

President's Annual Message.

Devoted Largely to the Spanish War Results Growing Out of it.

Peace Waits Upon Congress

Declaration as to Acquired Territory to be Made After Peace is Permanently Settled

The president devotes a large part of the message to the war—its inception and results. The unpreparedness of this country for hostilities and the grand achievements of the army and navy in the face of difficulties makes the victory stand out as one of the great achievements in our history.

The president insists that full faith shall be kept to the Cubans in the disposition of the island.

The policy of the administration in regard to acquiring territory will find expression in the annual message when the peace treaty is signed.

One effect of the war has been to show the inadequacy of the present standing army and the need for a larger force. The further rehabilitation of the navy, along the lines suggested by Secretary Long, is recommended.

Recent expansion, notably in the acquisition of the Sandwich islands, shows the need of new maritime laws.

Legislation looking to the construction of the Nicaraguan canal is approved.

Aside from the clash with Spain relations with foreign nations are harmonious, and the closer bond of union with Great Britain is a cause for congratulation.

The urgent need of currency legislation is shown, and the president renews his previous recommendations on the subject.

There is a hearty concurrence in the views of cabinet officers as to the needs of the various departments.

TEXT OF MESSAGE

To the Senate and House of Representatives: Notwithstanding the added burdens rendered necessary by the war our people rejoice in a very satisfactory and steadily increasing degree of prosperity, evidenced by the largest volume of business ever reported. Every manufacture has been productive, agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns, labor in the field of industry is better rewarded, revenue legislation passed by the present congress has increased the treasury's receipts to the amount estimated by its authors; the finances of the government have been successfully administered and its credit advanced to the first rank; while its currency has been maintained at the world's highest standard.

Military service under the common flag and for a righteous cause has strengthened the national spirit and served to cement more closely than ever the fraternal bonds between every section of the country.

In my last annual message, every full consideration was given to the question of duty of the government of the United States toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection, as being by far the most important problem with which we were then called upon to deal. I concluded it was honest and due to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations of reform, to which she had become irrevocably committed. Within a few weeks previously she had announced comprehensive plans which were confidently asserted would be efficacious to remedy the evils so deeply affecting our own country, so injurious to the true interests of the mother country, as well as to those of Cuba and so repugnant to the universal sentiment of humanity.

SPANISH PROMISES UNFULFILLED

The ensuing month brought little sign of progress toward the pacification of Cuba. The autonomous administration set up in the capital, and some of the principal cities, appeared not to gain the favor of the inhabitants nor to be able to extend their influence to a large extent of territory held by the insurgents, while the military arm, obviously unable to cope with the still active rebellion, continued many of the most objectionable and offensive policies of the government that had preceded it. No tangible relief was afforded the vast numbers of unhappy reconcentrados.

By the end of December the mortality among them had frightfully increased. Conservative estimates from Spanish sources placed the deaths among these distressed people at over 40 per cent, from the time General Weyler's decree of reconcentration was enforced. With the acquiescence of the Spanish authorities, a scheme was adopted for relief by charitable contributions raised in this country and distributed under the direction of the consular general and the several consuls, by noble and earnest individual effort through the organized agencies of the American Red Cross. Thousands of lives were thus saved, but many thousands more were inaccessible to such forms of aid.

INSTEAD OF JUSTICE PREVAILING

At this juncture, on the 15th of February last, occurred the destruction of the battleship Maine, while rightfully lying in the harbor of Havana, on a mission of international courtesy and good will. A catastrophe, the suspicious nature of which stirred the nation's heart profoundly. It is striking evidence of the posse and sturdy good sense distinguishing our national character that this shocking blow falling upon a generous people, already deeply touched by the preceding events in Cuba, did not move them to an instant desperate resolve to tolerate no longer the existence of a condition of danger and disorder at our doors that made possible such a deed by whomsoever wrought. Yet the instinct of justice prevailed and the nation anxiously awaited the result of the searching investigation at once set on foot. The finding of the naval board of inquiry established that the origin of the explosion was external, by a submarine mine, and only hinted, through lack of positive testimony to fix the responsibility of its authorship.

All these things carried conviction to the most thoughtful, even before the finding of the naval court, that a crisis in our relations with Spain and toward Cuba was at hand. So strong was this belief that it needed but a brief executive suggestion to the congress to receive immediate answer to the duty of making instant provision for the possible and perhaps speedily probable emergency of war, and the remarkable and almost unique spectacle was presented of a unanimous vote of both houses, on the 9th of March appropriating \$50,000,000 for the national defense and for each and every purpose connected therewith, to be expended at the discretion of the president.

