

while ideal anarchists also may condemn it, as they also from their point of view ought to do, the man who believes that a war for liberty is less horrible than the persistent, not to say barbaric, denial of liberty, cannot withhold his approval. If we as a nation believe in liberty, and in the justice of wars waged in behalf of liberty, then we were bound, under the conditions which had been forced upon us, to order Spain to withdraw from Cuba and to enforce the order if need be by our army and navy.

#### DULUTH TAX DODGERS.

Some of the shrewder owners of vacant lots in Duluth have invented and are making the most of a new method of evading local taxes without losing the power which their ownership of the lots gives them of appropriating to themselves in increased land values the pecuniary benefits of Duluth's growth. It must be understood that three kinds of taxes rest upon these lots—state taxes, city taxes and county taxes. State taxes have priority of lien upon the property, so that a sale for delinquent state taxes effects a transfer of the property to the buyer entirely freed from all city and county taxes down to that time. Taking advantage of this fact, the shrewd proprietors in question allow their state taxes to become delinquent; whereupon their property is sold for state taxes, and they buy it for the amount of the state tax for which it is sold. Thus they pay no more to the state as a purchase price at the tax sale than they would have to pay in state taxes if they did not become delinquents; but they thereby free themselves from all accumulated city and county taxes which they would still have to pay, if instead of submitting to the tax sale and buying in they paid their state tax as a tax.

Owners of vacant lots are already sufficiently favored by tax laws without being allowed in this or any other way to defraud those laws. They do nothing whatever for the community in which their property lies in return for the increased value which the lots acquire solely in consequence of the growth of the community. If they were in another land or in the penitentiary their lots would grow in value just the same. Lot values are not in the slightest degree produced by the owners. How absurd, then, not to say dishonest, on the part of the officials of a community to allow the owners of vacant lots to avoid the ut-

most taxes that can be lawfully exacted from them. Especially is this so when escape from the enforcement of such taxes can be prevented.

In the case of the Duluth tax dodgers it probably could be avoided. The city of Duluth would be well paid if at these tax sales it were to overbid the shrewd delinquents, to the extent of their city taxes. If that were done, the delinquents would be obliged either to pay the city its taxes or to let the city buy the property. Should they bid high enough at the sale to cover the city tax, the city would at least recover its due; and if they did not, and the city were obliged to take the property, it could lease it to advantage on ground rent as Chicago leases her school lands.

Possibly the laws of Minnesota would make this plan impracticable; but if they would, some plan should suggest itself to the Duluth authorities by which they could save to the people of that city somewhat at least of the value which those people as a community give without consideration to the owners of vacant lots.

## NEWS

The rebellion against the authority of Spain in the Philippine islands, noted on page 12 of our first number, on page 11 of the second number and on page 11 of the third, promises to make those islands an important battleground of the war between Spain and the United States.

On the 23d the English governor at Hong-Kong, who administers that colony under the cession to Great Britain of 1841, notified the American consul that the American fleet must depart by the afternoon of Monday, the 25th, and ship no warlike stores or coal beyond what might be necessary to carry it to the nearest port. This fleet is under the command of Commodore Dewey. It consists of the cruisers Olympia, Baltimore, Raleigh, Concord and Boston; the gunboat Petrel, and a dispatch boat, a store ship, and a collier. On the day of the British notification, cable dispatches from Hong-Kong reported that the rebels were in control of the Philippines outside of Manilla, the capital, which is situated on Luzon island, and that they had chosen a president and cabinet and hoped to maintain a government after the manner of the Cubans. Two days later the dispatches from the same source told of the expected

departure of the president, whose name is Aguinaldo, from Singapore, on the Malay peninsula to the Philippines, to lead a land attack upon the Spanish at Manilla with 30,000 rebel troops. Meanwhile, Commodore Dewey's fleet had left Hong-Kong for Mirs Bay, about 30 miles to the northeast, whence it sailed on the 27th for Manilla. The ships were at that time cleared for action. On the same day a dispatch to Madrid from the Spanish naval station at Manila announced that the Spanish squadron at the Philippines was moving into position to meet the United States squadron. A battle is expected on the 29th or 30th. The Spanish fleet which defends Manilla is made up of four cruisers—one of wood, two of iron and one of steel—and five small gunboats and a transport.

