

tive course of action which I had prepared, concluding that the only consonant with international policy and compatible with our firm-set historical traditions was intervention as a neutral to stop the war and check the hopeless sacrifice of life, even though that resort involved "hostile constraint upon both the parties to the contest, as well to enforce a truce as to guide the eventual settlement."

#### INTERESTS OF HUMANITY.

The grounds justifying that step were the interest of humanity; the duty to protect life and property of our citizens in Cuba; the right to check injury to our commerce and people through the devastation of the island, and, most important, the need of removing at once and forever the constant menace and the burdens entailed upon our government by the uncertainties and perils of the situation caused by the unendurable disturbance in Cuba, I said: "The long trial has proved that the object for which Spain has waged the war cannot be attained. The fire of insurrection may flame or may smoulder with varying seasons, but it has not been and it is plain that it cannot be extinguished by present methods. The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the right and duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop."

In view of all this the Congress was asked to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of hostilities between 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 for the accomplishment of those ends to use the military and naval forces of the United States as might be necessary with added authority to continue generous relief to the starving people of Cuba.

#### VERDICT OF CONGRESS.

The response of the Congress, after nine days of earnest deliberation, during which the almost unanimous sentiment of your body was developed on every point save as to the expediency of coupling the proposed action with a formal recognition of the republic of Cuba as the true and lawful government of that island—a proposition which failed of adoption—the congress, after conference, on the 19th of April, by a vote of forty-two to thirty-four in the Senate and 311 to six in the House of Representatives, passed the memorable joint resolution declaring: "First, that the people of the island of Cuba are and by right ought to be free and independent.

"Second, that it is the duty of the United States and the government of the United States hereby demands that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

"Third, that the President of the United States be and is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States the militia of the several states, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

"Fourth, that the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination when that is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

#### MINISTERS WITHDRAW.

This resolution was approved by the executive on the next day, April 20. A copy was at once communicated to the Spanish minister at this capital, who forthwith announced his continuance in Washington had thereby become impossible and asked for his passports, which were given him. He thereupon withdrew from Washington, leaving the protection of Spanish interests in the United States to the French ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian minister. Simultaneously with its communication to the Spanish minister General Woodford, the American minister at Madrid, was telegraphed confirmation of the text of the joint resolution and directed to communicate it to the government of Spain with the formal demand that it at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its forces therefrom, coupling this demand with announcements of the intentions of this government as to the future of the island, in conformity with the fourth clause of the resolution and giving Spain until noon of April 23 to reply.

The demand, although, as above shown, officially made known to the Spanish envoy here, was not delivered at Madrid. After the instructions reached General Woodford, on the morning of April 21 but before he could present it, the Spanish minister of state notified him that upon the President's approval of the joint resolution, the Madrid government, regarding the act as equivalent to an evident declaration of war, had ordered its minister in Washington to withdraw, thereby breaking off diplomatic relations between the two countries, and ceasing all official communications between their respective countries.

General Woodford thereupon demanded his passports and quitted Madrid the same day.

#### REVIEW OF THE WAR.

Spain, having thus denied the demand of the United States and initiated that complete form of rupture of relations which attends a state of war, the executive powers authorized by the resolutions were used by me to meet the enlarged contingency of actual war between Spain and the United States. On April 22, I proclaimed a blockade of the northern coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahía Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba; and on the 23rd I called for volunteers to execute the purpose of the resolution. By my message of April 25, the Congress was informed of the situation and I recommended formal declaration of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Spain. The Congress accordingly voted on the same day the act approved April 25, 1898, declaring the existence of such war from and including the 21st day of April and reenacted the provision of the resolution of April 20, directing the President to use all the armed forces of the nation to carry that act into effect. Due notification of the existence of war as aforesaid was given April 25 by telegraph to all the governments with which the United States maintained relations, in order that their neutrality might be assured during the war. The various governments responded with proclamations of neutrality, each after its own methods. It is not among the least gratifying incidents of the struggle that the obligations of neutrality were impartially discharged by all, often under delicate and difficult circumstances.

In further fulfillment of international duty, I issued April 28, a proclamation announcing the treatment proposed to

be accorded to vessels and their cargoes as to blockade, contraband, the exercise of the right of subjects and the immunity of neutral flags and neutral goods under the enemy's flag. A similar proclamation was made by the Spanish government. In the conduct of hostilities the rules of the declaration of Paris, including abstention from resort of privateering, have accordingly been observed by both belligerents, although neither was a party to that declaration.

#### CALL TO ARMS.

Our country thus, after an interval of half a century of peace with all nations, found itself engaged in deadly conflict with a foreign enemy. Every nerve was strained to meet the emergency. The response to the initial call for 125,000 volunteers was instant and complete, as was also the result of the second call of May 5 for 75,000 additional volunteers. The ranks of the regular army were increased to the limits provided by the act of April 23. The enlisted force of the navy, on the 15th of August, when it reached its maximum, numbered 24,123 men and apprentices. One hundred and three vessels were added to the navy by purchase, one was presented to the government, one leased and the four vessels of the International Navigation company, the St. Paul, St. Louis, New York and Paris, were chartered. In addition to these the revenue cutters and lighthouse tenders were turned over to the navy department and became temporarily a part of the auxiliary navy.

The maximum effective fighting force of the navy during the war, separated into classes, was as follows:

Four battleships of the first-class; one battleship of the second-class; two armored cruisers; six coast defense monitors; one armored ram; twelve protected cruisers; three unprotected cruisers; eighteen gunboats; one dynamite tender; eleven torpedo boats; fourteen oil vessels of the old navy, including monitors. Auxiliary navy: Auxiliary cruisers, twenty-eight converted yachts; twenty-seven converted tugs; nineteen converted colliers; four revenue cutters; four light-house tenders and nineteen miscellaneous vessels.

#### COAST DEFENSES.

Much alarm was felt along the entire Atlantic seaboard lest an attack might be made by the enemy. Every precaution was taken to prevent possible injury to our great cities lying along the coast. Temporary garrisons were provided, drawn from the state militia; infantry and light batteries were drawn from the volunteer force. About 12,000 troops were thus employed. The coast signal service was established for observing the approach of an enemy's ship to the coast of the United States, and the light-house service co-operated, which enabled the navy department to have all portions of the Atlantic coast, from Maine to Texas, under observation.

The auxiliary navy was created under the authority of Congress and was officered and manned by the naval militia of the several states. This organization patrolled the coast and performed the duty of a second arm of defense.

#### HARBORS MINED.

Under the direction of the chief engineer, submarine mines were placed at the most exposed points. Before the war, permanent mining casemates and cable galleries had been constructed at all important harbors. Most of the torpedo material was not to be found in the market and had to be specially manufactured. Under date of April 19, district officers were directed to take all preliminary measures, short of the actual attaching of the loaded mines to the cables, and on