PRESIDENT'S CUBAN MESSAGE

Executive Finally Communicates His Views to Congress.

HE RECOMMENDS ARMED INTERVENTION

Asks for Authority to Use the Army and Navy to Establish Peace —Declines to Recognize Insurgents.

(Continued from First Page.)

The only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave.

Meanwhile the military situation in the island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of the war, when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio and carried havoc and destitution up to the walls of the city of Havana itself, had relapsed into a dogged struggle in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish arms regained a measure of control in Pinar del Rio and parts of Havana, but, under the existing conditions of the rural country, without immediate improvement of their productive situation. Even thus partially restricted the revolutionists had their own territory and their submission, put forward by Spain as the essential and sole basis of peace, seemed as far distant as at the outset.

CONFRONTED BY GRAVE PROBLEM.

At this state of affairs my administration found itself confronted with the grave problem of its duty. My message of last December reviewed the situation and detailed the steps taken with a view of relieving its acuteness and opening the way to some form of honorable settlement. The assassination of the prime minister, Canovas, led to a change of government in Spain. The former administration, pledged to subjugation without concession, gave place to that of a more liberal party, committed long in advance to a policy of reform, involving the wider principle of home rule for Cuba and Porto Rico. The overtures of this government, made through its new envoy, General Woodford, and looking to an immediate and effective amelioration of the condition of the island, although not accepted to the extent of admitted mediation in any shape, were met by assurances that home rule in an advanced phase would be forthwith offered to Cuba without waiting for the war to end, and that more humane methods should henceforth prevail in the conduct of hostilities. Incidentally with these declarations the new government of Spain continued and completed the policy already begun by its predecessor of testifying friendly regard for this nation by releasing American citizens held under one charge or another connected with the insurrection, so that, by the end of November, not a single person entitled in any way to our national protection remained in a Spanish prison.

AID FOR SUFFERERS.

While these negotiations were in progress the increasing destitution of the unfortunate reconcentrados and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention. The success which had attended the limited measure of relief extended to the suffering American citizens among them by the judicious expenditure through the consular agencies of the money appropriated expressly for their succor by the joint resolution approved May 24, 1897, prompted the humane extension of a similar scheme of aid to the great body of sufferers. A suggestion to this end was acquiesced in by the Spanish authorities. On the 24th of December last I caused to be issued an appeal to the American people, inviting contributions in money or in kind for the succor of the starving sufferers in Cuba, following this on the 8th of January by a similar public announcement of the formation of a central Cuban relief committee, with headquarters in New York City, composed of three members representing the American National Red Cross and the religious and business elements of the community. The efforts of that committee have been untiring and accomplished much. Arrangements for free transportation to Cuba have greatly aided the charitable work. The president of the American Red Cross and the representatives of other contributory organizations have generously visited Cuba and co-operated with the consul general and the local authorities to make effective distribution of the relief collected through the efforts of the central committee. Nearly $200,000 in money and supplies has already reached the sufferers and more is forthcoming. The supplies are admitted duty free and transportation to the interior has been arranged, so that the relief, at first necessarily confined to Havana and the larger cities, is now extended through most, if not all, of the towns where suffering exists. Thousands of lives have already been saved. The necessity for a change in the condition of the reconcentrados is recognized by the Spanish government. Within a few days past the orders of General Weyler have been revoked, the reconcentrados are, it is said, to be permitted to return to their homes and aided to resume the self-supporting pursuits of peace; public works have been ordered to give them employment and a sum of $600,000 has been appropriated for their relief.

MEANS EXTERMINATION.

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

Realizing this, it appears to be my duty, in a spirit of true friendliness, not less to Spain than to the Cubans who have so much to lose by the prolongation of the struggle, to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. To this end, I submitted, on the 27th ultimo, as a result of much representation and correspondence, through the United States minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish government looking to an armistice until October 1, for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the president. In addition I asked the immediate revocation of the order of reconcentration, so as to permit the people to return to their farms and the needy to be relieved with provisions and supplies from the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities, so as to afford full relief.

