

READY FOR THE MESSAGE
Proceedings of Congress This Week Will Make History.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Will Not Be Halted by Spanish Armistice.

Action of the Present Session May Be the Most Important in the History of the Country—Hundreds of Anxious Spectators Will Assault the Capitol at Dawn in the Endeavor to Witness the Stirring Scenes Following the Presentation of Mr. McKinley's Programme for Dealing with the Cuban Question—The Members Impressed by the Gravity of the Situation.

Washington, April 10.—Upon the presumption that Spain's offer of an armistice to Cuban insurgents will make no change in the plans of the administration and that the president's message will go to congress tomorrow, the house this week will make history. In anticipation of stirring scenes and momentous action, every congressman has been besieged by hundreds of friends for tickets to the galleries and the general multitude which must take its chance in the public galleries on the principle of first come first served, are prepared to assault the capitol at dawn tomorrow. It is likely the hundreds will camp out in the marble steps all night, so intense is the desire to be present when the message is read. The public generally regards the message as the prologue to a drama which may end in war before the curtain goes down. After the message is read tomorrow it will probably be referred to the committee on foreign relations and the senate will probably be called into session tomorrow. Such is the programme to which both sides have practically assented, with the tacit understanding that that committee would report on Tuesday the resolutions upon which the house will be expected to act. Any individual attempt to frustrate this part of the programme necessarily would prove abortive. With the gravity of the situation confronting them, members on both sides have been sober and seem impressed with the idea that things should proceed in regular and ordinary way.

INDIVIDUAL VIEWS VARY.

It seems almost certain now that there will be a conflict both in the committee and in the house as to the nature of the resolutions upon which the house will be called to act. Individual views vary greatly from those who desire a direct declaration of war based on the theory that the blowing up of the Maine was a hostile act and a few who are opposed to any action whatever. But the real contest, of course, will be between those who desire to follow that line and those who accept as the president's recommendation, armed intervention, and those who desire the recognition of the Cuban republic. The Democrats, both of the committee and the house, have taken an undecided position in favor of the recognition of the republic, although there is a difference of opinion as to whether intervention should follow. A majority of the Republicans of the committee have, within a few days, declared themselves for intervention and independence. Two of them, Messrs. Quinn, of New York, and Henry, of Indiana, while they do favor recognition of the existing republic, have earnestly advocated a declaration to the effect that Spain's dominion over the island ceased, leaving to the future the question of the actual government of the island. But in the desire of the Republicans of both houses to secure harmony of action, some of the advocates of independence have about come to the conclusion that the difference between armed intervention and recognition is more technical than substantial, and that the island should be annexed, to which they are opposed, a Republican form of government for the island must follow. It seems probable that existing differences may at least to some extent be adjusted and whether all the Republicans agree to a resolution declaring for intervention only, or not, such a resolution will be reported. It seems equally certain that a resolution for independence possibly coupled with intervention will be presented by the minority.

No definite arrangements have yet been made as to the debate, but there seems to be no demand for prolonged time. Mr. Bailey, of the minority, thinks two days ought to suffice and some of the Republicans think our action would be strengthened if there were no debate at all. Two days seems to be the general opinion as to the length of the debate. There probably will be considerable pressure for time for brief speeches. Many members desire to bury their hatchet in the painted war post. But there is a solid ground for difference as to the character of the resolutions and the question as to the possible liability of the United States for the Spanish bonds based on the Cuban revenues in the event of intervention without recognition will be thoroughly discussed. Whatever time is not occupied by the Cuban question will be devoted to the consideration of contested election cases and the general deficiency bill.

IN THE SENATE.

Washington, April 10.—The week in the senate probably will be given entirely to the consideration of the president's message is counted upon to arrive soon after assembling at noon tomorrow. It will be referred promptly to the committee on foreign relations and the present understanding is that no report will be made by the committee before Tuesday. The report may, in case of the development of radical differences in the committee, be delayed to even a later day.

There is a decidedly strong disposition on the part of many of the senators who are not members of the committee to have the senate as a body take up the subject of shaping the committee's report contemporaneously with the committee and it is not improb-

able that a secret session of the senate may be held tomorrow with this purpose in view. The purpose of this movement is, as has been frequently stated, to secure as near an approach to harmony in the senate as possible and it is believed that this can best be accomplished by having the senators agree upon the form of the resolution before it goes to the senate for action. The present tendency in the senate is to confine the congressional ratification to a declaration for armed intervention, leaving the recognition of independence to come later, and it now appears probable that the foreign relations committee will report in favor of this course, though not without some dissent. If the meeting of the committee to be held before the receipt of the message should develop that such action can be secured from the committee and in a way to insure harmonious action on a report in the senate, then there probably would be no occasion for a discussion of the form of the resolution before taking up the real question at issue. Senators as a rule show very slight inclination for other subjects and the chances are that if the senate does not adjourn soon after receiving the message, the Cuban question will come up in some shape tomorrow. Yet it is barely possible that the whole matter will be deferred until the foreign committee can make its report.

