

hatchet and an angry parent was responsible for Senor Galvez's confusion.

NEWS

Preliminary steps to a declaration of war with Spain were taken on the 13th by the passage by the house of representatives of a joint resolution, subject to adoption by the senate and approval by the president, which recites the three years' futile war of Spain against the revolutionists—describing it as having been conducted by "inhuman and uncivilized" methods, "contrary to the laws of nations," causing "the death by starvation of more than 200,000 innocent noncombatants," "for the most part helpless women and children," and as inflicting intolerable injury upon the interests of the United States, culminating in the destruction of the *Maine* and her men—and which therefore not only authorizes but directs the president "to intervene at once to stop the war in Cuba, to the end and with the purpose of securing permanent peace and order there and establishing by the free action of the people thereof, a stable and independent government of their own," and to use the land and naval forces of the United States to execute this purpose.

This resolution had been reported by the republican members of the house committee on foreign affairs. The democratic members of that committee, supported by the silver republican, Mr. Newlands, offered as a substitute a joint resolution, which, without preamble, declared that "the United States government hereby recognizes the independence of the Republic of Cuba;" and, upon considerations "of humanity, of interest, and of provocation, among which are the deliberate mooring of our battleship, the *Maine*, over a submarine mine, and its destruction in the harbor of Havana," directed the president "to employ immediately the land and naval forces of the United States in aiding the republic of Cuba to maintain the independence hereby recognized." Provision was made also for the relief of starving Cubans.

The essential difference between the two resolutions was the omission from that offered by the republicans of any recognition whatever of the present republic of Cuba, and the distinct recognition in that offered by the democrats of the independence of that republic.

Only 20 minutes on each side for debate was allowed by the republican majority in the house, their insistence being that this was a time for action and not for talk. Upon the roll call 190 votes, all from republicans, were cast against the substitute resolution, which recognized the present Cuban republic, and only 147 votes—including three republicans, three silver republicans, 21 populists and fusionists and 120 democrats—for the substitute. The substitute was accordingly lost. The vote was then taken upon the resolution offered by the majority of the committee, that which proposed war without recognizing the Cuban republic. This was adopted by 322 to 19. Among the 19 who voted against it were a few who opposed both resolutions; but nearly all who voted in the negative on this resolution had voted in the affirmative on the other, thus showing that they favored war for the recognition of the Cuban republic, but not for the recognition of some Cuban government as yet unformed. Jerry Simpson, the populist, was among the latter.

In the senate the resolutions reported by the republican majority of the committee on foreign relations, after reciting "the abhorrent conditions" in Cuba which "have shocked the moral sense of the people," been "a disgrace to civilization," and culminated "in the destruction of a United States battleship with 266 of its officers and crew while on a friendly visit to the harbor of Havana," and "cannot longer be endured," declare, first, that "the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent;" second, that the United States demands the relinquishment by Spain of her government in the island and the withdrawal of her land and naval forces; and, third, that the president is directed and empowered to use the army, the navy and the militia to carry the resolutions into effect.

A minority of the senate committee concurred in the report of the majority, except that they favored "the immediate recognition of the republic of Cuba."

Thus the point of difference between the republicans and the democrats in the senate as well as in the house, related to the question of recognizing the present republic, the democrats favoring and the republicans opposing such recognition.

The foregoing proceedings in both houses were the response of congress

to the president's message on the Cuban question.

President McKinley's message on the Cuban question, anxiously awaited and long deferred, was sent to congress on Monday, the 11th.

After minute recitals of the horrible condition of affairs in Cuba, the message sets forth the president's conclusion that a military victory for either the Spanish or the insurgents, short of subjection or extermination, is impracticable; and it describes his submission, in consequence of this—as an act of friendliness no less to Spain than to the Cubans—of a proposition to the Spanish government, on the 27th of March, "looking to an armistice until October 1st, for the negotiation of peace, with the good offices of the president." It tells also of his having asked at that time for the immediate revocation of the inhuman reconcentrado order promulgated by Weyler, a request which was granted. Continuing, the message informs congress that in reply to the president's proposition, the Spanish cabinet offered, on the 31st of March, to submit the question of peace to the Havana government—the so-called "autonomist" congress of Cuba, which meets on the 4th of May next—and expressed a willingness to accept at once a suspension of hostilities provided it were asked for by the insurgents.

Such seems to have been the sum and substance of the diplomatic negotiations between this country and Spain. No recital appears in the message, at any rate, of any proposition looking to the independence of the island.

Describing Spain's reply to his proposition as disappointing, the president proceeds in his message to specify three measures for a pacification which remain untried. The first of these is recognition of Cuban belligerency. But he regards that, without other action, as incapable of accomplishing anything toward pacification, and as in itself unwarranted by the facts. Recognition of independence, the second measure, is also, upon the authority of American precedents cited in the message, and as matter of expediency, condemned. The third measure he presents in alternative form, as intervention "to end the war, either as an impartial neutral by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, or as the active ally of the one party or the other." He advocates the former alternative, that of intervention to enforce a compro-

mise, which involves, as he says, "hostile constraint upon both the parties to the contest, as well to enforce a truce as to guide the eventual settlement."

