

To the Senate and House of Representa- [coupling this demand with announcements of the intentions of this Government as to tives:

Notwithstanding the added burdens ren- the future of the island, in conformity dered necessary by the war, our people re- with the fourth clause of the resolution, joice in a very satisfactory and steadily and giving Spain until noon of April 23 increasing degree of prosperity evidenced to reply.

by the largest volume of business ever re- | The demand, although, as above shown, corded. Manufacture has been produc- officially made known to the Spanish entive, agricultural pursuits have yielded voy here, was not delivered at Madrid. abundant returns, labor in the fields of After the instruction reached Gen, Woodindustry is better rewarded, revenue legis- ford on the morning of April 21, but belation passed by the present Congress has | fore he could present it, the Spanish minincreased the treasury's receipts to the ister of state notified him that upon the amount estimated by its authors, the President's approval of the joint resolufinances of the Government have been tion the Madrid Government, regarding successfully administered, and its credit the act as "equivalent to an evident decadvanced to the first rank, while it has laration of war," had ordered its minisbeen maintained at the world's highest ter in Washington to withdraw, thereby standard. Military service under a com- breaking off diplomatic relations between mon flag and for a righteous cause has the two matrices, and ceasing all official strengthened the national spirit and serv- community in hetween their respective ed to cement more closely than ever the representatives. Gen. Woodford therefraternal bonds between every section of upon dema did his presports and quitted the country. A review of the relations of Madrid the secondary. the United States to other powers, always Seein having this denied the demand

appropriate, is this year of primary impor-tance, in view of the momentous issues compilite form of rupture of relations which have arisen, demanding in one in- which attends a state of war, the execustance the ultimate determination by arms tive powers authorized by the resolution the Congress.

and involving far-reaching consequences were at once used by me to meet the eawhich will require the earnest attention of larged contingency of actual war between Spain and the United States. April 22 I

proclaimed a blockade of the northern Failure of Autonomy in Cuba. In my last annual message very full con- coast of Cuba, and on the 23d I called for sideration was given to the question of the volunteers to execute the purpose of the duty of the Government of the United resolution. By my message of April 25 States toward Spain and the Cuban insur- the Congress was informed of the situarection as being by far the most important tion, and I recommended formal declaraproblem with which we were then called tion of the existence of a state of war beupon to deal. I concluded it was honestly tween the United States and Spain. The due to our friendly relations with Spain | Congress accordingly voted on the same that she should be given a reasonable day that act approved April 25, 1898, dechance to realize her expectations of re- claring the existence of such war, from form to which she had become irrevocably and including the 21st day of April, and re-enacted the provision of the resolution

of April 20, directing the President to use The ensuing month brought little sign of real progress toward the pacification of all the armed forces of the nation to carry that act into effect. Cuba by the autonomous administration. No tangible relief was afforded the vast Due notification of the existence of war

numbers of unhappy reconcentrados, and as aforesaid was given April 25 by teleby the end of December the mortality graph to all the governments with which among them had frightfully increased. the United States maintains relations. With the acquiescence of the Spanish au- In further fulfillment of international thorities a scheme was adopted for relief duty I issued April 26 a proclamation anby charitable contributions raised in this nouncing the treatment proposed to be country. Thousands of lives were thus

of the whole group. The insurgents meanwhile had resumed the active hostilities suspended by the uncompleted truce of December, 1897. Their forces invested Manila from the northern and eastern ide, but were constrained by Admiral Dewey and General Merritt from attempting an assault. It was fitting that whatever was to be done in the way of decisive operations in that quarter should be accomplished by the strong arm of the United States alone.

Following the comprehensive scheme of general attack, powerful forces were assembled at various points on our coast

to invade Cuba and Porto Rico. Meanwhile naval demonstrations were made at several exposed points. May 11 the cruiser Wilmington and torpedo boat Winslow were unsuccessful in an attempt to silence the batteries at Cardenas and Matanzas, Worth, Bagley and four seamen falling.

