

and mining processes; (3) the food exhibit with its wealth of grains, meats, fruits and vegetables; — all revealing the marvellous development of a section which fifty years ago was considered a desert and was crossed by warpaths of savage Indians.

*THE SPANISH WAR.*

(1898-99.)

The Causes of the War.

**701. Spanish Misgovernment of Cuba.** — Of all the countries of the old world Spain was the most enterprising in acquiring possessions in the new world. There was a time when she claimed all of the western hemisphere except Brazil (§ 51). But her rule of her colonies was rapacious and tyrannical. One by one her possessions threw off her yoke, until she had nothing left in North America but Cuba and Porto Rico. Cuba has an equable, tropical climate and an exceedingly fertile soil. Its natural conditions peculiarly favor the production of two highly profitable crops, tobacco and sugar. Under a liberal government it would have remained a happy and prosperous dependency. But Spain governed it harshly by an army sent from home, and such heavy taxes were laid upon it that even under its favorable conditions the people had little left after paying the revenues demanded by the government across the sea. No matter how well they toiled, or how richly their industry was rewarded, the Cubans became poorer each year under the exactions of Spain. The people grew discontented and eventually rebellious. In the interior of the island oppression was met with armed resistance. Patriots made efforts to unify the people in a general uprising, and to interest the republics of the earth in their wrongs and in their struggle for freedom. Lying within a few miles of the United States, the greatest republic in the world, the Cubans

naturally expected our sympathy and aid. And our relations to Cuba have been for years a subject of serious consideration by the government. But officially we have always maintained absolute neutrality. The fact that the United States scrupulously refrained from taking any part in the Cuban struggle discouraged the intervention of weaker republics, and discouraged the Cubans themselves and prolonged the rule of Spain.

**702. Revolution of 1895.** — In 1895 the Cubans again revolted. This movement was more general, better organized and better managed than any that had preceded it. Fighting began in the eastern provinces, but soon spread over the island and reached the vicinity of Havana itself. The insurgents, under Gomez, Garcia, Maceo and others, avoided pitched battles, but attacked detached forces and remote forts. Spain increased her army by troops from home, until she had more than a hundred thousand soldiers on the island. General Campos, who had previously served Spain in the same capacity, was sent over to put down the rebellion. In this case he failed, and after a few months he resigned and returned to Spain. General Weyler succeeded him and took charge of the Spanish forces early in 1896. His method was cruel and tyrannical in the extreme. He ordered that the people be taken from their homes and farms and collected in the towns and at the forts, where they could be under immediate military control. The people so collected were mostly women and children.<sup>1</sup> Crowded together, without proper food or shelter, great numbers of them died of starvation or disease. The insurgents had destroyed the sugar mills, so that they could not produce revenue for Spain. Farms were abandoned. Now the fertile soil of this "Pearl of the Antilles" returned to the voluntary production of wild and useless vegetation, and the sea

<sup>1</sup> They were called "reconcentrados."



breeze that blew over it carried the breath of the pestilence from one camp of "reconcentrados" to another.

**703. Sympathy in the United States.** — While their country was being devastated and their families were starving, the Cuban patriots made every appeal they could to the United States. And in the main the people of our country sympathized with them and were anxious to aid them. Filibustering expeditions, in spite of the precautions taken by our government, carried them arms and supplies. Many powerful newspapers favored them and urged our government to interfere in their behalf. The matter came up in various ways in Congress; but the executive insisted that neutrality was our only safe policy. President Cleveland, though he adhered strictly to this



Fitzhugh Lee.

policy of neutrality, said in a message to Congress that when Spain's inability to deal with the insurrection became manifest our duty to Spain would be superseded by our duty to the struggling Cubans. President McKinley was anxious that Spain should "pacify" Cuba and that the United States should be kept free from foreign entanglements. But a series of events occurred within the space of a few months which so aroused the people that the government was forced to intervene. General Fitzhugh Lee was appointed Consul-General to Cuba by President Cleveland and was retained by President McKinley. He pursued a vigorous policy in looking after the interests of his country. He reported that between six and eight hundred American citizens were among the destitute and starving. President McKinley sent a message to Congress (May 11, 1897) asking for an appropriation

of \$50,000 to relieve these suffering Americans. The money was granted, and during the passage of the bill an attempt was made in the House to recognize the insurgents as belligerents. On May 20 the Senate passed a resolution recognizing the insurgents.