A resolution scarcely can get through the senate without arousing some discussion, as there are senators who are opposed to any action at all, whether for intervention or independence. Senator Wherry of California, is one of those who probably will discuss any resolution reported. There are several senators who now say that they will insist upon the recognition of independence in any action taken and that they will be heard from in opposition to any measure that does not provide for this. It is possible that the senate will adjourn on Tuesday and that the bill will be finally disposed of, and it is possible that the naval appropriation will be reported from committee and taken up later in the week.

MORE WARSHIPS.

Senate Committee Adds Four Monitors and Destroyers to Naval Bill. Washington, April 10.—The subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations committee yesterday finished consideration of the Naval appropriation bill and will report it to the full committee tomorrow. As the bill now stands, it carries at least two important additions. These are provisions for four coast-defense monitors, to cost, without armament, \$1,255,000 each, while the number of torpedo-boat destroyers is increased by four, to cost \$409,000 each. Secretary Long, Commodore Hichborn, Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair and other naval officials were before the committee. Secretary Long opposed the propositions to reduce the number of battleships to two and substitute coast-defense vessels, and in deference to his opinion the only change made was one of addition. The bill will carry nearly \$8,000,000 more than the old house bill. On the question of monitors there was a disposition on the part of the subcommittee to recommend that they be of 1,800 tons burden, that being the idea of Chairman Hale, of the naval committee. Commodore Hichborn said, however, that with the price limit of a million and a quarter, it would be found possible to build ships of 2,500 tons, and as a result there was blank left to be filled by the construction bureau when the specifications are prepared. It is probable that at least two of these monitors will be single-turret vessels, but they will be equipped to carry guns of the largest caliber. Their shallow draft will enable them to enter almost any one of the Atlantic ports. The bill also provides that not more than two of the battleships or monitors being built in one yard, this provision being inserted for the purpose of dividing the work in the interest of facility and the extension of shipyards. At least one of the battleships and one monitor are to be constructed on the Pacific coast, with a differential of 4 per cent. in cost.

On the question of docks no change is made in the house bill, but when the measure comes before the full committee there will be a proposition strongly pushed to leave to the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy whether the docks authorized shall be constructed of timber, concrete, or of stone. There is some opposition to timber docks in the Naval committee on the ground that their life is so exceedingly short.

California Mounted Regiment. San Francisco, April 10.—The enlistment of men for a mounted regiment of volunteers of California will begin tomorrow. San Francisco capitalists have undertaken to organize the regiment.

New Departure in Mechanical Flight. A somewhat new departure in the production of mechanical flight has been made by Major R. F. Moore, of the United States army. He has selected the Indian flying fox as a pattern for his new flying device. From experiments already made he concludes that artificial wings can be constructed having the action of the natural muscles of this animal, which is produced by spiral springs. By this means the wings are expanded, the up-and-down or flying motion being accomplished by a light electric or other motor. Two or more pairs of wings are arranged tandem fashion. He has found that it is better than a single pair, a reaction which accords with the conclusions of other experimenters. Major Moore is confident he can thus construct a machine capable of raising and sustaining a man.

ALABAMA PRECEDENT. In the Alabama award it was held that the particular circumstances of each sale of coal in neutral ports must decide whether the export was a breach of neutrality. From opinions delivered by members of the Alabama court in the different cases it seems probable that it will in future be held that a hostile vessel may be furnished with coal enough to take her home, but not with a sufficient quantity to enable her to cruise against an enemy. This principle, if maintained, would be of great importance. It would preclude Spanish cruisers from leaving that country and coming to this in order to make any prolonged cruising against our ports. Few of them carry more coal than they need to cross the ocean and return, even at the most economical rate of speed, and any long stay on this side of the water would render them helpless except to return home. The same thing is true as regards our movements in foreign waters except that a few of our cruisers, such as the Columbia and Minneapolis, carry a large enough supply to keep the seas much longer than anything Spain possesses.

As regards many other articles of merchandise, the question is little more settled. Many things have at various times been held to be contraband, but fixed rules have been established as to few of them. Arms and munitions of war, of course, contraband coal, provisions, money, horses, medicines, merchandise, soldiers, dispatches and diplomats have all been so considered at various times. The general rule is that any goods available for war purposes, even if ordinarily used for peaceful purposes, are contraband.