Meanwhile the Spanish naval preparations had been pushed with great vigor. A powerful squadron 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 bailling the pursuit of our fleets. 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.

Several demonstrations occurred on the coast of Cuba and Porto Rico in preparation for the larger event. On May 13 the North Atlanic squadron shelled San Juan de Porto Rico. On May 30 Commodore Schley's squadron bombarded the forts guarding the mouth of Santiago harbor. Neither attack had any material result.

Hobson's | aring Act.

The next act in the war thrilled not alone the hearts of our countrymen, but the world, by its exceptional heroism. On the night of June 3 Lieutenant Hobson, aided by seven devoted volunteers, blocked the narrow outlet from Santiago harbor by sinking the collier Merrimac in the channel, under a fierce fire from the shore batteries, escaping with their lives as by a miracle, but falling into the hands of the Spaniards. They were subsequently exchanged July 7.

By June 7 the cutting of the last Cuban cable isolated the island. Thereafter the invasion was vigorously prosecuted. On June 10, under a heavy protecting fire, a landing of 60 marines from the Oregon, Marblehead and Yankee, was effected in Guantanamo Bay, where it had been determined to establish a naval station.

This important and esesntial port was taken from the enemy after severe fighting by the marines, who were the first organized force of the United States to, tire campaign by land and sea we did not land in Cuba. The position so won was lose a gun or a flag or a transport ship, held despite desperate atempts to dis- and with the exception of the crew of the accorded to vessels and their cargoes as lodge our forces. By June 16 additional Merrimac not a soldier or sailor was saved, but the war continued on the old to blockade, contraband, the exercise of forces were landed and strongly intrench- taken prisoner. On June 22, the advance of the in vading army under Major General Shafter landed at Baiquiri, about fifteen miles east of Santiago. This was accomplished under great difficulties, but with marvelous dispatch. On June 23 the movement against Santiago was begun. On the 24th the first serious engagement took place, in which the First and Tenth Cavalry and the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, General Young's brigade of General Wheeler's division, participated, losing heavily. By nightfall, however, ground within five miles of Santiago was The advantage was steadily inwon. creased. On July 1 a severe battle took place, our forces gaining the outwork of Santiago; on the 2d El Caney and San Juan were taken after a desperate charge, and the investment of the city was completed. The navy co-operated by shelling the town and coast forts.

therewith the absolute military occupancy | and one company of the signal corps, General Miles left Guantanamo July 21, having nine transports convoyed by the fleet under Captain Higginson, with the Massachusetts (flagship), Dixie, Gloucester, Columbia and Yale, the two latter carrying troops. The expedition landed at Guanica July 25, which port was entered with little opposition. The Major General commanding was subsequently re-enforced by General Schwann's brigade of the Third Army Corps, by General Wilson, with a part of his division, and also by General Brooke, with a part of

> and men. July 27 he entered Ponce, one of the which he thereafter directed operations for the capture of the island.

With the exception of encounters with the enemy at Guayama, Hermigueres, Coamo and Yauco, and an attack on a was prosecuted with great vigor, and by the 12th of August much of the island was in our possession, and the acquisition of the remainder was only a matter of a

short time. The last scene of the war was enacted at Manila, its starting place. Aug. 15, after a brief assault upon the works by the land forces, in which the squadron assisted, the capital surrendered unconditionally. The casualties were comparatively few. By this conquest of the Philippine Islands, virtually accomplished when the Spanish capacity for resistance was destroyed by Admiral Dewey's viciory of the 1st of May, victory was formally sealed. To General Merritt, his officers and men, for their uncomplaining and devoted services, for their gallantry in action, the nation is sincerely grateful. Their long voyage was made with singular success, and the soldierly conduct of the men, most of whom were without

previous experience in the military service, deserves unmeasured praise. Total Casualties of the War,

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, 113; enlisted men wounded, 1.464; total, 1.577. Of the navy: Killed, 17; wounded, 67; died as result of wounds, 1; invalided from service, total, 91.

