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PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

Notice of Blockading of Cuban Ports Served on European Powers.

Washington, D. C.—The President has issued the following proclamation declaring a blockade of the principal ports of Cuba. Notice of this action was given to the European Powers, who were also informed of the decision of this government not to countenance privateering:

Whereas, By a joint resolution passed by the Congress and approved April 20, 1898, and communicated to the government of Spain, it was demanded that said government at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters; and the President of the United States was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States and to call into actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such extent as might be necessary to carry said resolution into effect; and

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, in order to enforce the said resolution, do hereby declare and proclaim that the United States of America have instituted and will maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States and the law of nations applicable to such cases. An efficient force will be posted so as to prevent the entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid. Any neutral vessel approaching any of said ports or attempting to leave the same, without notice or knowledge of the establishment of such blockade, will be duly warned by the commander of the blockading forces, who will indorse on her register the fact, and the date of such warning, where such indorsement was made; and if the vessel shall again attempt to enter any blockaded port she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port for such proceedings against her and her cargo as prize as may be deemed advisable.

Neutral vessels lying in any of said ports at the time of the establishment of such blockade will be allowed 30 days to issue therefrom.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done in the City of Washington, this 22d day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
By the President,
JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of State.

National Guards Retain Their Identity.
Washington, D. C.—Under the law the members of the National Guard must volunteer and be regularly mustered into the service of the United States, arrangements have been perfected for preserving the regimental identity and the men allowed to serve under the officers chosen by them and now commanding them.

This special permission has been given by the War Department in recognition of the desire of the men to serve in a corps which they have built up by years of work and for whose record they have a feeling which would prompt them to even more than efforts to win honor.

The law does not give the President power over the State troops so that they can be ordered out in a body for the service of the Government.

For duty outside the State they must volunteer, and as volunteers they might be assigned to any regiment or duty which might need their services.

Each regiment will retain the number of its brigade and will thus be able to not only represent its State at the front, but its brigade as well. After reaching the front, if the membership of a regiment is diminished by wounds, sickness or death, its ranks will be filled up from the brigade it represents.

The company officers of each regiment will be elected by all the officers of the brigade. They will be required to pass an examination, and will then be commissioned by the Governor. The field and staff officers of each regiment will be selected by the Governor.

Afraid of Being Sunk.

Galveston, Tex.—Capt. Barnett of the British steamer *Asolun*, who was at Cape Verde Islands, March 31st, has arrived here.

He says the delay of the Spanish torpedo flotilla was caused by the crews of the boats.

Many of the engineers and crew were afraid to make the trans-Atlantic trip on the torpedo boats. Finding the Government determined that they should go, as a last resort, they crippled the machinery of their own vessels.

As a proof of this statement, Capt. Barnett cites the fact that none of the naval engineers were allowed to make the necessary repairs, the work being done by local engineers of Las Palmas.

Offers His Yacht Free.

New York.—Mr. Augustus Schermerhorn has offered his yacht *Free Lance* to the Government "free of cost and all obligations." It is the first offer of a vessel free.

Secretary Long has accepted the offer and has thanked Mr. Schermerhorn heartily for it.
The *Free Lance* is a fine vessel, 130 feet long, with a speed of sixteen knots an hour.

The Oldest Tombstone.

Near Durlach, in Baden, the tombstone of a one-hundred-year-old Roman veteran has been discovered.

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FREELAND, PA., APRIL 28, 1898.

COUNCIL MEETING.

Several Propositions Received from the Electric Light Company.

The borough council met in special session on Monday evening with Messrs. Butz, Schwabe, Mulhearn, Kline, DePierro, Rudewick and Meehan present. The following bills were read and approved: C. O. Stroh, satisfying bonds of ex-Treasurer Shigo and ex-Street Commissioner Boyle, \$5.40; Thos. Kane & Co., chairs and desks, \$36; L. V. R. R. Co., freight, \$2.48; Press, publishing audit, \$55.08; Progress, publishing audit, \$55.08.

The street committee reported having visited Ridge street, and could procure six feet of ground from Mrs. Rose Gaffney and Patrick O'Donnell, eighty feet in length, on west side of street, for \$200. It was decided to have the solicitor draw up deeds for the same and that the council purchase the ground, provided the owners of the property comply with the borough ordinances as to fence and pavement.

The council agreed to meet next Monday evening and visit other portions of Ridge street and see whether it would be better to open up a sidewalk or make a set-off in the street and lay a sidewalk in front of Mrs. McDonald's house.

It was decided that the ordinance in reference to taxing poles, wires, water mains, street cars, etc., be made operative from May 1, 1898, and that the secretary notify all the parties having poles, wires or water mains in the borough. The street committee was authorized to ascertain the number of poles, miles of wire, etc., owned and in use in the borough by the different parties.

Mr. Kline spoke about work now being done on the old road at South

Heberton, claiming that no orders for the same were issued to the street commissioner by council. No action was taken on it.

The street committee was instructed to view the streets that are most in need of repair and report at the next meeting, also to find out where and upon what condition stones can be procured for use of stone crusher.

The president appointed Messrs. Meehan, Mulhearn and Kline to wait upon the solicitor in reference to the annexation of South Heberton, and instruct him to have the auditor who was appointed by the court make his report.

The light and water committee reported having conferred with the Electric Light Company. The following propositions were submitted to the committee by the light company, based upon new work which would have to be done and the exemption of any pole tax:

Proposition No. 1.—Forty arc lights, all night service, per year: On five years' contract, \$3,400; each additional light, \$80. On three years' contract, \$3,600; each additional light, \$85. On one year's contract, \$3,800; each additional light, \$90.

Proposition No. 2.—Forty arc lights, thirty all night and ten half night, per year: On five years' contract, \$3,100; additional all night light, \$85; half night, \$50. On three years' contract, \$3,300; additional all night light, \$85; half night, \$55. On one year's contract, \$3,500; additional all night light, \$90; half night, \$60.

Proposition No. 3.—Forty arc lights, twenty-five all night and fifteen half night, per year: On five years' contract, \$2,900; additional all night light, \$80; half night, \$50. On three years' con-

tract, \$3,100; additional all night light, \$85; half night, \$55. On one year's contract, \$3,300; additional all night light, \$90; half night, \$60.

The report of the committee was accepted, and laid over to be taken up in committee of the whole. The committee had no report to make as to procuring a stand pipe, not having met the officers of Water Company.

Mr. Kline stated that the members of Presbyterian church had a number of seats suitable for park purposes and would sell them to the borough. No action was taken.

Mr. DePierro was authorized to see the members of the Board of Health and find out when the time of its members expires.

Sometime ago the health officer was hired by council to make a profile of all sewer connections in the borough, so as to know who had made connections and who had not, together with their distances, but no report was made to council. It was referred to the sanitary committee to have him make a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Kline, from the ordinance committee, reported an ordinance to open and dedicate North and Third streets for public use. It was returned.

Council then went into a committee of the whole to discuss the light question and also the repairs needed to council room and lockup. After discussing the matter for some time the committee rose and will present the result of the deliberations on Monday evening.

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