**704. Spain Promises a Liberal Policy.** — In August, Sagasta became prime minister of Spain. He had previously opposed the Spanish method of dealing with the Cubans, and it was known that he would adopt a more liberal policy. To the United States minister who was charged to make a strong protest against the conditions in Cuba he declared that General Weyler would be recalled, the "reconcentrados" edict revoked, and autonomy offered to Cuba. General Weyler was succeeded by General Blanco, who was more humane. The "reconcentrados" were little benefited, for their homes were burned, their crops destroyed, and they were without means. The autonomy offered carried many extreme conditions, of which one was that Cuba should pay the whole Spanish war debt incurred in "pacifying" the island. The administration at Washington insisted that Spain should have time to try this new policy. But the war party of the Cubans would have nothing to do with the plan, and they declared that they had an elective government of their own entirely independent of any authority from Spain.

**705. Destruction of the *Maine*.** — In January, 1898, the Cuban captain-general put a guard around the American consulate. This precaution was taken because Spanish feeling against Americans was very strong. In the same month the President sent the battle-ship *Maine* to Havana. It was announced to the Spanish authorities that the *Maine's* visit to Havana was a purely friendly one. As soon as the ship was anchored in the harbor, Captain Sigsbee hastened to show his friendly mission by extending and accepting all the hospitalities usual to a ship



visiting a peaceful foreign port. About ten o'clock on the night of February 15 a terrible explosion took place under the forward part of the vessel. Captain Sigsbee hurried to the deck. On the way up he ran against William Anthony, a private sailor, orderly at the cabin door, who in calm devotion to duty was coming to notify the captain of the explosion and did notify him. In a few minutes all the boats had been lowered, and the living seamen had left the sinking wreck. Two hundred and sixty sailors, including two officers, were killed by the explosion. The *Maine* was completely wrecked. There was great excitement in the United States when Captain Sigsbee's telegram reached Washington. The belief that the *Maine* had been destroyed by a submarine mine, exploded by some dastardly enemy of the Americans, was universal. It was felt on all sides that war could no longer be averted. The President appointed a commission to inquire into the cause of the disaster.

**706. Declaration of War.**—On March 8–9 Congress passed by a practically unanimous vote a bill appropriating \$50,000,000 to be expended by the President in the national defense. On March 16 Senator Proctor, of Vermont, just returned from an investigation in Cuba, thrilled the country with a detailed account of the horrible conditions of starvation and disease he found. On March 28 the President submitted the report of the *Maine* Court of Inquiry. It found that the *Maine* was blown up by a submarine mine. On March 30 the President asked permission of Spain to relieve the Cuban "reconcentrados." This permission was given and steps were taken at once. On April 5 all the Cuban consuls were recalled. General Lee, with several Americans, left Havana on April 9. On April 11 the President sent a message to Congress. He reviewed the whole Cuban question. He asked Congress to empower the President to take measures to terminate hostilities

between Spain and Cuba. He asked to be authorized to use the land and naval forces of the United States in reaching this end. He declared that the issue was now with Congress. April 19 Congress passed a resolution declaring: (1) that the people of Cuba are free and independent; (2) that the United States demand that Spain relinquish authority over Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba; (3) that the President is empowered to use the land and naval forces and the militia in carrying this resolution into effect; (4) that the United States declares its intention of leaving Cuba, when pacified, to the government and control of its own people. On April 25 Congress passed a formal declaration of war against Spain, but dated the beginning of the war on April 21.

THE MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

**707. The Call to Arms.**—For thirty-three years, the life of a generation, the United States had been at peace. In perfect security we had been absorbed in the development of our territory, our industries, and our institutions. We did not fear aggression and we did not aspire to conquest. The regular army numbered about 18,000 men. When compared with many European countries our naval force was very small. We had four first-class battle-ships, *Oregon*, *Massachusetts*, *Iowa*, *Indiana*, one second-class battle-ship, *Texas*, two armored cruisers, *Brooklyn* and *New York*, fourteen protected cruisers, four monitors, twelve torpedo boats, a number of gunboats, and two new untried American inventions, the dynamite cruiser *Vesuvius* and the ram *Katahdin*. The President issued a call for 125,000 volunteers to be raised in just proportion among the several states. Within ten days, more than 700,000 men offered their services. The difficulty was not to fill the number, but to make selections from the flood of applicants. A later call for 75,000 volunteers was promptly made up. Many old