It will be observed that while our navy was engaged in two great battles and in numerous perilous undertakings in blockades and bombardment, and more than fifty thousand of our troops were transported to distant lands and engaged in assault and siege and battle and many skirmishes in unfamiliar territory, we lost in both arms of the service a total of 1,668 killed and wounded; and in the en-

Aug. 7, forty-six days from the date of

Reid to be the peace commissioners on the part of the United States. Proceeding in due season to Paris, they there met on the 1st of October five commissioners similarly appointed by Spain. The negotiations have made hopeful progress, so that I trust soon to be able to lay a definite treaty of peace before the Senate, with a review of the steps leading to its signature.

I do not discuss at this time the government or the future of the new possessions which will con e to us as the result of the war with Spain. Until the Conhis corps, numbering in all 16,973 officers gress has legislated otherwise, it will be my duty to continue the military governments which have existed since our occumost important ports of the island, from pation and government of the people, sccurity in life and property, and encouragement under a just and beneficent rule. As soon as we are in possession of Cuba and have pacified the island, it will be necessary to give aid and direction to force landed at Cape San Juan, there its people to form a government for them-was no serious resistance. The campaign selves. This should be undertaken at the earliest moment consistent with safety and assured success. Until there is complete tranquillity in the island and a stable government inaugurated military occupation will be continued. .

Relations with Other Countries.

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 sovereign states adjusted or presenting no serious obstacle to a just and honorable solution by amicable agreement.

A long unsettled dispute as to the extended boundary between the Argentine Republic and Chili assumed an acute stage in the early part of the year, and afforded to this government occasion to express the hope that the resort to arbitration, already contemplated by existing conventions between the parties, might prevail despite the grave difficulties arising in its application. I am happy to say | Participation in the Paris Exposition. that arrangements to this end have been perfected.

I have found occasion to approach the Argentine Government with a view to removing differences of rate charges imposed upon the cables of an American orporation in the transmission between Buenos Ayres and the cities of Uruguay and Brazil of through messages passingg from and to the United States. Although the matter is complicated by exclusive concessions by Uruguay and Brazil to its by the several executive departments, foreign companies, there is strong hope that a good understanding will be reached. In this relation I may be permitted to express my sense of the fitness of an inernational agreement whereby the interhange of messages over connecting bles may be regulated on a fair basis of uniformity.

The sympathy of the American people has justly been offered to the ruler and the people of Austria-Hungary by reason of the affliction that has lately befallen them in the assassination of the Empress-Queen of that historic realm.

the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by a practical waterway is to be realized

A convention providing for the revival of the late United States and Chilian claims. ommission and the consideration of claims, which were duly presented to the late commission but not considered, was signed May 24, 1897, and has remained unneted upon by the Senate. The term therein fixed for effeeting the exchange of ratifications having lapsed, the convention fails unless the time be extended by amendment, which I am endeavoring to bring about, with the friendly concurrence of the Chillan Government.

Americ in Interes s in the Orient.

The United States has not been an Indifferent speciator of the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese empire, whereby portions of its maritime provinces are passing under the 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.

In this relation I refer to the communication addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 14th of last June, recommending an appropriation for a commission to study the commercial and industrial conditions in the Chinese empire and repert as to the opportunities for and obstacles to the enlargement of markets in China for the raw products and manufactures of the United States. I cordially urge that the recommendation receive at your hands the consideration which its importance and timeliess merit.

Meanwhile, there may be just ground for disquietude in view of the unrest and revival f the old sentiment of opposition and prejudice to alien people which pervades certain of the Chinese provinces. As in the case of the attacks upon our citizens in Scochuan and at Kutlen in 1885, the United States. minister has been instructed to secure the fullest measure of protection, both local and Imperial, for any menaced American interests, and to demand, in case of lawless injury to person or property, lustant reparation appropriate to the case.

