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STAND BY THE FLAG! Action in Sight.

When we consider that the discussion now in progress in the senate brings out no new argument, emphasizes no new or old fact, changes no opinion and, in fact, accomplishes no other practical purpose than to advance the preparation of the enemy for war, the news that a vote will be taken before adjournment tonight will be received with unqualified satisfaction by the American people. Uncertainty and suspense are tenfold worse than war.

In view of the urgency of action and the imperative necessity of absolute unity, it is to be hoped that the resolution as it will be adopted by the senate will in form and wording be one which the house can instantly accept without the further procrastination of a deadlock in conference.

Small, indeed, must be the heart of the man who can say that the wholesale murder by Spain of one-third of Cuba's population is none of our business.

The Powers. If a year ago the president of the United States had sent courteous but explicit notice, both to Spain and to the six great European powers, of his intention within thirty days to intervene by force in Cuba for the purpose of re-establishing peace and order on a basis of permanency, it is unlikely that there would have been a single word of objection save from Spain.

The fruits of our diplomatic attempt to please everybody, including Spain, are now visible in the fact that we appear to have pleased nobody. What there is in this renewed talk of European intervention we do not at this writing know.

But it is increasingly humiliating to the great body of the American people that a contingency should have arisen involving the existence of an opinion abroad that foreign intervention would be tolerated under any circumstances. If this is the fruit of our peace-at-any-price "statesmanship" better instant and relentless war.

Speaking of Senators Hanna and Foraker, at this writing there can be no doubt as to which represents the popular will.

In Agreement at Last. The large and which the peace-at-any-price element made over the petulant outburst of Attorney Rubens of the Cuban junta never received any real friend of Cuba. Mr. Rubens spoke indiscreetly and on false information, but later developments have gone to show that the promise on which he based his manifesto was not wholly evolved from his own inner consciousness. The message of the president of the United States shows that no demand for Cuban independence has ever been made by him upon Spain and that, therefore, Mr. Rubens had at least color for his suspicion that the president contemplated an ultimate compromise with Spain.

of complete independence, could not without injury join hands with an American movement to force them back under a nominal Spanish sovereignty. But now that the intent of the contemplated American intervention has been made clear by congressional resolution, now that the president, under command from congress, must lay aside his dreams of autonomy and "practical independence" and push for unconditional Cuban freedom from Spain, the Cuban representatives in this country do not press their argument for the immediate recognition of the existing or provisional Cuban republic. As Senor Querada of the Cuban legation says, "So long as congress recognizes the independence of the Cubans we don't care whether it is in the form of a declaration in favor of the present government or a promise to help us establish an independent government on republican lines. Anything active by the United States which promises to drive Spain from the island will be satisfactory to Cuba."

This, likewise, will be satisfactory to the American people, but it must be begun quickly. The people are tired of delay.

There is unquestionably a growing feeling in the United States against further troubling the Vatican to help to settle the United States' account with Spain. We ought to be able to attend to that little detail without involving any outside assistance.

The Tribune desires to acknowledge the receipt, through the courtesy of Senator Quay, of a printed copy of the consular reports showing the present conditions, political, military and economic, in Cuba. Perusal of the complete correspondence vastly strengthens the horrifying impression produced by the recent publication of the Associated Press' synopsis. The showing is that of utter anarchy within the limits of Spanish so-called control—anarchy accompanied on the part of the Spanish authorities and subordinate military officials by a mendacity it is believed without parallel in history. These reports, when read consecutively, go beyond anything which has yet been published broadcast in their demonstration of the utter incapacity of Spain to administer in a colonial connection a "stable" government founded on recognition of Christian principles. The Apache Indians at the summit of their boldness on the Western plains were models of humanitarianism and decorum in comparison with the rule of Spain in Cuba.

Readings of these reports will convince any fair-minded man that there has not been a moment during the existence of the present insurrection in Cuba when diplomacy offered the slightest hope of providing a satisfactory termination of the struggle. The conviction is forced that the time spent by our government in its friendly appeals to Spain's sense of justice and honor has been time worse than wasted; it has been time lost, while in the losing hundreds of thousands of old men and helpless women and children have been vainly done to death—marched in cold blood by a sleek and cunning dabbler compared with which the massacre of St. Bartholomew was humane in its swiftness. To suppose that the nation which has consummated this unparalelled crime could be induced by any means short of armed and impetuous intervention to abate its cruelty may have been an excusable mistake at the beginning, but to persist in that supposition as our government did, in the face of the evidence supplied by its own consular officials, was a policy inexplicable.

There was ample justification for an ultimatum to Spain one year ago. The humanity of the American people has been and is being stifled by the tardiness with which the American government has approached its duty in this matter. If any reader of these lines doubts this, let him send for a copy of the consular reports.

The pope and the powers are at liberty to do with Spain what they like, but as for Uncle Sam he is going right on.