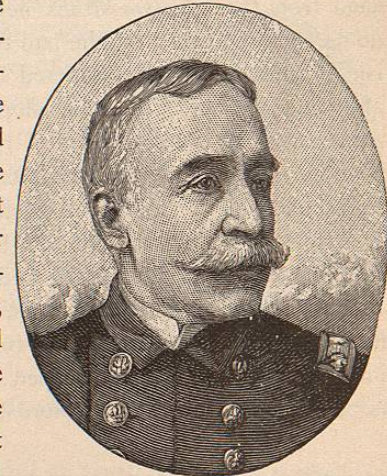
Confederate soldiers were appointed to positions of rank in the volunteer army; General Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia, General M. C. Butler, of South Carolina, and General Joseph Wheeler, of Alabama, a gallant Confederate cavalry leader, were made major-generals; William Jennings Bryan, Democratic candidate for president in 1896, became colonel of a Nebraska regiment. A picturesque and highly efficient regiment was one recruited at San Antonio, Texas, by Colonel Leonard Wood and Lieutenant-Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. This regiment contained western cowboys, miners, and frontiersmen, and New York club men and college athletes. The public named this regiment the "Rough Riders" and watched its fortunes with great interest. This great army, so speedily raised and so eager for service, contained Union and Confederate soldiers, adventurers and millionaires, merchants and mechanics, men from New England and men from Dixie. The pulse of the whole American people had been stirred and there was now but one party, and it was willing to risk all in a war to liberate and rescue the oppressed and suffering people at our door.

The navy was rapidly increased. From friendly foreign powers we purchased three new warships. From American merchant lines we bought eight steamships and converted them into warships. Private yachts were given or sold to the government. Extensive manufactories were put at work making powder and ammunition.

This varied and tremendous equipment, so speedily prepared, disclosed to the world the vast resources of the United States and caused the nations of the earth to make room for a new first-class world power.

**708. The Battle of Manila.**—On April 26, the day after the formal declaration of war, Commodore George W. Dewey, in command of a squadron lying at Hong Kong, received orders

from the President to "seek the Spanish fleet and capture or destroy it." This squadron consisted of four protected cruisers, *Olympia*, *Baltimore*, *Raleigh*, and *Boston*, two gunboats, *Concord* and *Petrel*, and the dispatch boat *McCulloch*. The Commodore stripped his ships for action and sailed for Manila, distant about six hundred miles. On the morning of the 30th the squadron appeared on the western coast of Luzon, the chief island of the archipelago. Search was made in the open bays for the Spanish fleet, but it was not found. In the afternoon Commodore Dewey called the captains of the ships to his own ship, the *Olympia*, and told them it was his intention to force the entrance to the harbor of Manila during the night. This was the proposition of a very daring enterprise. The entrance to Manila Bay is divided into two channels or "mouths" by two high rocky islands which lie about midway between the shores. Corregidor, the larger of the islands, was provided with a battery. The larger mouth of the entrance contained some isolated rocks pushing up out of the water, and one of these, Frailie, was fortified. The mainland on both sides of the entrance was heavily fortified with the best guns; and the fleet had to run the gantlet with a pilot who had never been over the roadstead before. But about midnight, in single column, with all lights out except one in the rear of each ship, to guide the one next in line, the fleet steamed into the channel. When half the column had passed Corregidor, sparks from the funnel of the *McCulloch*



George Dewey.