There is now every prospect that the participation of the United States in the universal exposition to be held in Paris in 1900 will be on a scale commensurate with the advanced position held by our products and industries in the world's chief marts. By a provision in the sundry civil appropriation act of July 1, 1898, a sum not to exceed \$650,000 was allotted for the organization of a commission to care for the proper preparation and installation of American exhibits, and for the display of suitable exhibparticularly by the Department of Agriculture, the Fish Commission and the Smithsonian Institution, in the representation of the Government of the United States. Pursuant to that enactment I appointed Ferdinand W. Peck, of Chicago, Commissioner General, with an assistant commissioner general and secretary. Mr. Peek at once proceeded to Paris, where his success in en larging the scope and variety of the United States' exhibit has been most gratifying.

Embargoes on American Products. Negotiations to the same end with Ge-

Pooting without comprehensive plan. No alternative save physical exhaustion of either combatant and therewithal the practical ruin of the island lay in sight.

committed.

Destruction of the Maine.

At this juncture, on the 15th of February last, occurred the destruction of the battleship Maine, while rightfully lying in the harbor of Havana-a catastrophe, the suspicious nature and horror of which stirred the nation's heart profoundly. Yet the instinct of justice prevailed and the 25 for 75,000 additional volunteers. 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 halted through lack of positive testimony to fix the responsibility of its authorship.

All these things carried conviction to the most thoughtful, even before the findings 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. The details of the hurried preparation for the The auxiliary navy patrolled the coast dreaded contingency is told in the reports and performed the duty of a second arm of the Secretaries of War and of the Navy. It is sufficient to say that the outbreak of war, when it did come, found our nation not unprepared to meet the conflict.

Negotiations with Spain.

Still, animated by the hope of a peaceful solution and obeying the dictates of duty, no effort was relaxed to bring about a speedy ending of the Cuban struggle. Negotiations to this object continued actively with the Government of Spain, looking to the immediate conclusion of a six months' armistice in Cuba, with a view to effect the recognition of her people's right to Independence. Negotiations continued for some little time at Madrid, resulting in offers by the Spanish Government which could not but be regarded as inadequate. Grieved and disappointed at this barren outcome of my sincere endeavors to reach a practical solution, I felt it my duty to remit the whole question to the Congress. In the message of April 11. 1898. I reviewed the alternative course of action which I had proposed, concluding that the only one consonant with international policy and compatible with our firmset historical traditions was intervention as a neutral to stop the war and check the hopeless sacrifice of life.

In view of all this, the Congress was asked to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of hostilities between Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government.

Congress Declares War.

The response of the Congress, after nine days of earnest deliberation, during which the almost unanimous sentiment of your body was developed on every point save as to the expediency of coupling the proposed action with a formal recogni-

the right of subjects and the immunity of neutral flags and neutral goods under enemy's flag. A similar proclamation was made by the Spanish Government.

Pr parations for the War.

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. The response to the initial call for 125,000 volunteers was instant and complete, as was also the result of the second call of May ranks of the regular army were increased to the limits provided by the act of April 26. The enlisted force of the navy on the 15th of August, when it reached its maximum, numbered 24,123 men and apprentices. One hundred and three vessels were added to the navy by purchase, one was presented to the Government, one leased and the four vessels of the In-

ternational Navigation Company-the St. Paul, St. Louis, New York and Pariswere chartered. In addition to these the revenue cutters and lighthouse tenders were turned over to the Navy Departont and became temporarily a part of

auxiliary navy. Much alarm was felt along our entire Atlantic seaboard lest some attack might be made by the enemy. Every precaution was taken to prevent possible injury to our great cities lying along the coast. of defense. Under the direction of the chief of engineers submarine mines were placed at the most exposed points. The aggregate number of mines placed was 1.535, at the principal harbors from Maine to California.

