on one by the Spaniards and on the other by the Cubans.

The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the American people with the gravest apprehensions as to the course on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure of self-control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of their country.

The offer made by my predecessor in April, 1896, tendering the friendly offices of the government failed. Any mediation on our part was not accepted. In brief, the answer read: "There is no effectual way to pacify Cuba unless it begins with the actual submission of the rebels to the mother." Then only could Spain act in the promised direction of her own motion and after her own plans.

The cruel policy of concentration was instituted February 16, 1896. This policy the late cabinet of Spain justified as a necessary measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the insurgents. It has utterly failed as a war measure. It was not civilized warfare. It was extermination. Against this abuse of the rights of war I have felt constrained on repeated occasions to enter the firm and earnest protest of this government.

**Spain's Recent Promise.**  
The instructions given to our minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon that government (the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cuban people. No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach and indeed precise proposals were withheld to avoid embarrassment to that government. All that was asked or expected was that some safe way might be speedily provided and permanent peace restored. Between the departure of General Woodford, the new envoy, and his arrival in Spain the statesman who had proposed the policy of his country fell by the hand of an assassin, and although the cabinet of the late premier still held office and received from our envoy the proposals he bore, that cabinet gave place within a few days thereafter to a new administration under the leadership of Sagasta.

The reply to our note was received on the 23d day of October. It is in the direction of a better understanding. It appreciates the friendly purposes of this government. It admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba and that its desires for peace are always acceptable. That the present Spanish government is bound by every consideration to a change of policy that should satisfy the United States and pacify Cuba within a reasonable time. To this end Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by this premier, without halting for any consideration of the war, with every judgment leads to peace. The military operations, it is said, will continue, but will be humane and conducted with all regard for private rights, being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba while guarding Spanish sovereignty. This, it is claimed, will result in having Cuba governed by a distinct personality; by a local council or chamber, reserving to Spain the control of the foreign relations, the army and navy and the judicial administration. It suggests that Spain be left free to conduct military operations and grant political reforms, while the United States for its part shall enforce its neutral obligations and cut off the assistance which, it is asserted, the insurgents receive from this country. The supposition of an indefinite prolongation of the war is denied. The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is predicted, and therewithal the disturbance and all occasion for any change of attitude on the part of the United States.

Discussion of the question of international duties and responsibilities of the United States, as Spain understands them, is precluded, and therewithal the disturbance and all occasion for any change of attitude on the part of the United States.

**Spain's Charges Repeated.**  
This charge is without any basis in fact. It could not have been made if Spain had been cognizant of the constant efforts this government has made at the cost of millions by the employment of the administrative machinery of the nation at command to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vessel from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be a sufficient answer. But of this aspect of the Spanish note it is not necessary to speak further now. Firm in the conviction of a wholly performed obligation, due response to this charge has been made in diplomatic issues. Throughout all these horrors and dangers to our own peace this government has never in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to itself the determination of its policy and course according to its own high sense of right and in consonance with the deepest interests and convictions of our own people should the prolongation of the strife so demand.

**The Question of Recognition.**  
Of the untired measures there remain only: Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; and the constant effort to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That by our code of morality would be criminal aggression.

Recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents has been often expressed, as a possible, if not inevitable step, both in regard to the previous ten years' struggle and during the present war. I am not unduly of the spring of 1895 expressed the opinion by concurrent resolution that a condition of this war is that recognition, justifying the recognition of a state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate voted a joint resolution of like import, which however, was not brought to a vote in the House. In the presence of these significant expressions of the sentiment of the legislative branch it behooves the executive to soberly consider the conditions under which so important a measure must needs rest for justification. 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 in its favor.

**President Grant's Views.**  
The wise utterances of President Grant in his memorable message of December 7, 1873, are signally pertinent to the present situation in Cuba, and it may be wholesome now to recall them. At that time a furious conflict had for seven years wasted the neighboring is-land. During all those years an utter disregard of the laws of civilized warfare and of the just demands of humanity, which called forth expressions of condemnation from the nations of Christendom, continued unabated.

At that juncture General Grant uttered these words, which now, as then, sum up the elements of the problem: "A recognition of the independence of Cuba being in my mind impracticable and inadvisable, the question which next presents itself is that of the recognition of belligerent rights in the parties to the conflict."

"Such recognition entails upon the country according to the rights which flow from it difficult and complicated duties, and requires the strict observance of their rights and obligations. It confers the right to attack upon the high seas the vessels of both parties; it would subject the carrying of arms and munitions of war, which now may be transported freely and without interruption, in vessels of the United States, to detention and to possible seizure; it would give rise to most delicate questions, which require the paramount government from responsibility for acts done by the insur-

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