Still animated by the hope of a peaceful solution, and obeying the dictates of duty, in effort was made to bring about a speedy ending of the Cuban struggle.

Spain, having denied the demand of the United States and insisted that complete terms of rupture of relations which attends a state of war, the executive power authorized by the resolution, were at once employed by me to meet the enlarged contingency of actual warfare between Spain and the United States. On April 22nd, I proclaimed a blockade of the northern coast of Cuba including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba; and the 23d, I called for volunteers to execute the purpose of the resolution. By my message of April 25, the congress was informed of the situation and I recommended formal declaration of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Spain. The congress, accordingly, voted on the same day the act approved April 25, 1898, declaring the extension of such war, from and including the 21st day of April, and re-elected the provision of the resolution of April 20, directing the president to use all the armed forces of the nation to carry that act into effect. Due notification of the existence of war, as aforesaid, was given April 25, by telegraph to all the governments with which the United States maintain relations, in order that their neutrality might be assured during the war. The various governments responded with proclamations of neutrality, each after its own method. It is not in the least gratifying incidents of the struggle that the obligations of neutrality were impartially discharged by all, often under delicate and difficult circumstances.

Meanwhile, naval demonstrations were made at several exposed points. On May 11, the cruiser Wilmington and torpedo boat Winslow were unsuccessful in an attempt to silence the batteries at Cardenas, a signal Matanzas, Worth Bagley and four seamen falling. These grievous fatalities were, strangely enough, among the very few which occurred during our naval operations in this extraordinary conflict.

Meanwhile, the Spanish naval preparations had been pushed with great vigor. A powerful squad, under Admiral Cervera, which had assembled at the Cape Verde islands before the outbreak of hostilities, had crossed the ocean, and by its erratic movements in the Caribbean sea, delayed our military operations, while baffling the pursuit of our fleets. For some time we were left in the Oregon and Marietta, then near San Francisco of over 14,000 miles, might be surprised by Admiral Cervera's fleet, but their fortunate arrival dispelled these apprehensions and brought the much-needed reinforcements.

Not until Admiral Cervera took refuge in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, about May 9, was it practicable to plan a systematic military attack upon the Antillean possessions of Spain.

With the catastrophe of Santiago Spain's effort upon the ocean virtually ceased. A spasmodic effort toward the end of June to send her Meilleranx fleet under Admiral Camara to relieve Manila was abandoned, the expedition being recalled after it had passed through the Suez canal. The capitulation of Santiago followed. The city was closely besieged by land, while the entrance of our ships into the harbor cut off all relief on that side. After a truce to allow of the removal of non-combatants protracted negotiations continued from July 3 until July 15, then under menace of immediate assault the preliminaries of surrender were agreed upon. On the 17th General Shafter occupied the city. The capitulation embraced the entire eastern end of Cuba. The number of Spanish soldiers surrendered was 22,000, all of whom were subsequently conveyed to Spain at the charge of the United States. The story of this successful campaign is told in the report of the secretary of war, which will be laid before you.

AT PEACE WITH ALL THE WORLD

With the exception of the rupture with Spain the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations has been marked with cordiality and the close of the eventful year finds most of the issues that necessarily arise in the complex relations of a sovereign state—adjusted or presented no serious obstacles to a just and honorable solution by amicable agreement.

ABOUT EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions of this international character are becoming more frequent as the exchanges of commercial countries grow more intimate and varied. Hardly a year passes that this government is not invited to national participation at some important foreign center, but often on too short notice to permit of recourse to congress for power and means to do so. My predecessors have suggested the advisability of providing by a general enactment a standing appropriation for accepting such invitations and for representing this country by a commission. This plan has my cordial approval.

RESTRICTION ON CATTLE EXPORT

I trust the Belgian restriction on the importations of cattle from the United States, originally adopted as a sanitary precaution, will at an early date be modified so as to admit live cattle under due regulation of their slaughter after landing. I am hopeful, too, of a favorable change in the Belgian treatment of our preserved and salted meats. The routes of direct trade between the two countries, not alone for Belgian consumption and Belgian products, but by way of transit to and from other continental states, has been both encouraging and beneficial. No effort will be spared to enlarge its advantages by seeking the removal of needless impediments and by arrangements for increased commercial exchange.

INTEREST IN THE ORIENT

The United States has not been an indifferently spectator of the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese empire, whereby portions of its maritime provinces are passing under control of various European powers; but the prospect that the vast commerce which the energy of our citizens and the necessity of our staple productions for Chinese uses, has built up in those regions may not be prejudiced through any exclusive treatment by the new occupants, has obviated the need of our country becoming an actor in the scene.

RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN

Our relations with Great Britain have continued on the most friendly footing. Assenting to our request, the protection of Americans and their interests in Spanish jurisdiction was assured by the diplomatic and consular representatives of Great Britain, who fulfilled their delicate and arduous trust with tact and zeal, eliciting high commendation. I may be allowed to make fitting allusion to the instance of Mr. Ramsden, her majesty's consul at Santiago de Cuba, whose untimely death, after distinguished service and untiring effort during the siege of that city, was sincerely lamented.

THE HAWAIIAN COMMISSION

Following the further provision of the joint resolutions, I appointed the Hon. Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois, John T. Morgan of Alabama, Robert R. Hitt of Illinois, Sanford B. Dole of Hawaii and Walter F. Gear of Hawaii as commissioners, to confer and recommend to congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian islands as they should deem necessary and proper. The commissioners have fulfilled the mission confided to them, their report will be laid before you at an early day. It is believed that their recommendations will have the earnest consideration due to the magnitude of the responsibility resting upon you to give such shape to the relationship of those mid-Pacific islands to our home union as will benefit both in the highest degree, realizing the aspirations of the community that has cast its lot with us and elected to share our political heritage, while at the time justifying the foresight of those who for three-quarters of a century have looked to the assimilation of Hawaii as a natural and inevitable consummation, in harmony with our needs and in fulfillment of our cherished traditions.

THE CURRENCY

The comptroller states that he does not review in their details the plans for the modifications of the currency and banking systems, which are now the subject of economic and general discussion throughout the country but confines his discussion to the general principles underlying all of them, because they seem to ignore the interests of bank depositors, with whose protection the comptroller is peculiarly charged. He states that those plans which are now most generally discussed may be considered as based upon the following propositions:

"First—That the disproportion between the outstanding currency liabilities of the government payable in gold and the gold held for their redemption should be lessened by a contraction in the amount of these demand currency liabilities.

"Second—That the void in circulation caused by such contraction should be filled by an extension of the circulation of national banks, which circulation, redeemable in gold, is ultimately to depend for its chief security upon a first lien on the commercial assets of the issuing banks."

He states that these assumptions which seem to underlie these plans are these:

"First—That unless we are to have a currency contraction, some radical extension of banknote issue is absolutely necessary to the securing of the proper adjustment of government currency liabilities to its gold reserve, by which adjustment the greater safety of the gold standard is subserved; and,

"Second—That through the radical extension and change in the present form of banknote issue alone is elasticity to be secured in our currency."

It is the belief of the comptroller that the proposed preference of the note holder over the depositor, which is a fundamental basis of all these plans, is not only inherently wrong and unjustified by any grounds of public policy, but that its practical effect upon the present relation of depositors to banks in the smaller communities of the United States would be so revolutionary as to bring about the most injurious conditions in the general business of the country.

THE NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE

The department of agriculture has been active in the past year. Explorers have been sent to many of the countries of the eastern and western hemispheres for seed and plants that may be useful to the United States and with the further view of opening up markets for our surplus products. The forestry division of the department is giving special attention to the treeless regions of our country and is introducing species specially adapted to semi-arid regions. Forest fires which seriously interfere with production especially in irrigated zones are being studied that the losses from this cause may be avoided. The department is inquiring into the use and abuse of water in many states of the west and collating information regarding the laws of the states, the decisions of the courts and the customs of the people in this regard, so that uniformity may be secured. Experiment stations are becoming more effective every year. The annual appropriation of \$750,000 by congress is supplemented by \$400,000 from the states. Nation-wide experiments have been conducted to ascertain the suitability of soil and climate and also for growing sugar beets. The number of sugar factories has been doubled in the past two years and the ability of the United States to produce its own sugar from this source has been clearly demonstrated.

The weather bureau forecast and observation stations have been extended around the Caribbean sea to give early warning of the approach of hurricanes from the south seas to our fleets and merchant marine.

WASHINGTON BIENNIAL

In the year 1900 will occur the centennial anniversary of the founding of the city of Washington for the permanent capital of the government of the United States by authority of an act of congress approved July 16, 1790. In May, 1890, the archives and general office of the federal government were removed to this place. On the 17th of November, 1890, the national congress met here for the first time and assumed exclusive control of the federal district and city. This interesting event assumes all the more significance when we recall the circumstances attending the choosing of the site, the naming of the capital in honor of the father of his country, and the interest taken by him in the adoption of plans for its future development on a magnificent scale.

These original plans have been wrought out with a constant progress and a signal success even beyond anything their framers could have foreseen. The people of the country are justly proud of the distinctive beauty and government of the capital and of the rare instruments of science and education which here find their natural home.