The reply of the Spanish cabinet was received on the night of the 31st ultimo. It offers, as the means to bring about peace in Cuba, to confide the preparation thereof to the insular department, inasmuch as the concurrence of that body would be necessary to reach a final result, it being, however, understood that the powers reserved by the constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban Parliament does not meet until the 4th of May next, the Spanish government would not object, for its part, to accept at once a suspension of hostilities, if asked for by the insurgents from the general-in-chief, to whom it would pertain, in such case, to determine the duration and conditions of the armistice.

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

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

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

NO ANNEXATION OF CUBA.

I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be criminal aggression. Thereupon, I reviewed these alternatives, in the light of President Grant's measured words, uttered in 1875, when after seven years of sanguinary, destructive and cruel barbarities in Cuba he reached the conclusion that the recognition of the independence of Cuba was impracticable and indefensible, and that the recognition of belligerence was not warranted by the facts, according to the tests of public law. I commented especially upon the latter aspect of the question, pointing out the inconveniences and positive dangers of a recognition, which, while adding to the already onerous burdens of neutrality within our own jurisdiction, could not in any way extend our influence or effective offices in the territory of hostilities. Nothing has since occurred to change my view in this regard, and I recognize as fully now as then that the issuance of a proclamation of neutrality, by which process the so-called recognition of belligerence is published, could of itself, and unattended by other action, accomplish nothing toward the one end for which we labor, the instant pacification of Cuba and the cessation of hostilities.

RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Turning to the question of intervention at this time, the independence of the present insurgent government in Cuba, we find safe precedents in our history from an early day. They are well summed up in President Jackson's message to congress, December 21, 1826, on the subject of the recognition of the independence of Texas. He said:

"In all the contentions that have arisen out of the revolutions of France, out of the disputes relating to the crews of Portugal and Spain, out of the separation of the American possessions of both from the European governments, and out of the numerous and constantly occurring struggles for domination in Spanish America, so wisely consistent with our just principles has been the action of our government that we have under the most critical circumstances avoided all censure and encountered no other evil than that produced by a transient re-estrangement of good will in those against whom we have been by force of evidence compelled to decide."

It has thus been made known to the world that the uniform policy and practice of the United States is to avoid all interference in disputes of other nations, and eventually to recognize the authority of the prevailing party without reference to our particular interests and views or to the merits of the original controversy. But on this, as on every other occasion, safety is to be found in a rigid adherence to principle.

"In the contest between Spain and the revolted colonies we stood aloof and waited not only until the ability of the new states to protect themselves was fully established but until the danger of their being again subjugated had entirely passed away. Then, and not until then, were they recognized. Such was our course in regard to Mexico itself.

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

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

'MUST BE ABLE TO STAND ALONE.

Thereupon Andrew Jackson proceeded to consider the risk that there might be imputed to the United States' motives of selfish interests in view of the former claim on our part to the territory of Texas and of the avowed purpose of the Texans in seeking recognition of independence as an incident to the incorporation of Texas in the union; concluding thus:

"Prudence, therefore, seems to dictate that we should still stand aloof and maintain our present attitude, if not until Mexico itself, or one of the great foreign powers shall recognize the independence of the new government, at least until the lapse of time or the course of events shall have proved beyond cavil or dispute the ability of the people of that country to maintain their separate sovereignty and to uphold the government constituted by them. Neither of the contending parties can justly complain of this course. By pursuing it, we are but carrying out the long established policy of our government, a policy which has secured to us respect and influence abroad and inspired confidence at home." These are the words of the resolute and patriotic Jackson. They are evidence that the United States, in addition to the test imposed by public law as the condition of the recognition of independence by a neutral state (towit, that the revolted state shall "constitute in fact a body politic having a government in substance as well as name, possessed of the elements of stability and forming de facto, if left to itself, a state among the nations reasonably capable of discharging the duties of state): has imposed for its own governance in dealing with cases like these the further condition that recognition of independent statehood is not due to a revolted dependency until the danger of its being again subjugated by the parent state has entirely passed away. This extreme test was in fact applied in the case of Texas. The congress to whom President Jackson referred the question as "one probably leading to war" and therefore a proper subject for a "previous" understanding with that body, by whom war alone can be declared, and by whom all the provisions for sustaining its perils must be furnished," left the matter of the recognition of Texas to the executive providing merely for sending a diplomatic agent, when the president should be satisfied that the republic of Texas had become "an independent state."