A Debt of Honor. Writing for the Cosmopolitan, a British magazine, Henry Norman, one of the ablest living English journalists, says: "Two things would bring about an Anglo-American alliance instantly. If a combination of European powers should be formed to crush the United States—and after the official utterances of the foreign ministers of Germany and Austria this is not a wholly an extravagant supposition—they would have to crush the British fleet as well. That this is the view of those at present responsible for British policy, I KNOW. As I have said elsewhere, we should never stand idly by and see a hundred millions of people who speak English trampled on by people who speak Russian or French or German. And we cherish, not as those who have no hope, the conviction that if the people who speak Russian and French and German had aside for the moment their deadly rivalries to join in crushing us, beside the flag of the three crosses there would be found on a seas a certain flag of stripes, as well as stars."

Events certainly are fast giving substance to this prophecy. When the ambassadors at Washington of France and Austria undertook recently to unite the six great European powers in a collective protest against the proposed intervention of the United States in Cuba, they went together to the British embassy and besought the co-operation of the English ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote. The note which they had drafted for presentation to President McKinley was sharp and peremptory. Sir Julian read it and replied: "I will join in no note which does not first have the cordial consent of the American president." Then he drafted the note which was later presented, took it in person to Judge Day, received from him an assurance that its presentation would be acceptable to the United States, and it is suspected had not a little to do with suggesting the character of the president's reply. But for this kindly office of the representative of his majesty's government the administration today might have con-

A SONG FOR CUBA.

The Nations of Europe, alighted in greed, Behold thee, O Cuba! and heed not thy cries; Had thy hearts thou had long since been happily freed; Thou hadst liberty long since if they had but eyes. They call themselves Christian, yet prey on the weak; They fawn on the Turk and they tolerate Spain; They worship the strong, and they scoff at the meek, They are worse than the vultures that feed on the slain. But Cuba, the dawn of thy freedom is near, Already its sunburst is seen in the East; The heart of the tyrant is quaking with fear, And the vulture in terror forsakes his grim feast. The eagles of war are abroad in their might, The rush of their wings drowns the roar of the seas; They are seeking thy foe; he will soon be in flight, For the star-spangled banner is flung to the breeze. We have kindled our crucibles white with the steel That shall free thee; our forges are red as thy wrongs! They are shaping new weapons of war for thy weal, Whilst for thee our great furnaces sing Freedom's songs. O! Thank God! for the manhood that speaks in this hour; For the hearts that respond to thy pitiful story; For the spirit, O Cuba! that fears not the pow'r Of thy foe; and thank God for our banner, Old Glory! —From the Scranton Truth.

Concerning That New Military Bill

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. THE military bill introduced by Representative Connell of the Lackawanna district, is the most comprehensive measure of the kind that has ever been presented for the consideration of congress. It provides a plan which proposes to organize an army of 200,000 men, apportioned according to the arms-bearing population among the states. The period of the president in case of war, insurrection or invasion. The president may at his discretion mobilize these troops in the several states for the purpose of instruction, inspection, parades, reviews, etc., for a period not exceeding twenty days in each year. When this is done liberal compensation and allowances are provided for, to be paid by the United States government.

Existing state military organizations (such as the National Guard regiments of Pennsylvania) standing as they do, to become part of this proposed "National Guard of the United States" will be required, before being accepted, to submit to an inspection by an officer detailed by the president. Any state refusing to organize its quota of the "National Guard of the United States" will forfeit its right to the appointment of its own officers, and the president may go on and effect the organization, and the government shall then become exclusively United States troops. In time of peace the proposed military organization will be subject to the orders and control of the governors of the respective states, the same as at present.

The bill is the outcome of the finally admitted fact that under existing conditions the organized state troops cannot be called into the active service of the United States by the president. He has no control whatever over them in their organized capacity. Under the provisions of this bill, if carried out in its full purpose, there would always exist an organized and equipped and at least partially drilled reserve of 200,000 men who could be called out by the president at once in an emergency. This would mean a "state militia" that could be instantly utilized. Men who enlisted would do so knowing that they were liable at any and all times to be called into active service, either of the state or nation, during the period of their enlistment. The national government could then feel that it was not limited to the small regular army, but that it had a reliable reserve of 200,000 men to fall back upon for reinforcements.

Mr. Connell's bill has every appearance of having been evolved by some one familiar with military affairs, and who has given the subject of effective state military organization a good deal of attention. The plan suggested by Mr. Connell's bill appears to be not only feasible but in every way practicable. If there existed such an organized reserve force in the states it would serve to give the United States a military status in the eyes of the world such as we have never had, and would be as conducive to the maintenance of peace as a powerful navy. To all intents and purposes it would give us all the prestige of a standing army of 200,000 men without any of the objectionable features of such a military establishment as is maintained in European countries.

INFORMATION. A correspondent wants to know if in case of war this government can press aliens into its service or expel them. It cannot impress but it can expel, subject to treaty stipulations. Thus after one year's notice Spaniards in the United States could be expelled, it being stipulated in a treaty between the United States and Spain that in the event of hostilities arising between the two countries citizens of one residing in the other country may be expelled. It is not possible to adjust private business affairs and get out. Of course an alien caught acting as a spy or in violation of any of the rules of war could be held accountable accordingly. A correspondent asks whether an American can vote in England without first renouncing his American citizenship and taking the British oath of allegiance. Our understanding is that he cannot. "Is an American citizen, an American or only an American citizen?" asks one inquirer. We give this up.

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