A movement lately inaugurated by the citizens to have the anniversary ceremonies including perhaps the establishment of a handsome permanent memorial to mark so historical an occasion and to give some general favor to the people, has met with general approval on the part of the public. I recommend to the congress the granting of an appropriation for this purpose and the appointment of the committee from its respective bodies. It might also be advisable to authorize the president to appoint a committee from the country at large, which, acting with the congressional and District of Columbia committees, can complete the plans for an appropriate national celebration.

The alien contract law is shown by experience to need some amendment, a measure providing better protection for seamen is proposed, the rightful application of the eight hour law for the benefit of labor and of the principle of arbitration are suggested for consideration of the congress.

The several departmental reports will be laid before you. They give in great detail the conduct of the affairs of the government during the past year and discuss many questions upon which the congress may be called upon to act.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
Executive Mansion, December 8, 1898.

THE FALLING MIGHTY

REPUBLICAN PARTY TOTTERRING TO ITS GRAVE.

The Long Campaign of the Money Power Against the Liberties of the American People Will Meet Final and Complete Defeat.

The Republican party is tottering to its fall. It is unsound in every joint and limb. It no longer draws its sustenance from the source of life and health—the aspirations of the honest hearts of the toilers and producers of the land. It has fallen under the control of the money power, trusts and monopolies. It is manipulated in the interest of the world's pawnbrokers and extortioners. Its future reliance is upon the cohesive power of public plunder supplemented by bootie.

President McKinley on his recent stump tour made lavish but incongruous use of the word "destiny." From the vague generalizations indulged in by the President, what he meant by the term "destiny" is left involved in mystery. The only impression he left upon the mind was that of an undefinable something of unknown dimensions or value.

The use of the term, however, recalls to the mind the events of the last few years and suggests the possibility of the fates working in behalf of a broader liberty, a brighter day, and a glorious future for the toilers of earth. For thirty years the money power has with caution and subtlety made gradual advancement in the work of undermining the liberty and independence of the American people. They long since secured control of the machinery of the two great political parties, and dictated all nominations for the Presidency. The masses of the people steeped in party idolatry were blind to its presence or its purpose, and at each recurring Presidential election donned the yoke prepared for them, and shouted themselves hoarse for the candidates labeled with the name they traditionally followed.

At last, emboldened by success, the money power forgot its caution, made a brutal exhibition of its power, and awoke suspicion in the minds of the people. Grover Cleveland, their servile tool, with brutal instinct, did their bidding blindly and slavishly. Alarmed by the strength of the silver sentiment among Republicans, as shown by the passage of the Sherman law in 1896 by Republican votes alone, the money power resolved in 1892 to make Cleveland President and under his administration deal a final death blow to silver.

The confederated bondholders and bankers of the world had thus far played their game with a strong, steady and cautious hand. Their success in all nations caused visions of a conquered world to riot in their imaginations. The mental intoxication resulting from the confidence with which they were imbued now begot indiscretion and led them to excesses.

The subjugation of the United States was not complete. This was the only obstacle obstructing the path of bondocracy to universal empire—the complete subjugation of all governments and the enslavement of mankind. Heroic measures were determined upon. In the drama to be enacted the President of the United States and the British ministry were each assigned a part. President Cleveland was to use the power and patronage of the Federal Government to wipe from the statutes of the nation all laws recognizing silver as a money metal and to so recast the policy of the Democratic party that henceforth it would be the bulwark of the gold combination in American politics.

The plans were perfected and the work undertaken according to program. President Cleveland called Congress together in extraordinary session and demanded the unconditional repeal of the silver-purchasing act of 1890. He held up all appointments to office and made obedience to his command on the part of Democratic Senators and Congressmen the price of sharing in the fruits of party victory. The Rothschilds raided the United States treasury and extended the gold standard to Austria. The banks of the United States inaugurated a panic that swept a thousand millions of wealth from its rightful owners into the hands of the rich to drive the American people to the support of Cleveland and gold. The commercial press of the country was made to shriek for gold, and a petition in favor of the gold standard was held out for the signatures of American business men at the counters of the principal banks. The British ministry acted its part in closing the mints of India to the free coinage of silver. The business of the country withered and shrunk as the displeasure of the money power spread havoc and ruin on all sides. Under such pressure the American Congress yielded. The Sherman law was repealed and silver no longer remained a money metal at the mints of the United States.

Now the triumph of the money power seemed complete, and the fates or destiny, or call it whatever mystic name you will, stepped in, and what seemed defeat for the people proved to be only the necessary preterition to arouse the American people and quicken the conscience of the nation. Call it destiny, if you please; but the American people will solve the money question, and set the world free from the thralldom of bondocracy.