The president transmitted to congress on the 25th copies of the Spanish correspondence, together with an explanation of the present relations between that country and this; and in view of his having proclaimed a blockade and called out troops, he recommended the adoption of a joint resolution declaring the existence of a state of war. Both houses immediately adopted and the president signed a bill which, first, declared that war exists and "has existed since the 21st day of April, A. D., 1898, including said day, between the United States and the kingdom of Spain;" and, second, directed and empowered the president to use the land and naval forces and to call out the militia to the extent necessary to prosecute that war.

The events of the week culminating thus in a formal declaration of war, began with the president's ultimatum, mentioned on page 7 last week as having been conveyed to Spain. Its text was officially published on the 21st. It advised Minister Woodford of the signing by the president of the congressional resolution printed in full last week on page 7, and directed him to communicate the resolution to the government of Spain, and to make a formal demand from our government that "the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters." The document concluded as follows: "If by the hour of noon on Saturday next, the 23d day of April instant, there is not communicated to this

government by that of Spain a full and satisfactory response to this demand and resolution, whereby the ends of peace in Cuba shall be assured, the president will proceed without further notice to use the power and authority enjoined and conferred upon him by the said joint resolution to such an extent as may be necessary to carry the same into effect."

This ultimatum reached our minister in Madrid late at night on the 20th. Early on the 21st, before he could formally present it to the proper Spanish authority, he received his passports from the Spanish government and an official notification that as the president had "sanctioned a resolution of both houses which, disputing the legitimate authority of Spain and threatening immediate armed intervention in Cuba, is equivalent to an evident declaration of war, his majesty's government has ordered his minister at Washington to retire without loss of time from American territory, with all members of the legation." The notification continued: "Through this fact, the diplomatic relations that have so long existed between the two countries are interrupted, all official communication ceasing between their respective representatives, and I take occasion to communicate the same to your excellency in order that you may adopt on your side dispositions convenient to yourself." This official notification to Woodford was followed by a semi-official note to our government in which the latter was advised that the Spanish fleet was now on its way to meet that of the United States.

The Spanish minister had already withdrawn from this country to Canada, as stated on page 7 last week, and soon after the receipt of his passports Minister Woodford handed over the American legation at Madrid to the British charge d'affaires, who, under instructions from Great Britain, now represents American interests in Spain. Woodford immediately left Madrid, escorted to the railroad station by a strong Spanish guard, and arrived at Paris on the 22d. At Valladolid, on his way to the Spanish frontier, his train was threatened by thousands of excited Spaniards, and the civil guard, which had been deputized by the Spanish government to protect him, were obliged to draw their swords to keep back the

mob. At Tolosa a sergeant of the civil guard, accompanied by a private, boarded the train and demanded the custody of Joaquin Moreno, Woodford's private secretary, as a Spanish subject. Woodford placed himself in the way of the guard and refused to give up his secretary, whereupon the demand was withdrawn.

The blockade mentioned above, in connection with the president's message, was proclaimed by him on the 22d. Reciting the congressional resolution, published on page 7 last week, and his opinion of the necessity of a blockade, the president proclaimed that the United States has ordered and will maintain a blockade from Bahia Honda to Cardenas, on the north coast of Cuba, including all intermediate ports, and of the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast, no vessels to be permitted to enter or leave any of the blockaded ports under penalty of capture. Neutral vessels lying in the port at the time of the proclamation were allowed 30 days in which to leave. An examination of the map of Cuba will show that this blockade closes the ports of Havana and Matanzas, as well as those mentioned in the proclamation, but leaves open the ports to the east, which, it is believed, the insurgents can capture.