The Signal Corps was promptly organized and performed service of most difficult and important character. Its operations during the war covered the electrical connection of all coast fortifications, the establishment of telephonic and telegraphic facilities for the camps at Manila, Santiago and in Porto Rico. There were constructed 300 miles of line at ten | it would be invidious to single out any for great camps, thus facilitating military movements from those points in a manner heretofore unknown in military administration. With a total force of over 1,300 the loss was, by disease in camp and field, officers and men included, only five, The national defense \$50,000,000 fund was expended in large part by the army and navy, and the objects for which it was used are fully shown in the reports

, the several secretaries. This fund, being inadequate to the requirements of equipment and for the conduct of the war, the patriotism of the Congress provided the means in the war revenue act of June 13 by authorizing a 3 per cent. popular loan not to exceed \$400,000,000, and by levying additional imposts and taxes.

Salient Features of the War.

It is not within the province of this nessage to narrate the history of the extraordinary war that followed the Spanish declaration of April 21, but a brief recital of its more salient features is appropriate. The first encounter of the war in point of date took place April 27, when a detachment of the blockading squadron made a reconnaissance in force at Matanzas, shelled the harbor and forts and demolished several new works in construc-

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. Upon the colonial proclamation of neutrality being issued and the customary twenty-four hours' notice being given, it repaired to Mirs Bay, near Hong Kong, whence it proceeded to the Philippine Islands under telegraphed orders to capture or destroy the formidable Spanish fleet then assembled at Manila. At daybreak on the 1st of May the American force entered Manila Bay, and after a few hours' engagement effected the total destruction of the Spanish fleet, consisting of ten warships and a transport, besides capturing the naval station and forts at Cavite, thus annihilating the Spanish naval power in the Pacific Ocean and completely controlling the Bay of Manila, with the ability to take the city of will. Not a life was lost on our ships the wounded only numbering seven, while not a vessel was materially The effect of this remarkable victory upon the spirit of our people and upon the fortunes of the war was instant. A prestige of invincibility thereby attached to our arms, which continued throughout the struggle. Re-enforcements were hurried to Manila under the command of Major General Merritt and firmly established within sight of the capital, which lay helpless before our guns. Cuba and withdraw its forces therefrom. stormi g and capture of the city, and and artillery, two companies of engineers tors of the United States, and Whitelaw

Destruction of Cervera's Fleet.

On the day following this brilliant achievement of our land forces, July 3, occurred the decisive naval combat of the war. The Spanish fleet, attempting to leave the harbor, was met by the American squadron, under command of Commodore Sampson. In less than three, hours all the Spanish ships were destroyed, the two torpedo boats being sunk and the Maria Teresa, Almirante Oquendo, Vizcaya and Cristobal Colon driven ashore. The Spanish admiral and over thirteen hundred men were taken prisoners, while the enemy's loss of life was deplorably large, some 600 perishing. On

our side but one man was killed, on the Brooklyn, and one man seriously wounded. Although our ships were repeatedly struck, not one was seriously injured. Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves, from the commanders to the gunners and the unnamed heroes in the boiler-rooms, each and all contributing toward the achievement of this astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event and the marvelous disproportion of casualties, especial honor. Deserved promotion has rewarded the more conspicuous actorsthe nation's profoundest gratitude is due to all of those brave men who by their skill and devotion in a few short hours crushed the sea power of Spain and wrought a triumph whose decisiveness and far-reaching consequences can scarcely be measured. Nor can we be unmindful of the achievements of our build-

rs, mechanics and artisans for their skill in the construction of our warships. With the catastrophe of Santiago Spain's effort upon the ocean virtually

ceased. A spasmodic effort toward the end of June to send her Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Camara to relieve Manila was abandoned, the expedition being recalled after it had passed through the Suez Canal.

Capitulation of Fantiago.

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, when, 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. The individual valor of officers and soldiers was never more strikingly shown than in the several engagements leading to the surrender of Santiago, while the prompt movements and successive victories won instant and universal applause. To those who gained this complete triumph, which established the ascendency of the United States upon land, as the fight off Santiago had fixed our supremacy on the seas, the earnest and lasting gratitude of the nation is unsparingly due. Nor should we alone remember the gallantry of the living; the dead claim our tears, and our losses by battle and disease must cloud any exultation at the result and teach us to weigh the awful cost of war, however rightful the cause or signal the victory.

the landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, and twenty-one days from the surrender of Santiago, the United States troops commenced embarkation for home, and our entire force was returned to the United States as early as Aug. 24. They were absent from the United States only two months.