The plain people in the Democratic party rebelled against Cleveland and rescued the party from the clutches of the gold combination. A million and a half Republicans and Populists united with them on the Chicago platform. These are the forces that are propelling the ship of state into the harbor of destiny.

To hear a Republican President who has repudiated the traditions of his party, trampled upon its platform and dressed the party of Lincoln in the unclean raiments of Clevelandism, counting about destiny as a sickening busleque.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

has repudiated the traditions of his party, trampled upon its platform and dressed the party of Lincoln in the unclean raiments of Clevelandism, counting about destiny as a sickening busleque.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

Flowing with the Other Man's Weifer. There is a phase of the currency swindle now under attempted exploitation which has not been sufficiently illuminated. It is statistical fact, fact beyond the possibility of the least question, that the national banks, considered as a unit, do not possess as their very own one single unencumbered dollar in coin or paper; their combined capitals are locked up in real property and paper securities; every coin or other form of legal-tender money held by the banks of America is specifically the property of their clients, being held by the banks subject to demand check. As a matter of business fact, which every one is supposed to know indeed, considerably over three times as much as the total "cash in hand" is the amount for which they are liable upon demand check, and this of course accentuates our point that the modicum of legal-tender money—gold, silver, greenbacks, silver certificates—which they do hold is not their own money, but is distinctly the property of the depositing clients of the banks.

Well, now, this being so, see what it is that the "financiers" are contemplating: They propose to take this existing legal-tender money—this money "as good as" its basis the majesty of the nation and the combined wealth of all our citizens) can make it, this good money, which does not belong to them—and convert it into interest-bearing bonds against the whole nation.

But, stop! Grasp the fact right here, that they do not propose to buy these bonds, in the rational acceptance of the fact of a sale and purchase; for they do not propose to hand over the money (so to be perverted from its legitimate use) to the nation, to be used as capital, wherewith the nation may create wealth and get the means to eventually redeem those bonds. Oh, no! The nation is to endorse these cunning rogues with some five to six hundred million dollars' worth of property in exchange for "other people's money," and then the nation shall by the proposed contract) destroy the said money.

Do you grasp the peculiar enormity of this proposition in this program of private theft and public plunder?

To cap the operation, How do they propose to meet the checks of their "confiding" constituents when the specific money of the "deposit" contract shall have been thus stolen and destroyed? Simply by promises to pay, which could not possibly be honored if put to adequate test. Ah, well! It is your own fault, fellow-sufferers. "It never troubles the wolf how many the sheep be."—New Time.

Growth of the Trusts.

The question of trusts seems to be a knotty problem for our law makers. The industrial combinations in this country are capitalized at more than \$2,700,000,000. The anti-trust law is openly defied. Only the other day Judge Elbert H. Gary, a leading member of the Illinois bench, went to New York to preside over the destinies of the Federal Steel Company, which was recently incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey, with a capitalization of \$200,000,000. The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court has pronounced the "Railroad Pool" illegal. And yet these vast monopolies not only continue in existence, but their power is multiplying.

In spite of the fact that there is a federal law prohibiting trusts, new ones are being formed every day, and those now in existence have an aggregate capitalization of \$2,702,788,900.

The tendency to concentrate special industries and bring them under the domination of monopolistic corporations gathers force steadily. Almost every branch of the manufacturing business now has its combination, or trust, which controls both output and prices. Competition is crushed out by the big aggregations of capital. The small manufacturer finds that he must either join the combination or go to the wall, and in many cases he does not even have a change to join the combination.

Within the last six months articles of incorporation have been taken out by more than one hundred companies of abnormal capitalization, which are designed to "take over" and concentrate the business of scattered companies in the various fields of industry. And this in the face of the fact that the United States Supreme Court has now pronounced even the railroad combination known as the Joint Traffic Association to be a violation of the federal anti-trust law.

Protection and Expansion Don't Mix.

The beet sugar men and the tobacco manufacturers have formed a combination to besiege Congress for a protective law against admitting goods free of duty from our foreign provinces, Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines. This is the first time that one part of the United States has asked for a protective tariff against another part of our own people. Now let our Legislature memorialize Congress to put a special tax on Louisiana sugar to protect our beet industry and let McKinley ask for protection against the tobacco raisers of North Carolina. Imperialism will raise a whole lot of new questions.

Employment Hunts Labor—in a Horn! President McKinley in his speeches on his Western electioneering tour said that instead of labor hunting employment, employment was hunting labor. Yes, and a job was hunting a man in Chicago last week, but the man died of starvation before the job could find him.—Nonconformist.