It was so recognized by President Van Buren, who commissioned a charge de affaires March 17, 1837, after Mexico had abandoned an attempt to reconquer the Texan territory and then there was at the time no bona fide contest going on between the insurgent province and its former sovereign.

STATUS OF THE CUBANS.

I said in my message of December last: "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."

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

Nor from the standpoint of expedience do I think it would be wise or prudent for this government to recognize at the present time the independence of the so-called Cuban republic. Such recognition is not necessary in order to enable the United States to intervene and pacify the island. To commit this country to the recognition of any particular government in Cuba might subject us to embarassing conditions of international obligation toward the organization so recognized. In case of intervention our conduct would be subjected to the approval or disapproval of such government and we would be required to submit to its direction and assume to it the mere relation of a friendly ally. When it shall appear hereafter that there is within the island a government capable of performing the duties and discharging the functions of a separate nation, and having as a matter of fact the proper forms and attributes of nationality, such government can be promptly and readily recognized, and the relations and interests of the United States with such nation adjusted.

FORMS OF INTERVENTION.

There remain the alternative forms of intervention to end the war, either as an impartial neutral, by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, or as an active ally of the one party or the other.

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

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

The grounds for such intervention may be briefly summarized as follows:

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

DUTY TO CITIZENS.

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

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

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

TAKES UP MAINE AFFAIR.

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

The naval court of inquiry, which, it is needless to say, commands the unqualified confidence of the government, was unanimous in its conclusion that the destruction of the Maine was caused by an exterior explosion, that of a submarine mine. It did not assume to place the responsibility. That remains to be fixed.

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

Further referring in this connection to recent diplomatic correspondence, a dispatch from our minister to Spain of the 26th ulto. contained the statement that the Spanish minister for foreign affairs assured him positively that Spain will do all that the highest honor and justice requires in the matter of the Maine. The reply above referred to of the 31st ulto. also contained an expression of the readiness of Spain to submit to an arbitration all the differences which can arise in this matter, which is subsequently explained by the note of the Spanish minister at Washington of the 10th inst., as follows:

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

To this I have made no reply.

The long trial has proved that the object for which Spain has waged the war cannot be attained. The fire of insurrection may flame or may smoulder with varying seasons, but it has not been, and it is plain that it cannot be, extinguished by present methods. The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which cannot longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of the endangered American interests, which gives us the right and duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop.

President Grant, in 1875, after discussing the phases of the contest as it then appeared and its hopeless and apparent indefinite prolongation, said:

QUOTES PRESIDENT GRANT.

"In such event I am of the opinion that other nations will be compelled to assume the responsibility which devolves upon them and to seriously consider the only remaining measures possible, mediation and intervention. Owing, perhaps, to the large expanse of water separating the island from the peninsula the contending parties appear to have within themselves no depository of common confidence to suggest wisdom when passion and excitement have their sway, and to assume the part of peacemakers. In this case, in the earlier days of the contest, the good offices of the United States as a mediator were tendered in good faith, without any selfish purpose, in the interest of humanity and in sincere friendship for both parties, but were at the time declined by Spain with the declaration nevertheless that at a future time they would be indispensable. No intimation has been received that in its opinion that time has been reached, and yet the strife continues with all its dread horrors and its injuries to the interests of the United States and of other nations. Each party seems quite capable of working great injury and damage to the other, as well as to all the relations and interests dependent upon the existence of peace in the island, but they seem incapable of reaching any adjustment, and both have thus far failed of achieving any success whereby one party shall possess and control the island to the exclusion of the other. Under the circumstances the agency of others, either by mediation or by intervention, seems to be the only alternative which must sooner or later be invoked for the termination of the strife."