TRADE NOT PROHIBITED.

Trade in contraband goods is not by any means prohibited, nor is a neutral state required to prevent their export. They are merely subject to confiscation if captured by the enemy. Thus, if Cuba were recognized, vessels could clear for her ports with munitions of war without interference by our officers, as at present, but they would be subject to seizure if captured by Spain. In regard to this question the law is well established. Two conditions may prevail: 1. When a ship goes to a blockaded port. 2. Where she simply carries contraband to an open port. Where there is an effective blockade, that is to say, one where there is present a blockading force, rendering access manifestly difficult and danger-

ALLEGED REASON FOR INTERVENTION

General Nunez Believes That It is to Protect Bond Holders.

EUROPEAN NEUTRALITY DESIRED

This Is Thought to Be the Explanation of the Administration to Recognize Cuban Independence—Nunez Believes That Spain Will Relinquish Claims on Cuba Rather Than Take the Consequences of War.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 10.—Emilio Nunez, a brigadier general in the Cuban army and member of the Cuban junta, and who is best known through his activity in promoting Cuban filibustering expeditions, talked with a reporter for the Associated Press today relative to the possibility of the United States not recognizing the independence of Cuba. General Nunez said that he has been told by a man who is well informed in diplomatic matters and who is an intimate friend of a representative at Washington of a foreign government, that the United States will not recognize the independence of Cuba. This man, General Nunez says, states that the reason for the non-recognition of Cuban independence by the United States is that the American government wishes to protect the holders of the Spanish debt bonds with a view to securing the neutrality of the European powers. This debt, which amounts to \$400,000,000, and which was contracted in Cuba, is held by European financiers, mostly in England, France and Germany. General Nunez is not ready to believe the statement of his informant, notwithstanding the apparent authenticity of his source of information. He said that every honest American citizen would protest against such a course, and is not for the benefit of the financiers of the world. He said, "that the United States is sacrificing her glorious peace, but it is for the interest of humanity and liberty."

RELIEVES SPAIN WILL YIELD.

General Nunez does not believe that there will be war between the United States and Spain. He firmly believes that Spain will yield to all the demands made by the United States. "It would be suicide for her to go to war," said he, "with the force of good ships that she has. Spain would not only lose Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine islands, but would have to face a revolution at home that would be difficult to put down. On the other hand, if Spain should yield she will lose only the island and the revolution at home, if any should occur, would not, in my opinion, amount to much." General Nunez left tonight for Washington.

CONTRABAND GOODS IN WAR

A Matter of Great Importance Concerning Which There Is Some Difference of Expert Opinion.

From the Times-Herald. In case of war with Spain the question of what is contraband of war, subject to seizure on the high seas, will certainly be involved. Since the great war, where maritime matters were largely involved, the conditions of naval warfare have changed to a very considerable extent. For instance, the pressing necessity of the renewal of a ship's supply is of comparatively modern origin. The question to what extent it may be considered contraband is not yet definitely settled. In 1859, for instance, the United States strongly objected to its being declared contraband, while in 1862 it prohibited the export of coal to the West Indies on the ground that many ports there were merely coaling stations for confederate cruisers and that to send coal to them was to help the enemy. The British government seriously objected to this discrimination against its ports, and the president then prohibited the exportation of coal to any port anywhere in the world, thus putting all countries on an equal basis.

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WOULD SELL CUBA TO THE RUSSIANS

Reports That the Queen Regent Has Named a Price.

THEY WOULD ACCEPT \$250,000,000

Telegrams to That Effect Are Shown at the Palace at Havana—A Number of Cubans Are Arrested. Reason to Believe There Was a Plot to Kill General Lee.

Havana, April 10, via Key West, Fla.—Havana is guarded more closely than ever, the Arolas battalion being posted around the limits of Vidano, the swell suburb of the city. Within the last two days a number of Cubans have been arrested and are now confined in the Cabana fortress, charged with various offenses. Some say the prisoners have been engaged in a plot to assassinate United States Consul General Lee and others assert that they have been acting as spies for the United States government. There is no doubt that the Spanish government is more alarmed than it has ever been before and it is taking every precaution. There are reasons to believe that there was a plot to kill General Lee and that it was allowed to come to a head by the Spanish detectives in order that they might get the credit for defeating it. All sorts of rumors were in circulation yesterday and there was no trouble whatever in hearing any kind of a story and finding a dozen men to swear to its truth. The real impression among newspaper men was that General Lee's withdrawal was a shrewd move intended to show Spain that the United States means business. In the national telegrams were shown saying that the queen regent had agreed upon the intervention of Russia, would accept \$250,000,000 for Cuba, and the war and withdraw the flag.

