

CONGRESS TAKES THE FORMAL ACTION. President Calls for 125,000 Volunteers and They Respond at Once—Spain Declares That a State of War Exists—The Blockade of Havana.

Washington: War between the United States and Spain is a fact, though not yet officially proclaimed by congress. The state department received a cablegram from Minister Woodford at Madrid stating that he had been handed the ultimatum and had notified that official relations between the United States and Spain were ended. The cablegram said that he had been given the papers before he signed the ultimatum, and he had had an opportunity to present the ultimatum transmitted to him for the delivery to the Spanish government, the delivery of the ultimatum to the minister Plo Heryane having been accepted by the Spanish government as a formal act of war on its part.

The administration of the state department announced that it regarded the action of the Spanish government as an act of war, and that it had notified the United States, and further stated that it regarded the course adopted by Spain as an act of war, and that the responsibility for the breach of friendly relations.

Immediately upon receiving his passport, the Spanish minister at Washington, and Secretary of the American legation in Madrid and American interests in Spain generally in the hands of the British embassy, the United States consul at Havana, Bowen, at Barcelona, to cause all the American consuls in Spain to immediately withdraw from the country, and to inform the Spanish government that the train which carried him from Madrid to France. An immense crowd had gathered at the station composed of all the consuls and secretaries of the legations, and the train was surrounded throughout the station until the train was fairly outdone.

It will be perceived therefrom that the government of Spain treated the United States as a nation with which it was at war, and that the United States, in consequence of the act of Spain, have been constrained in the exercise of the power which is authorized by congress to proclaim a blockade of certain ports of the north coast of Cuba and of Cienfuegos, and to issue a proclamation, calling for volunteers to carry into effect the measures so taken, and with a view to the adoption of such other measures as may be necessary to carry out the expressed will of the congress in the premises. I now have the honor to inform you that a resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain, and I urge speedy action to the end that the definition of the international law of the United States, and the present power may be made known and asserted of all its rights and maintained by the force of all its arms and of public war may be assured.

The message in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the bill was reported out of the committee favorably in short order. It took the House and the Senate, and the bill was passed by a majority of 141. The following is the bill reported by the House foreign affairs committee, and is the bill which is now before the Senate.

Secretary Sherman Declines. The resignation of the President at a special meeting of the cabinet. The president's resignation was tendered in a simple and direct manner, and as soon as his successor shall have qualified, Mr. Sherman retires from public life. He served for over 40 years, embracing the terms of seven presidents, the secretaryship of the treasury and the secretaryship of state.

Notes on the War Situation. The Potomac river below Washington is being planted with submarine mines. The report that Secretary of War Alger is to resign because of ill health is denied. Capt. Sampson has been named as the next secretary of the navy.

125,000 VOLUNTEERS CALLED. President McKinley's First Call in 30 Years. The President has called upon the people of the United States for the first time in 30 years to manifest their military strength, this time the call being upon a united people to go forward to the aid of the United States.

Rev. Morgan Wood a former Detroit minister, now of Toronto, Ont., has received a chaplaincy with Michigan troops. The coming meeting of the Michigan Equal Suffrage association, to be held at Bay City, May 25, gives promise of a most successful session.

While cleaning up on the Montmorency fair, Thomas Johnston, aged 18, of Lexington, was precipitated from the cross-ties into the hold of the hold of the steamer and instantly killed. A steam pipe broke. He was on his first trip.

The team of Marvin Higgins, of Alcona, ran away at Osage and struck a wagon containing Mrs. Robert Garrison, her child and a child of Hastings, killing Mrs. Garrison. The buggy pole struck under her shoulder blade and penetrated the right lung.

Gen. L. C. Smith, of Grand Rapids, has been appointed brigadier-general of the 1st brigade Michigan volunteers. By President McKinley. Gen. Lyon, who was in command of the First brigade Michigan National Guard will be deposited, as the troops will then go to the front.

Co. G, Fifth infantry, of Sault Ste. Marie, had a narrow escape from being wrecked at Howard City, on the way to the front. The freight train collided and the passenger train troops almost ran into the wreck.

Regular Army Doubled in Strength. The bill for the reorganization of the regular army has been passed by both houses of congress, and the President. It reorganizes the army into three battalions and authorizes the 25 regiments of the infantry to be recruited to 100,000 men, and the recruiting of the 10 regular regiments to 15,000 men, the seven regimented artillery to 10,000 men, and the engineer battalion of five companies to 750 men, including two companies of engineers, which makes a total maximum strength of 250,000 men. The bill also adds a total of 250 commissioned officers. It is time for the regular army will again be reduced to its former strength.

Gov. Atkinson has announced that he would lead the Georgia militia. Extraordinary precautions are being taken at Washington to guard the White House, and the route of the waterworks conduit through which it receives its water supply.

Mysterious Death at Grand Rapids. Colonel Best, of Grand Rapids, discovered what he believed to be a case of cholera in the city. The case was traced to a laborer, died mysteriously and many bruises were received by the case will be thoroughly investigated.

Gov. Wiggins, Fifth U. S. cavalry, has been detailed by the War department to muster the Michigan volunteers. Wiggins is a son of the late Gov. Wiggins of Michigan.

Uncle Sam Says: This is America's Great Spring Medicine. It is now to sharpen your appetite, vitalize your blood, to overcome that tired feeling. Go to your draught and get a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla to take it today, and realize to you the great good it is sure to do.

Hood's Sarsaparilla. In America's Greatest Spring Medicine. Happiness is not self-gratification or self-sufficiency. It is merely the habit of good intentions. If you give a bald-headed man a full head of hair, he will be sure to occupy a front seat. To forget self even for a moment must be happiness.