It is fitting that I should bear testimony to the patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of greatest exposure, was not required out side of the United States. They did their whole duty and earned the gratitude of the nation. It is my regret that there seems to be no provision for their suitable recognition.

In this connection it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial appreciation the timely and useful work of the American National Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assemblage, and later, under the able and experienced leadership of the President of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba.

In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the Divine Master for His watchful care over us and His safe guidance, for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgment and offers humble prayer for the continuance of His favor.

The annihilation of Admiral Cervera's fleet, followed by the capitulation of Santiago, having brought to the Spanish Government a realizing sense of the hopelessness of continuing a struggle now be coming wholly unequal, it made overtures of peace through the French ambassador. On the 26th of July M. Cambon presented a communication signed by the Duke of Almodovar, the Spanish minister of state, inviting the United States to state the terms upon which it would be willing to make peace. July 30 the terms of this government were announced, substantialy as in the protocol afterward signed. Aug. 19 the Spanish reply, dated Aug. 7, was handed by M. Cambon to the Secretary of State. It accepted unconditionally the terms imposed as to Cuba, Porto Rico and an island of the Ladrones group, but appeared to seek to introduce inadmissible reservations in regard to our demand as to the Philippines.

Signing of the Protocol. Conceiving that discussion on this point

could neither be practicable nor profitable, I directed that in order to avoid misunderstanding the matter should be forthwith closed by proposing the embodiment in a formal protocol of the terms in which the negotiations for peace were to be undertaken. The vague and inexplicit suggestions of the Spanish note could not be accepted, the only reply being to present as a virtual ultimatum a draft of the protocol embodying the precise terms tendered to Spain in our note of July 30, with added stipulations of detail as to the appointment of commissioners to arrange for the evacuation of the Spanish Antilles. On the afternoon of Aug. 12 M. Cambon, as the plenipotentiary of Spain, and the Secretary of State, as the plenipotentiary of the Uni ted States, signed a protocol.

Immediately upon the conclusion of the protocol I issued a proclamation on Aug. 12, suspending hostilities on the part of the United States. Aug. 18 the muster out of 100,000 volunteers, or as near that number as was found to be practicable, was ordered. Dec. 1, 101,165 officers and men had been mustered out and discharged from the service; 9,002 more will be mustered out by the 10th of the month. The military committees to superintend delegates framed for them a federal constitution under the name of the United States the evacuation . . Cuba, Porto Rico and the adjacent islands were forthwith apof Central America and provided for a central federal government and legislature. pointed. For Cuba, Major General Jas. Upon ratification by the constituent States, F. Wade, Rear Admiral William T. the 1st of November last was fixed for the Sampson and Major General Matthew C new system to go into operation. Within a Butler: for Porto Rico, Major General John C. Brooke, Rear Admiral Winfield few weeks thereafter the plan was severely tested by revolutionary movements arising. S. Schley and Brigadier General George with a consequent demand for unity of ac-W. Gordon, who soon afterward met the tion on the part of the military power of Spanish commissioners at Havana and the Federal States to suppress them. Und-San Juan respectively. The Porto Rican this strain the new unloa seems to have been joint commission speedily accomplished | weakened through the withdrawal of its its task, and by Oct. 18 the evacuation more important members. Nicaragua Canal Commission. of the island was completed. The United States flag was raised over the island at The Nicaragua Canal Commission, under noon on that day. The administration the championship of Rear Admiral John G. of its affairs has been provisionally in-Walker, has nearly completed its labors, and trysted to a military governor until the the results of its exhaustive inquiry into the Congress shall otherwise provide. The proper route, the feasibility and the cost of construction of an interoceanic canal by Cuban joint high commission has not yet a Nicaraguan route will be laid before you. terminated its labors. Owing to the diffi-The Government of Nicaragua as one of ulties in the way of removing the large its last sovereign acts before merging its numbers of Spanish troops still in Cuba. powers in those of the newly formed United the evacuation cannot be completed be-States of Central America has granted an fore the 1st of January. optional concession to another association.