OBSERVANCE OF EASTER

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In Other Churches.

THE singing of anthems by the choir was the principal feature of the service in the Primitive Methodist church on East Market street. In the morning the pastor took for his topic "By Human Hands, or Divine Power," and at night he spoke about "The Pattern of Our Resurrection Body." The morning service in Grace Lutheran church opened with the "Te Deum," which was rendered very prettily by the quartette—Miss Lettie Doyle, soprano; Miss Drake, alto; Edward L. Haas, bass; M. C. Landt, tenor and Miss Edith Smith organist. Then followed the "Gloria Patria," "Kyrie" and "Gloria." The hymns sung were "All Hail the Glorious Morn," "Joy to the World," and "According to Thy Gracious Word." "I Am the Resurrection" was inspiringly rendered by the quartette. The quartet sang with much credit and praise for the rendition of the "King of Kings" in church membership. It was the most largely attended and most edifying Easter service in the history of the church. The audience room, which is twice as large as it was last year, was crowded. In the evening the Sunday school rendered "The King of Kings," consisting of hymns, antiphons, responsive readings and addresses.

An excellent programme was carried out yesterday morning's service of the Bellevue Wesleyan Methodist church, of which Rev. J. T. Morris is pastor. The services were in charge of Mrs. H. Evans and Aaron James, and the young people of the church were the participants. The opening hymn was followed by reading of the passage from the Scripture by Frank Collins and the offering of prayer by Miss Ella Jones. Edith Williams made the opening address and the address of welcome was given by Miss Annie James. Prayers and songs by classes, male and female, and by the school were given. Solos were sung by the Misses Stella Jones, Beatrice Adeline Evans, and Edith Davis and Gounod Evans. Recitations were given by the Misses Anne Williams, Gladys Williams, Effie Brown, Mary Jenkins, and Amanda Morgan and Harry A. Davis. A duet by the Misses Mame Bowen and Ella Browning and a quartette by Mrs. H. Evans concluded the exercises. The church choir and Band of Hope of the South Main Avenue Wesleyan Methodist church rendered for the Easter services the oratorio "The Risen King." The solo parts and duet were sung by Mrs. H. O. Prytherch, the Misses Smith, Powell, Jones, Davis, Gray, Phillips, Lewis, Hawkins, Prytherch, and Messrs. Williams, Beynon, Jones.

The recitations were given by the Misses Cadwgan, James, Davis, Thomas, Powell, Williams, Evans, Griffiths, Howell and Masters, Roberts Williams, Griffiths, Evans, Lewis, Phillips. The services were under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Hugh Davis, and the church chorister, Henry Evans. Professor I. Prosser, Mrs. George Howell and Mrs. H. O. Prytherch, Miss Anne Davis and Eddie Williams acted as accompanists. Rev. E. J. Schmidt, pastor of the Church of Peace, on Prospect avenue, preached to large audience morning and evening, and the services were of a simple nature, no special programme being arranged.

CHURCH GOING IN GERMANY.

It is Not What the Kaiser Thinks It Ought to Be.

From the Philadelphia Press. It is said that the German emperor is anxious to increase the number of churches in Berlin and other big cities in Germany, and to promote the habit of church attendance. There is great need for improvement in this respect. Of the 1,200,000 Protestants of Berlin and its suburbs it is said that less than 300,000 attend public worship regularly, and in other cities it is even worse. Amid this general carelessness about religion there are, however, other hopeful signs. One of these is the growing interest in the reading of the Scriptures, and the wide circulation of the Bible. The German Bible societies are rapidly increasing in strength and importance. The Württemberg society's annual circulation has risen in a few years from 50,000 to nearly 140,000 copies. The British and Foreign Bible society every year dispenses of 250,000 Bibles. The German Bible societies are rapidly increasing in strength and importance. More copies of the Word of God were circulated last year than in any previous year, the total reaching 77,872, which is almost double the number annually dispensed of twenty-five years ago. This number, distributed over the whole empire, gives an average of fourteen per thousand. In Scotland, which is doubtless the chief Bible reading country of the world, the average annual circulation of the Bible is sixty per thousand of the population.

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FIRE SALE OF CARPETS

Doubtless you remember the great fire in Philadelphia a short time ago, during which the magnificent Carpet stock of John and James Dobson, valued at \$700,000, was injured by Fire, Smoke and Water. This magnificent stock was recently sold and we have purchased some \$4,000 worth of the Most Desirable Goods. These goods we place on sale MONDAY, APRIL 11th. Stock comprises:

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