FOR CONGRESS TO SAY.

In view of these facts and these considerations, I ask the congress to authorize and empower the president to take measures to secure a full settlement and termination of hostilities between the government of Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations, ensuring peace and tranquillity and the security of its citizens, as well as our own, and to use the military and naval forces of the United States as may be necessary for these purposes, and in the interest of humanity and to aid in preserving the lives of the starving people of the island, I recommend that the distribution of food and supplies be continued and that an appropriation be made out of the public treasury to supplement the charity of our citizens. The issue is now with the congress. It is a solemn responsibility. I have exhausted every effort to relieve the intolerable condition of affairs which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me by the constitution and the laws, I await your action.

In the last annual message of my immediate predecessor, during the pending struggle, it was said:

TIME FOR INTERVENTION.

"When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurrection has become manifest and it is demonstrated that its sovereignty is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its re-establishment has degenerated into a strife which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge."

In my annual message to congress, December last, speaking to this question, I said:

"The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensible condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain, as well as equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When the time comes that action will be determined in the line of indisputable right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy in the light of the obligation this government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity.

KEEP OUR SKIRTS CLEAR.

"Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense ourselves, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be honorable and enduring. If it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world."

Yesterday and since the preparation of the foregoing message, official information was received by me that the latest decree of the queen regent of Spain directs General Blanco, in order to prepare and facilitate peace, to proclaim a suspension of hostilities, the duration and details of which have not yet been communicated to me. This fact, with every other pertinent consideration, will, I am sure, have your just and careful attention in the solemn deliberations upon which you are about to enter. If this measure attains a successful result, then our aspirations as a Christian, peace-loving people will be realized. If it fails it will be only another justification for our contemplated action. WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

Executive Mansion, April 11.

CUBAN CONSULAR REPORTS

(Continued from Second Page.)

the people are afflicted with it. He also mentioned smallpox and yellow fever as prevailing, and out of 16,000 soldiers recently sent to Manzanillo, nearly 5,000 were in hospitals or quartered on the people.

He says that Dr. Camero, United States sanitary inspector, estimated at that time that there were over 12,000 people sick, not counting those in military hospitals. This is at least 35 per cent of the present population.

Mr. Hyatt adds that quinine, the only remedy of avail, is sold ten times higher than in the United States. He says that steamers coming into the port give out soup once a day to waiting throngs, and that fresh meats sell at from 50 cents to $1 a pound.

On January 1 Mr. Hyatt dealt with the efforts to establish autonomy, saying that the scheme had been pushed with great vigor, "almost or quite to the point of forcing men to join the party when they could not be hired by a minor office. He added:

When here a few days since General Pando sent for Mr. Lora and said: "You have two active and influential brothers in the rebel army. You must go at once to these brothers and tell them to come in and join the autonomists and they will be provided for by me."

Mr. Lora replied: "I ran away from my home to escape joining the insurgents; my brothers chose to join them. I will obey your commands if you desire to sacrifice my life. My brothers would order me shot on the spot if I approached them with your proposition." General Pando withdrew his command.

Enrique Campelles, who was governor of this province some four years ago, returned to the same position about a month since. He has worked with great energy to build up the autonomist party, but he resigned today and took a solemn oath that he would never again set foot on Cuban soil. He declared himself both discouraged and disgusted.