The Lattimer Affair.

On the 10th of September, 1897, a conflict took place at Lattimer, Pa., between a body of striking miners and the sheriff of Luzerne County and his deputies, in which twenty-two miners were killed and forty-four wounded, of whom ten of the killed and twelve of the wounded were Austrian and Hungarian subjects. This deplorable event naturally aroused the solicitude of the Austro Hungarian Government, which, on the assumption that the killing and wounding involved the unjustifiable misuse of authority, claimed reparation for the sufferers. Apart from the searching investigation and the percmptory action of the authorities of Pennsyl vania, the Federal Executive took appropriate steps to learn the merits of the case, in order to be in a position to meet the urgent complaint of a friendly power. The sheriff and his deputies, having been indicted for murder, were tried and acquitted after protracted proceedings. A representative of the department of justice attended the trials and reported its course fully. With all the facts in its possession, this Government expects to reach a harmonious understanding on the subject with that of Austria-Hungary.

Despite the brief time allotted for preparation, the exhibits of this country a the Universal Exposition at Brussels in 1897 enjoyed the singular distinction of a larger proportion of awards, having regard to the number and classes of articles entered, than those of other countries.

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 the power and means to do so. My predecessors have suggested the advisability of providing by a general enactment and a standing appropriation for accepting such invitations and for representation of this country by a commission. This plan has my cordial approval.

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 satisfied as to their present and future of hardship and discrimination 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 year's events in Central America deserve more than passing mention. A menacing rupture between Costa Rica and Nicaragua was happily composed by the signature of a convention between the parties, with the concurrence of the Guatemalan representative as a mediator, the act being negotiated and signed on board the United States steamer Alert, then lying in Central American waters.

United States of Central America. In my last annual message the situation

was presented with respect to the diplomatic representation of this Government in Central America, created by the association of Nicaragua, Honduras and Salvador under the title of the Greater Republic of Central America, and the delegation of their inter nal functions to the diet thereof. While the representative character of the diet was recognized by my predecessor and has been confirmed during my administration by receiving its accredited envoy and granting exequaturs to consuls commissioned under its authority, that recognition was qualified

many have been set on foot. Meanwhile no effort has been relaxed to convince the Iniperial Government of the thoroughness of our inspection of pork products for exportation, and it is trusted that the efficient administration of this measure by the Department of Agriculture will be recognized as a guaranty of the healthfulness of the food staples we send abroad to countries where their use is large and necessary.

I transmitted to the Senate Feb. 10 last information touching the prohibition against the importation of fresh fruits from this country, which had then recently been decreed by Germany on the ground of danger of disseminating the San Jose scale insect. This precautionary measure was justified by Germany on the score of the drastle steps taken in several States of the Union against the spread of the pest. Later the prohibition was extended to dried fruits of every kind, but was relaxed so as to apply only to unpeeled fruit and fruit waste. As was to be expected, the alarm reached to other countries, and Switzerland has adopted a similar inhibition. Efforts are in progress to Induce the German and Swiss Governments to relax the prohibition in favor of dried fruits shown to have been cured under circumstances rendering the existence of animal life impossible.

Friendly 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 assumed by the diplomatic and consular representatives of Great Britain, who fulfilled their delicate and arduous trust with tact and zeal, eliciting high commendation.

The long-standing claim of Bernard Campbell for damages for injuries sustained from a violent assault committed against him by military authorities in the Island of Hayti, has been settled by the agreement of that republic to pay him \$10,000 in American gold.