Hardly had the blockade been proclaimed than it was established. The American fleet under Capt. Sampson—temporarily raised to the grade of rear admiral—which had been stationed at Key West, arrived at Havana at six o'clock on the afternoon of the 22d. The first seizure of the war, involving the first shot fired, occurred in connection with this movement. It was the capture by the Nashville, on the morning of the 22d, of the Buena Ventura, a Spanish ship, loaded with lumber, cattle and miscellaneous freight, and bound for Rotterdam. She had a crew of 30 men. A shot was first fired by the Nashville across the Buena Ventura's bow, but as she paid no attention to this, continuing on her course, three six-inch shells were thrown directly at her. One struck her forward of the engine-room. This brought her to, and the surrender was soon after completed. She was taken into Key West, the first prize of the war. Later on the same day the New York captured the Spanish merchant steamer Pedro, about 15

miles east of Havana, and in the evening the Ericsson captured a Spanish fishing schooner. The Porter made the fourth capture, that of the Spanish steamer Mathilde. Four more captures were made on the 23d and 24th; and on the 25th the lighthouse tender Mangrove supported by the battleship Indiana, captured the Spanish steamer Panama, loaded with passengers and supplies from New York. Sagasta, the Spanish prime minister, is reported as having denounced the captures made before the declaration of war, as piracy.

Near midnight on the 22d Gen. Blanco appears to have taken violent notice of the hostile demonstrations of our fleet by firing ten shots from Morro Castle, in Havana harbor; but the first firing positively known to have been directed at the American force from the Spanish came from masked batteries at Matanzas on the 25th. They were fired at the torpedo boat Foote, which was taking soundings 300 yards from shore, but went wide of the mark.

A manifesto, however, had been issued by Gen. Blanco, on the 21st, in which he called the Cubans to arms to resist "invasion" by the United States. On the 26th he issued another proclamation, in which, speaking of the United States as having "insolently begged for the island of Cuba," he called upon all movable forces "to drive back this ambitious stranger, who, disregarding reason and right, tries to appropriate to himself this rich flower bed of our crown."

On the 24th the Spanish censor at Havana forbade the going out of further telegraphic correspondence to American papers.

For an hour and three-quarters on the 27th the New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the Spanish forts at Mantanzas.

On the 21st, the day before the blockade, as soon as the Spanish government had declared their intention of regarding the signing of the congressional resolution already referred to and printed in full on page 7 last week, as a virtual declaration of war, Gen. Miles began to consult with Brig. Gens. Nunez and Castillo, Cuban insurgent leaders, with reference to plans of campaign in Cuba; and on the 25th First Lieut. Andrew S. Rowan, of the Nineteenth United States infantry, acting under orders from the war department, was landed

on the Cuban coast, somewhere west of Santiago, on a mission to arrange with the Cuban insurgents for cooperation with the United States troops in an invasion of eastern Cuba.

Though the president so far recognized a state of war as beginning on the 21st, as to proclaim the Cuban blockade on the 22d, he took no further hostile action until the expiration of the time limit mentioned in his ultimatum. This came on the 23d, at noon, and early in the afternoon of that day he signed a call for 125,000 volunteers for two years or the war. So as to avoid unnecessary commotion on Sunday orders to the governors of states were withheld until Monday, the 25th, when they were issued and met with a favorable response from every state. The organized militia of the states began mobilizing on the 26th at their several rendezvous.

The news from Spain has been neither full nor clear, but it indicates excitement and confusion. At the session of the Spanish senate on the 21st, speeches in support of the ministry in its war policy were made, among others, by Gen. Campos and by the leader of the republican party. Both speeches were for war. The whole Spanish cabinet was reported as having on the same day resigned, in order to make it easier for the queen regent to consult leaders of all parties. Most of those she consulted advised, so it was said, the retention of the present cabinet. On the 24th the ministry officially announced the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States and the existence of a state of war, annulling all treaties. It reserved liberty of action as to privateering, gave American ships anchored in Spanish harbors 30 days to depart, declared its intention to respect enemies' merchandise under neutral flags, if not contraband of war, and neutral merchandise, not contraband, under enemy's flags, and to treat non-American vessels committing acts of war as pirates, even if provided with letters of marque by the United States. It also declared Spain's intention of insisting upon the right to search upon the high seas, and accepted the doctrine of the Paris convention of 1856 that a blockade to be obligatory must be maintained with sufficient force to prevent access to the enemy's shore.