Mr. Hyatt's letter of January 8 is devoted to a discussion of the question as to whether the Cubans will accept autonomy. He says he has taken great pains to inform himself on this question and to eliminate all bias from its discussion. In taking up the question he repeats some of the information given in a previous letter as to the efforts made on the part of Spanish officials to establish this system, and to this adds:

CUBANS WILL NOT SERVE.

Wholesale removals of Spanish officers from civil positions are made by a sweeping order, with instructions to fill their places with Cuban autonomists. Among week since there came an order dismissing every employe of the custom house in this city, to take effect as soon as proper autonomists could be found to fill their places. In many cases where Cubans are anticipating acceptance of an office they have sent to the field to ask permission from officers. It will be seen that Cubans are moving very slow in accepting autonomy.

As yet only two employes of the custom service have been named, the collector and first deputy. Against these a strong remonstrance was at once sent in, so the entire old corps is still in place.

The newly appointed provincial governor, Chavez, has been here for several days, but as yet has not taken charge.

Apparently much of this communication had been eliminated before it was sent to congress. Mr. Hyatt closes it with a statement that numerous dead bodies at the cemetery are carried over from day to day, because the authorities are unable to bury them with their present corps.

On January 12 Mr. Hyatt enclosed a translation of an order issued by General Gomez forbidding the grinding of the sugar crop for the years 1897 and 1898. He adds that in that part of Cuba all idea of making a sugar crop is abandoned, and he says that the stoppage of industries will not halt with this, but that coffee and other agricultural crops fall under the same ban.

Mr. Hyatt also says he had hope that after the revocation of the reconcentration order that no difficulty would be found in reinstating American industries, but that it appears "that all of the benefits that should have accrued to our citizens are thwarted by the action of the insurgents who refuse to allow them to return to their sugar, coffee and other estates."

ESTATES BECOMING WORTHLESS.

He mentions the prohibition on operating the Pompo mines of manganese ore, and instances several sugar estates which are held up, and which he says are becoming more worthless than before.

This letter like several others of Mr. Hyatt's indicates that important parts are omitted. He closed, as usual, with a brief but thrilling description of the condition of the Cubans, saying:

It is beyond my power to describe the situation in eastern Cuba. Squalidity, sickness and death meet one in all places. Beggars throng our doors and stop us on the streets. The dead in large numbers remain over from day to day in the cemeteries unburied.

In his communication of January 25 Mr. Hyatt continues the presentation of this sad feature of existence in Cuba at the present time, saying:

The military situation is completely overshadowed in importance by the starving, struggling people, whose cry is "Bread, or I perish!"

This consulate is besieged to an extent that blocks the entrance and greatly retards business. They have heard that the people of the United States are giving funds for their relief and have not the patience to wait. I could name three Americans here who contribute monthly over $300 toward feeding the poor, but it is as nothing compared to the people's necessities.

Men, women and children, homeless and almost naked, roam the streets by day, begging of everyone they meet, or at every door they pass, and sleeping at night anywhere they can find a place to lie down. If the present death rate should continue there would not be a soul left in the city at the end of five years. For the masses it is speedy help or sure death.

BLANCO PAYS A VISIT.

On January 21 Mr. Hyatt details some of the particulars of the visit of Captain General Blanco to Santiago. He mentions a conversation he had with Colonel Marsh, of General Blanco's staff, and says that the latter, upon leaving, said to him: "I shall at all times be happy to use whatever influence I may have with General Blanco in securing a favorable resolution on any matter you may desire to present him."

As a result of this interview Mr. Hyatt secured a large consignment of medicine then in port. In this communication Mr. Hyatt mentions the destruction of a railroad train by dynamite bombs near Santiago at the time of General Blanco's visit, saying that it was believed that insurgents were responsible for the destruction because they believed General Blanco to be on the train. Two cars were shivered into atoms, five passengers were killed cutright, and twenty-two badly wounded.