Annexation of Hawaiian Islands. Pending the consideration by the Senate of the treaty signed June 16, 1897, by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawail, providing for the annexation of the Islands, a joint resoluion to accomplish the same purpose by accepting the offered cossion and incorporating he ceded territory into the Union was adopted by the Congress and approved July 7. 1898. I thereupon directed the United States steamer Philadelphia to convey Rear Admiral Miller to Hopolulu, and intrusted to his hands this important legislative act to be delivered to the President of the republic of Hawail, with whom the Admiral and the United States minister were authorized to make appropriate arrangements for transferring the sovereignty of the islands to the United States. This was simply, but impressively, accomplished on the 12th of

August last, by the delivery of a certified copy of the resolutions to President Dole, who thereupon yielded up to the representatives of the Government of the United States the sovereignty and public property of the Hawaiian Islands.

Following the further provision of the Joint resolution, I appointed Shelby M. Culom of Illinois, John T. Morgan of Alabama, Robert R. Hitt of Illinois, Sanford B. Dole of Hawaii and Walter F. Grear of Hawaii as commissioners to confer and recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawsiian Islands as they should deem necessary or proper. The commissioners having fulfilled the mission confided to them, their report will be laid before you at an early

The questions heretofore pending between Hawali and Japan growing out of the alleged mistreatment of Japanese treaty immigrants were, I am pleased to say, adjusted before the act of transfer by the payment of a reasonable indemnity to the Government of Japan.

Under the provisions of the joint respintion the existing customs relations of the y the distinct understanding that the re-Hawaiian Islands with the United States sponsibility of each of the competent soverand with other countries remain unchanged eign republics toward the United States reuntil legislation shall otherwise provide. mained wholly unaffected. A convention of

tion of the Republic of Cuba as the true and lawful government of that islanda proposition which failed of adoptionthe Congress, after conference, April 19, by a vote of 42 to 35 in the Senate and 311 to 6 in the House of Representatives, passed the memorable joint resolution, declaring war.

This resolution was approved by the executive on the next day, April 20. A copy was at once communicated to the Spanish minister at this capital, who forthwith announced that his continuance, in Washington had thereby become impossible, and asked for his passports, which were given him. He thereupon withdrew from Washington, leaving the protection of Spanish interests in the United States | injured. to the French ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian minister. Simultaneously with its communication to the Syanish minister, Gen. Woodford, the American minister at Madrid, was telegraphed confirmation of the text of the joint resolution and directed to communicate it to the Government of Spain, with the formal demand that it at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of

Occupation of Porto Rico.

With the fall of Santiago, the occupation of Porto Rico became the next strategic necessity. General Miles had previously been assigned to organize an expedition for that purpose. Fortunately, he was already at Santiago, where he had arrived the 11th of July, with re-enforce-

Pursuant to the fifth article of the protocol, I appointed William R. Day, lately Only reluctance to cause needless loss ments for General Shafter's army. With Secretary of State: Cushman K. Davis, of life and property prevented the early these troops, consisting of 3,415 infantry William P. Frye and George Gray, Sena-

Controversies with Mexico

The interpretation of certain provisions of he extradition convention of Dec. 11, 1861. has been at various times the occasion of controversy with the Government of Mexico. An acute difference arose in the case of the Mexican demand for the delivery of Jesus Guerrera, who, having led a marauding expedition near the border with the proclaimed purpose of initiating an insurrection against President Dlaz, escaped into Texas. Extradition was refused on the ground that the alleged offense was political in its character, and therefore came within the treaty proviso of non-surrender. The Government of Peru has given the prescribed antification of its intention to ab-

rogate the treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation concluded with this country Aug. 31, 1887. I have invited suggestions by Feru as to the particular provisions it is desired to annul, in the hope of reaching an arrangement whereby the remaining articles may be provisionally saved.

His Majesty, the Czar, having announced his purpose to raise the Imperial Russian mission at this capital to the rank of an embassy, I responded, under the authority conferred by the act of March 3, 1893, by to become effective on the expiration of the commissioning and accrediting the acjual present grant. These circumstances suggest representatives at St. Petersburg in the the urgency of some definite action by the capacity of ambassador extraordinary and Congress at this session if the labors of the plenipotentiary. past are to be utilized and the linking of

The proposal of the Czar for a general re-