Prior to thus putting out Spain's

declaration of war, the Spanish ministry on the 18th issued a memorandum to the European powers, published April 23, offering, first, to submit the Maine question to arbitration; second, to order Gen. Blanco to retire into the western provinces of Cuba and to apply 3,000,000 pesetas—\$600,000—to the relief of the Cubans, and to accept relief from the United States; third, to cooperate with the Havana parliament in adjusting the autonomy of Cuba; and, fourth, as the Havana parliament does not meet until May 4th, to proclaim an immediate armistice. This memorandum was followed by a circular note supplementary to it, which note, after charging the United States with ambition to acquire new territory, predicts that that government will not declare Cuba pacified until the island is ready for annexation. The object of the note is obviously to arouse the powers to intervene for the purpose of checking the alleged disposition of the United States to control the American continent.

In the same direction were the messages of the queen regent to the European sovereigns, reported on the 25th by way of London. In the one received by King Humbert of Italy the queen says that she feels it her duty to address herself to all European sovereigns with reference to the conduct of the United States in spurning Spain's most sacred rights "under the pretext of delivering a people who are faithful to their mother country," and to warn them that in the future the United States will, in similar manner, spurn the sacred rights of other nations. She appeals to the sovereigns to unite in defense of European interests in America.

Hints come of possible uprisings in Spain by the revolutionists and also by the Carlists. Don Carlos, from his hotel in Brussels, made public a declaration on the 21st, in which he said that while reticence was his duty at this crisis, he could not withhold an expression of his conviction that had the Carlists been in power war would have begun two years ago. He refused to say whether his supporters would in all circumstances support the present dynasty against the United States. Don Carlos is the exiled claimant to the Spanish throne. His claim is based upon the Salic law, which limits succession to

the throne to males, and obtained in Spain until 1829, when Ferdinand VII. abolished it by imperial decree. Upon the accession to the throne of Isabella II., Ferdinand's daughter, pursuant to this decree, the Don Carlos of that time, a brother of Ferdinand, attempted to revive the Salic law, which would have given the throne to him. His rebellion, which was suppressed, was the first Carlist movement. A second broke out in the early seventies and was put down by the father of the present infant king.

As to the revolutionary party nothing is known here at the present writing except that upon the occasion of the recovery from illness of Sepor Castelar, the republican leader, about 20,000 Spanish republicans signed an address to him in which they virtually offered him their services if he would proclaim a republic. There are hints also of uprisings of socialists and anarchists, as well as republicans, upon which it is supposed a declaration of martial law may be made.

Meanwhile questions of belligerent methods and neutrality have agitated different countries. In the British house of commons on the 21st, Mr. Balfour, in behalf of the government, stated that notification from the United States had been received announcing that it would not exercise the right to search neutral ships for enemies' contraband goods; and that although no answer had yet been received upon the subject from Spain, the same answer was confidently expected. As to the question of treating coal as contraband of war, Mr. Balfour explained that the government could not lay down the principle that it is contraband under all circumstances, that being a question in each case for the prize courts to determine. The British charge d'affaires at Madrid was instructed on the 21st to urge upon Spain a declaration of her intentions as to the maritime rules of the treaty of Paris of 1856, and in her declaration of war, quoted from above, she did so.

It was announced on the 23d that the United States government had served notice on the Portuguese government, to which the Cape Verde islands belong, that the Spanish war ships must be sent away from St. Vincent at once or be detained there during the war. On the 27th the fleet was reported as still at St. Vincent, but cable advices to Washington on the 26th were to the effect that it was

preparing to quit in response to orders from the Portuguese government.

The president on the 26th proclaimed the attitude of the United States as to belligerent rights. There are six clauses in his proclamation, which are in substance as follows: (1) Neutral flag protects enemy's goods, if not contraband; (2) neutral goods, if not contraband, are protected by enemy's flags; (3) blockades must be effective to be binding; (4) Spanish merchant ships in American ports have until May 21, 1898, for loading and departing, and are to continue their voyage in safety; provided, however, that they contain no military or naval officers or contraband goods; (5) Spanish merchant vessels having departed from a foreign port to the United States prior to April 21, 1898, may enter the United States, discharge cargo, and safely depart to any port not blockaded; (6) the right of search is to be exercised with strict regard for the rights of neutrals, and mail steamers are not to be interfered with, except on strong suspicion.

Great Britain having issued a proclamation of neutrality, ordered the torpedo boat Somers, recently bought by the United States, to be taken out of British jurisdiction by the 25th, and the United States government has in consequence decided to leave her there during the war. In some quarters it is considered that the apparent strictness of Great Britain, as to the Somers and as to the fleet at Hong-Kong—spoken of above—are in accordance with prearrangements with the United States, so that England may consistently act in sympathy with this country if other countries show favors to Spain.