Mr. Hyatt writes on February last as follows:

The era of good feeling is passing away, while bitter words and cruel acts are again coming to the front. Those engaged in works of mercy are denounced for their activity by a tribe that ought to be dead, but it cannot be said that there is no excuse for harsh judgment. The stoppage of all agricultural pursuits and the blowing up of cars containing innocent people cannot be justified, even under the guise of war.

Extremists of both sides seem able to dominate the sentiments of their respective parties, while a deep feeling of personal hatred pervades their breasts. General Blanco's mild and humane policy meets with but a feeble response from his own followers, while the insurgents laugh at the old man who throws sods and grass instead of stones.

Autonomy already is a dead issue, while buying insurgent leaders thus far is not a marked success, the insurgent generals having already shot several suspected of venality.

Mr. Hyatt ends this letter by quoting Colonel Marsh, attributing to him the following sentiment:

Spain fails to comprehend that Cuba has, as it were, two mothers—a political one, which is Spain, a commercial one, which is the United States, and the political mother fails to see that the commercial mother has any rights, while the commercial mother cannot shake off her responsibility, for God has made them next door neighbors.

Mr. Hyatt closes this letter as follows: "I do not believe that the western continent has ever witnessed death by starvation equaled to that which exists in eastern Cuba."

GETS HIS FIRST RELIEF.

On February 18 Mr. Hyatt reports the first arrival of relief from the United States, which came in the shape of medicines. The people seemed especially pleased to receive quinine, and he says to nearly every family this medicine was nearly as acceptable as gold. He says that all classes, including the physicians, the church dignitaries, and the women of the city, joined in its distribution among the indigent sick.

He says that with the free use of quinine the death rate of the city fell 20 per cent the first week, and he adds that because of the good effects of this medicine American chemists have received a decided boom, and by all parties its action has been pronounced miraculous. The doctors found after very little experience that it only required about one-fifth of the amount of American medicine to break a fever which had been required of the quinine used before this was received.

On February 26 Mr. Hyatt reported the particulars of the first four days' distribution of food supplies received from the United States. The rations were issued in the court attached to the consulate, the people being admitted by the police through a carriage driveway.

"As I write," he says, "the street is blocked by the hungry throng for nearly a square above and below the entrance. I have requested the police to admit the most delicate and feeble subjects first, as many of them are unable to stand very long in such a crowd."

He estimated at that time that there were 18,000 people in that city needing relief. He says that thirty of the best women of the city divided the city into fifteen districts, issuing ration tickets according to the number of needy persons in each house, a week's rations being issued to each person receiving a ticket. On the first day rations were issued to 379 persons, and for the entire four days under consideration to 3,068. He also gave moderate quantities of the supplies to the charitable institutions of the city and of the towns near by. Six or eight policemen were required to keep the crowds in order.

DESIRE ANNEXATION.

In the last communication of the series from Mr. Hyatt, dated March 24 last, he says:

Property holders, without distinct nationality, with a few exceptions, strongly desire annexation, having little hope of a stable government under the contending forces, and they view with regret the indifference, yea, the repugnance of the American people to such a union and hope still a combination of circumstances will yet bring it about; but such a move would not be popular among the masses.

Referring to the primary election held on the previous Sunday to elect officers to hold an election on the 27th of the same month, Mr. Hyatt says that no one seemed to know anything about it until it was over and the autonomists won the election.

"A member of that party," he says, "told me that they met quietly and did their voting. There is no evidence that the people in general intend to take any part in the coming eletcion. Circulars are now out urging the people to turn out and sustain the government, to the end that peace and prosperity may speedily come."

Mr. Hyatt also states in this communication that some of the sugar estates are now making sugar on a small scale, but that there was no ground for faith in their ability to go ahead.

Mr. Hyatt makes reference to the military operations in eastern Cuba in many places, but does not attempt to go into these in detail. In one portion of his correspondence he refers to the effort of Mr. Rigney, an American sugar planter near Manzanillo, to prepare for cane grinding during the coming season.