The grounds upon which the president rests his position are four in number. He holds, first, that it is our duty so to intervene, the contest being at our own door, in order to put an end to the barbarities and bloodshed existing in Cuba; second, that we owe such intervention to our own citizens in Cuba whose lives and property are endangered by the present conditions; third, that it is necessary in the interest of our commerce. His fourth ground, which he regards as of the utmost importance, is that the present condition of affairs in Cuba is a constant menace to our people and our peace, and entails upon this government enormous expense to maintain neutrality, while compelling our country to keep on a semi-war footing. In this connection he refers feelingly to the destruction of the Maine and the death of her men, and announces the Spanish offer to arbitrate that issue, an offer to which he says he has made no reply, and regarding which he makes no recommendation.

The message closes with an expression of the president's belief that "the object for which Spain has waged the war cannot be attained," and that "the only hope of relief and repose from a condition which cannot be longer endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba." To that end he asks congress "to authorize and empower the president to take measures to secure a full and speedy 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, insuring 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." A request is also made for additional appropriations to relieve the starving Cubans.

The Spanish situation up to the appearance of the president's message may be summarized as follows:

The diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy called upon the president in a body, on the 7th, and in the name of their respective governments presented a note appealing

to the "feelings of humanity and moderation of the president and the American people in their existing differences with Spain," and expressing the hope "that further negotiations will lead to an agreement which, while securing the maintenance of peace, will afford all necessary guarantees for the reestablishment of order in Cuba." This note had been submitted to the assistant secretary of state, Judge Day, in advance, and he had prepared and submitted the president's reply, also in advance. In his reply the president, after expressing his recognition of the good will which had prompted the note, and giving assurances that the United States shared in the hope therein expressed, declared the appreciation by our government of the humanitarian and disinterested character of the communication, and its confidence that "equal appreciation will be shown for its own earnest and unselfish endeavors to fulfill a duty to humanity by ending a situation the indefinite prolongation of which has become insufferable." Russia was indifferent about this action of the European powers, so it was reported, and merely consented to its representative's participation, but did not instruct him to act. Great Britain was reported as having refused to participate until assured by the American government that the note as drafted would not be regarded as unfriendly.

Concurrently with this mild and formal proceeding at the white house, the ambassadors of France, Russia, Italy, Germany and Austria—Great Britain was not represented—were said to be advising the Spanish government to abandon Cuba. It was rumored also that Spain was assured that upon making such concession Austria would be delegated by the European powers to defend the present Spanish dynasty against any rebellion which might result at home. On the 9th it was rumored that, apparently as the result of this episode, the Spanish ministry had agreed to grant an armistice in Cuba on condition that the United States should immediately cease to lend moral and material aid to the insurgents, that the American squadron in the vicinity of Cuba should be withdrawn, and that the American war vessels in the Pacific should leave the neighborhood of the Philippine islands. The rumor conveyed also an intimation that if the United States declined these conditions the five European powers

named last above would support Spain. This proposition was regarded both by the United States authorities and the Cuban representatives in this country as ridiculous, not only on account of the conditions, but also with reference to the proposed armistice. The Cuban representatives called attention to the fact that an armistice is a bargain which would require the assent of the insurgents as well as that of the Spanish ministry, and, recalling the fate of Ruiz, asked who would make the overtures to the insurgent commander in the face of the provisions of the Cuban constitution which, under penalty of death, forbids either the giving or the receiving of any terms looking to peace and not based upon a recognition of Cuban independence.

The rumor of the 9th regarding an armistice proved to be true only in part. On the following day the Spanish minister signaled his first call at the Washington state department in nearly two weeks by presenting an official communication from the Spanish government which announced the proclamation by Spain of an armistice without conditions. The communication as made by the minister presented four points to the consideration of the United States authorities. First, that the queen has commanded a cessation of hostilities in Cuba without condition, its duration and details to be determined by Gen. Blanco, the captain general of Cuba. Second, that she has granted to Cuba institutions as liberal as those of Canada, which it will be the duty of the Cuban legislature, established by her, to develop upon its meeting on the 4th of May next; and that Cuba is in addition represented in the Spanish parliament. Third, that the queen of Spain has made official and repeated expressions of sympathy with the United States on the destruction of the Maine. Fourth, that the cause of the Maine disaster is a question of fact which can be settled only by proof, and that the Spanish government is ready to submit this question to experts to be selected by the maritime powers.

Following the receipt of the foregoing communication a session of the president's cabinet was held—the second for the 10th—at which the communication was considered. According to rumors following the second session of the cabinet it was there decided to let the long looked for presidential message go in to congress on Monday,

the 11th, but with the addition of a paragraph relative to the armistice offered by Spain. These rumors were confirmed by the message itself.