In newspaper interviews had during the week the consuls general to the United States from Ecuador, Nicaragua, Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and San Domingo, declare that their countrymen sympathize with Spain, but that their governments will observe strict neutrality.

The Irish national parliamentary party held a special meeting in the house of commons on the 26th, and on motion of Dillon, seconded by Davitt, passed a resolution tendering "its warmest sympathy and good wishes to the government and people

of the United States in their humane efforts to liberate the people of Cuba."

The Mangrove was reported as having just left Key West on the 22d with a complete cable laying and cutting outfit for the purpose of cutting the cable between Cuba and Spain. This report led to an inquiry of the ministry in the British house of commons on the 26th, respecting interference with cables. Mr. Balfour, in reply, expressed the British view to be that belligerents, on grounds of military exigencies, would be justified in interfering with the cables between the territory of an opposing power and another part of the world.

A majority of the investigating committee of the Ohio senate have reported that an attempt was made last winter to bribe John C. Otis, a member of the house, to vote for Marcus A. Hanna for United States senator; that Henry H. Boyce was the principal offender, and that Maj. E. G. Rathbone and Maj. Charles F. Dick—the latter being Mr. Hanna's secretary—procured, aided and abetted Boyce to commit the crime. Senator Garfield presented a minority report to the effect that no competent or credible testimony confirmed any portion of the charge that Mr. Hanna either directly or indirectly offered Otis money for his vote.

### IN CONGRESS.

Week ending April 27, 1898.

#### Senate.

The sundry civil appropriation bill, which had been under consideration for two weeks, was passed on the 21st, and on the same day the naval appropriation bill was taken up and passed. Pending the consideration of the latter a resolution was adopted enabling the president in his discretion to impose and to raise an embargo on coal and other war materials. The house bill for the organization of the volunteer army was then amended and passed. A resolution was adopted to restore Nellie Grant Sartoris to American citizenship.

In secret session on the 22d, the report of the conferees of the two houses on the volunteer army bill was agreed to. No business was done in open session except to arrange for the funeral of Senator Walthall, of Mississippi, who died on the 21st.

The session on the 23, which lasted only from 12 to 12:43, was devoted

entirely to the funeral services of Senator Walthall.

On the 25th the house bill declaring war with Spain reached the senate in the middle of the afternoon, after the reading of the president's message on the same subject, and at a secret session was adopted.

Only routine business, interspersed with desultory debate, was done on the 26th, and on the 27th the session was unimportant and brief.

#### House.

On the 21st the joint resolution to enable the president to prohibit the exportation of coal and other war material was passed. Two resolutions calling upon the president for information were adopted. One asked for the correspondence between Gen. Lee and the state department since May 1, 1896, if not incompatible with public interests, and the other asked what steps, if any, had been taken to protect the lives and property of Americans left by the American consul at Matanzas. The resolution to restore Nellie Grant Sartoris to American citizenship was passed.

The report of the conferees on the volunteer army bill was received informally and adopted without debate on the 22d. The conferees had reached an agreement with the senate lessening the term of volunteer enlistment from three years, as originally proposed by the house, to two years. The contested election case of Patterson against Carmack was then disposed of the minority report in favor of Carmack, the sitting member, being carried over the majority report by a vote of 139 to 120, to the manifest gratification of the democrats. Carmack is the democratic member from the Memphis district of Tennessee. The house adjourned early in the day out of respect to the memory of Senator Walthall.

The war revenue measure was introduced on the 23d by Chairman Dingley, of the ways and means committee. As reported, it puts no tax upon tea or coffee, but it is calculated to raise from fermented liquors, \$35,000,000; from tobacco, \$15,000,000; from cigars, \$5,000,000; from tobacco licenses, \$5,000,000; from stamps on documents, checks, telegrams, etc., \$30,000,000, and from minor taxes enough to bring the aggregate up to about \$100,000,000 per annum. The tax on beer and fermented liquors is put at two dollars a barrel, that on tobacco and snuff at 12 cents a pound, that on cigars at from two to four