"A few nights since," he says, "the insurgents fired seven cannon shots among his buildings, one ball passing through the roof of his house. Americans were hopeful that they would be allowed to make their crop, but the action of the insurgents toward Mr. Rigney gives the problem a doubtful aspect. It may have been a personal matter against Mr. Rigney."

AT SAGUA LA GRANDE.

John F. Jova, vice consul at Sagua la Grande, under date of November 18, 1897, gives his view of the autonomists' policy promised by Spain. He takes strong grounds against it, saying that an autonomist party in that district could not exist. After giving some of his reasons, he says:

Taking all these facts into consideration it is hard to see in what way Spain is going to establish this new system. It will always be without a stable foundation, without a basis, and maintained by a very infirm, insignificant auxiliary.

In the meantime the reconcentrados, a majority of whom were persons who had no more aspirations than to till their little farms, continue perishing. It is impossible to describe the extent and intensity of such tremendous suffering, of such iniquitous, unjust and sinful inquisition, to annihilate thousands of women and children. If this Godless combination could be accurately represented it would seem an exaggerated condition.

Stirred with fellow feeling, with sensibility of heart, moving among the unceasing crowd of famished beggars, one can scarcely do more than commiserate the undeserved misfortunes. No history in the world, ancient or modern, saw an instance of this frightful, dreadful suffering. Perhaps civilization has not seen its like. In conclusion, I beg to state in my humble judgment the efforts toward the enforcement of the reform autonomy will prove altogether futile.

Brooke Has Jurisdiction.

CHICAGO, April 11.—Orders have been received from Washington placing the Chickamauga camping ground under the jurisdiction of General John R. Brooke of the Department of the Lakes.

CUBANS REJECT AN ARMISTICE.

Not Willing to Throw Away Any Advantages.

NEW YORK, April 11.—The following is an extract from a letter written to Consul Barker, United States representative at Santiago de Cuba, by Maximo Gomez, and will be presented to President McKinley, says the Herald, today:

One year ago we received a proposal from Spain to agree to an armistice. We refused then, as we must refuse now. The rainy season will soon be at hand, and Spain's troops would like an armistice until it is over. We shall throw away no advantage. On the other hand I am anxious that hostilities shall cease, but it must be for all time. If Spain agrees to evacuate Cuba, taking her flag with her, I am willing to agree to an armistice to last until October 1, when loyal Cubans shall come into their own.

Please tell President McKinley this for me; tell him, too, that I am writing this at the direction of the Cuban provisional government, with which they may treat directly should they so desire.

SAYS GIBBONS' STORY IS ABSURD.

Spain Made No Contracts for Submarine Mines in England.

MADRID, April 11.—The minister of marine, Admiral Bermejo, characterizes as absurd the story told in London by Joseph P. Gibbons, the English electrical engineer, as to the sale of submarine mines to Spain. The minister says that during the last eighteen months the Spanish government has not contracted with any English firm to lay mines in Havana harbor. He adds that the torpedoes sent to Cuba have not yet been laid in the waters of that island.

A dispatch received here from Manila, capital of the Philippine islands, confirms the report that the United States consul at that place has left Manila. O. F. Williams is the United States consul at Manila, and William A. Daland is the vice consul.

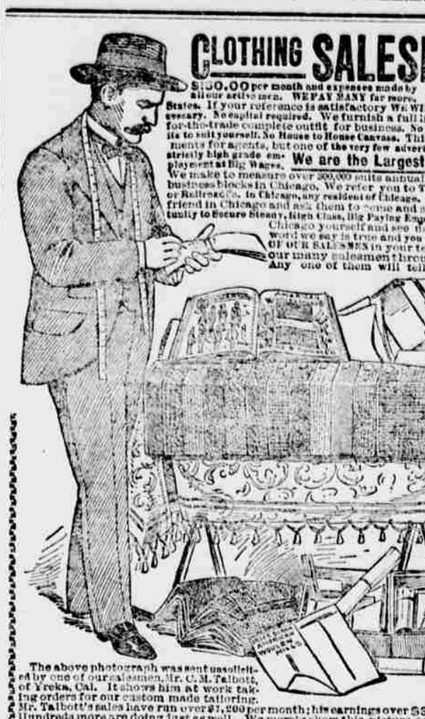
Lively Work at Mare Island.

MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD, Cal., April 11.—The United States vessels now here are rapidly being prepared for use in case of war. The cruiser Charleston is nearly ready to leave the dock. It is the intention of Admiral Kirkland to have it ready for fighting by the end of the present month. On Saturday afternoon the Pensacola was placed in commission with Captain Henry Glass in command. It has only a working crew at present. The reason for placing the ship in commission at this time is that it is to be used as quarters for a large detachment of marines, who will be removed from the marine barracks in order to make room for a temporary hospital. Since the earthquake wrecked the dwellings on Mare Island Captain Glass and several officers have been living on the Pensacola. The task of preparing the Philadelphia for sea is being expedited as fast as the mechanics can go ahead with the work. The work has become so great that the men in the steam engineering department have been ordered to work overtime. All the officers of the Albatross have been detached. It will probably go out of commission.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.



CLOTHING SALESMEN WANTED.

$100.00 per month and expenses made by silent active men. WE PAY MANY far more. We want men in every county in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory We WILL DEPOSIT YOU AT WORK. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor-for-the-trade complete outfit for business. No Commission Plan, you can regulate your profits to suit yourself. No House to House Canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high grade employment at big wages. We are the Largest Tailors-for-the-Trade in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to The Bank of Commerce, or Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a Rare Opportunity to Secure Steady, High Class, Big Paying Employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and be satisfied every word we say is true and you can get steady work and big pay. ENQUIRE OF OUR SALESMEN in your territory how our work pays. We refer to our many salesmen throughout the Union. THEY ALL TALK ALIKE. Any one of them will tell you how profitable, how pleasant, how easy the work is. Work is year one county 300 days in the year, and you can't make less than $3 everyday above all expenses. We want to engage you to take orders for our made-to-order and measure Custom Tailoring Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats. We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county, a business better than a store with $10,000 stock. With us you have no competition. We are the Largest Makers in America of Fine Custom-Made Clothing. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several woolen mills. We operate the most extensive and economic Custom Tailoring plants in existence, thus reducing the price of made-to-order suits to $5.00 and upwards. Pants from $1.50 to $5.00, prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their clothing made to order and measure.

The above photograph was sent us solicited by one of our salesmen, Mr. C. M. Talbott, of Yreka, Cal. It shows him at work taking orders for our custom made tailoring. Mr. Talbott's sales have run over $1,200 per month; his earnings over $300 a month. Hundreds more are doing just as well. We merely show this picture and statement of his business as he chanced to send us this picture. YOU CAN DO THE SAME THING AT ONCE. OUR MEN HAVE NO COMPETITION. We want a man in your county to act as our representative. It costs you nothing to try. We send you free and prepaid a complete outfit, including Sample Book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, your name on rubber stamp, etc. We also furnish you a Salesman's Set Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you have received your big sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully and marked in your selling prices you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from everyone in your town. As your low prices business men, farmers, laborers, and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $20 to $25 per week for easy work. WE WILL DEPOSIT YOU AT WORK. No Money Required. We will make the orders and send them to us, we will make the garments to your measure, and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit, being the difference between our net confidential price to you and the price you sold at. You need not collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit, and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check your full profit for the week. Nearly all our good men get a check from us of at least $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the big book an 1 complete outfit, but as each outfit costs us several dollars to get up, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, AS A GUARANTEE of good faith on the part of every applicant, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us but insures to you mean business. We will refund your $1 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25, which amount you can take the first day you work. Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent to you at once.

GENTLEMEN: Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Big Cloth Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business, ONE DOLLAR and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line