Meanwhile, on the morning of the 9th, Consul-General Lee, who had been recalled from Havana, as reported on page nine last week, made a farewell call upon Gen. Blanco. Blanco refused to see him. In the afternoon, Gen. Lee with his staff boarded the American dispatch boat, the Fern, in Havana harbor. He was followed by two of our Cuban consuls, and at about six o'clock the Fern steamed out of the harbor. It had been preceded by the Kevelyn with 247 passengers, among whom was Clara Barton, of the Red Cross society. The British consul accepted charge of American interests in Havana.

Gen. Lee arrived at Key West early on the morning of the 10th. Thousands of people gathered on the wharf and in the streets to greet him. In response to calls for a speech he simply said that nearly all Americans had left Havana, that he was on his way to report officially, and that he refused and should continue to refuse all interviews on Cuban affairs until after he had reported. He received an ovation all the way from Florida to Washington, and upon his arrival at Washington, on the 12th, an immense crowd greeted him. He was driven in Secretary Sherman's carriage to the state department, where another demonstration awaited him. After a brief reception at the state department he was driven, along with Secretary Sherman and Assistant Secretary Day, to the white house, whence, after paying his respects to the president, he went to his hotel. At a demonstration in his honor in the evening nearly 20,000 people took part. The dispatches from Washington spoke of him as the hero of the hour.

During the afternoon of the 12th, Gen. Lee appeared before the senate committee on foreign relations, where he testified that in his opinion the Maine was blown up by a submarine mine, operated from a shore station by a subordinate artillery officer of the Spanish forces. Gen. Blanco, he said, knew nothing of the affair; but he confirmed the report that upon paying his farewell visit to Blanco he was curtly informed that Blanco was lying down and could not be disturbed. He declared that peace in Cuba can be produced only through independence, yet did not believe it wise to recognize the insurgent gov-

ernment until the Spanish had been driven out and it could be seen whether the civil republic is the master or the creature of the insurgent armies. At the same time, Lee expressed friendliness for Gomez and his followers.

Pursuant to his orders from Madrid Gen. Blanco published in the Official Gazette at Havana, on the 11th, a decree suspending Spanish hostilities throughout the island. The object of the decree as stated in the preamble is to prepare for and facilitate the restoration of peace.

The report on Sunday night that Spain had ordered the suspension of hostilities provoked a riot in Madrid on the 10th. It was of no great magnitude and was easily suppressed. But on the 11th, rioting again broke out there, this time with more violence. The military police charged the mob, injuring some and arresting others. Twenty-three of the prisoners were on the following day held for trial, and warrants were issued for several well-known socialists and republicans.

The Cuban consular reports, which both houses of congress had by resolution asked for, and which had been withheld since midwinter, were transmitted to congress on the 11th. They are voluminous, and in their details of the treatment of non-combatant Cubans by the Spanish, sickening.

The United States consul at Matanzas, Cuba, who arrived at New York on the 12th, reported that for three days before leaving his post, the people threatened his life and the lives of members of his staff.

The taxation bill proposed by Gov. Pingree, of Michigan, after having been passed by the lower house, was defeated in the senate on the 8th by a vote of 15 to 16. To pass the bill 17 votes were necessary. For the purpose of considering the question presented by this bill the Michigan legislature was in special session, under a call of the governor. In his message to the special session, Gov. Pingree had explained that while the ordinary taxpayers of the state are bearing an annual burden of three per cent. upon the value of their property, the railroad companies pay less than one-quarter of one per cent., and that some of them, under the favor of exemption laws, pay nothing at all.

He pointed out, also, that express, telephone and telegraph companies are unduly favored, relatively to other taxpayers, by the tax laws of the state. His recommendation was for a non-partisan commission, empowered to appraise corporate franchises at their true cash value, and to assess the corporations at the same rate upon that value as the rate imposed upon other people. The bill introduced pursuant to this recommendation was bitterly opposed by the railroad lobby, and the governor had occasion to complain to President McKinley, as reported on page 12 of last week's issue, that federal officials were offering federal patronage in the legislature to defeat the measure. The opposition to the governor, which defeated his bill as stated above, favors a commission to investigate the general subject of taxation and to report a bill to the next legislature.

The free silver convention of delegates from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, which met in Indianapolis on the 6th, as noted on page 12 of last week's issue, was largely attended on the 7th, when Mr. Bryan and Mr. Towne, as well as George Fred Williams, were among the speakers. Resolutions were adopted declaring the financial question the paramount political issue, and pledging a continuance of the battle for free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of sixteen to one. The resolutions further opposed the delegation to individuals or corporations of the power to issue paper money, expressed continued confidence in Bryan's leadership, and, extending sympathy to the Cuban patriots, favored immediate intervention to secure the independence of the Cuban republic. A league was formed, of which James P. Tarvin, of Covington, Ky., was elected president. The league will hold its next annual convention at Lexington, Ky. An incidental object of this league is to force the renomination of Bryan by the democrats. Although nothing definite was said as to the vice presidency, a marked feeling was manifest in favor of George Fred Williams.

The movements in the Egyptian Soudan, of which an account was given on page 9 last week, were followed on the 8th by a battle to be known as the battle of the Atbara. The Anglo-Egyptian troops made an attack upon the body of dervishes which had left Shendy and intrenched