revealed the movement to the enemy. Signal rockets were sent up at once. The batteries began firing, but the fleet passed all the defenses without being struck by a single shot. When day dawned, the Spanish fleet was discovered lying close under the guns of Cavité.<sup>1</sup> Our ships steamed in at once to engage the enemy. As they passed, immediately in front of the *Olympia* a huge column of water shot into the air, thrown up by a mine that had been exploded prematurely. Another mine was exploded later, but no harm was done. Then the battle began. The fleet in column steamed past the Spanish ships and fort and poured broadsides into them. The Spanish guns replied with great energy; the air was filled with shot and shell. Again and again the American fleet passed in front of Cavité, each time going closer in. About seven o'clock the flagship *Reina Cristina* left its moorings and headed directly toward the *Olympia*. The firing was concentrated on her and she was obliged to turn back. As she swung round, a shell from the *Olympia* struck her and went her whole length, doing such damage that she had to be abandoned. The Spanish Admiral took his colors and bravely got in an open boat and was rowed to another ship. About eight o'clock the American ships withdrew out of range. The Commodore had been incorrectly informed that one class of ammunition was about exhausted. When all of the ships were assembled, it was found that not a man had been killed, nor had a single ship been seriously damaged. There was plenty of ammunition. Breakfast was served to the crews, and about eleven o'clock the fleet returned to battle.<sup>2</sup> This time our vessels went farther in. Not a Spanish ship escaped. But the result of the battle is best told in Dewey's own words. The evening of the day he

<sup>1</sup> Cavité is a suburb of Manila. It was strongly fortified and contained the arsenal.

<sup>2</sup> In the meantime the Spaniards had cabled to Spain claiming a great victory, saying the Americans had withdrawn to bury their dead.

entered Manila Bay (May 1) he telegraphed to Washington as follows:

Squadron arrived at Manila at daybreak this morning. Immediately engaged the enemy and destroyed the following vessels: *Reina Cristina, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa, Isla de Luzon, Isla de Cuba, General Lezo, Marquis del Duera, Cavo, Velasco, Isla de Mindanao*, a transport and water battery at Cavité. The squadron is uninjured and only a few men are slightly wounded. DEWEY.

After the battle the Commodore destroyed the fortifications at Cavité and at the entrance, and was soon in complete and unquestioned control of the Philippines without serious damage to one of his own ships, or a serious wound to one of his men. Commodore Dewey and his men won one of the most brilliant naval battles ever fought, and no victory of the kind was ever so complete.

**709. The Blockade of Cuba.** — As soon as war was declared, Rear-Admiral Sampson was ordered to blockade Havana and other Cuban ports. The object was to prevent Spain from sending supplies and reinforcements to Cuba. Sampson's squadron, consisting of the *New York, Iowa, Indiana*, and four smaller vessels, soon appeared off Havana (April 22). The northern coast west of Havana was patrolled, and some valuable prizes were taken. Some minor but severe engagements between vessels of the squadron and coast fortifications and vessels were fought.



William T. Sampson.

News reached us that Admiral Cervera, with the Spanish flying squadron, had sailed from the Cape Verde Islands to the west. What could be the purpose and destination of this



fleet, the pride of the Spanish Navy? Would it try to succor Havana? Would it attack our own fleet? Would it bombard our coast? Commodore Schley, with our flying squadron, was stationed at Hampton Roads, on the alert to protect our coast or to intercept the Spanish fleet when it should reach our side of the world. It seemed reasonable that Porto Rico would be



Winfield S. Schley.

the first resting place of the Spanish fleet. Admiral Sampson sailed over there, explored the harbors and bombarded San Juan. While Admiral Sampson was at Porto Rico, information came of the Spanish fleet at Martinique, and later at an island off the north coast of Venezuela. Immediately Commodore Schley was sent to intercept it or to find its refuge. His flying squadron consisted of the *Brooklyn*, *Massachusetts*, *Texas*, *Minneapolis*, *New Orleans*, and the gunboat *Scorpion*. He sailed around the western point of Cuba and skirted the southern coast. No trace of the Spanish fleet could be found. On May 26 he appeared off the harbor of Santiago. Four days later he cabled to Washington: "I have seen the enemy's ships in the harbor with my own eyes." Two days later Admiral Sampson, with his squadron, to which the *Oregon*<sup>1</sup> had been added, appeared and took command of

<sup>1</sup> The *Oregon*, in joining the eastern squadron, had performed a wonderful feat. She was lying at Puget Sound when she was ordered to sail for the east coast. She started March 19. She arrived off the east coast of South America about the time that Cervera's fleet reached the same waters. Great anxiety was felt at Washington for her, and she was warned by cable. But she steamed straight on her course and arrived safe off the coast of Florida. In two months' time she had made a voyage of nearly 14,000 miles, had met the severest tests of rough weather and continuous service without the slightest accident or injury to her machinery or equipment, and when she came into port was as fit for sea as when she started. She holds the world's sailing record for vessels of her class.

the combined fleets. Vessels were set to guard the narrow channel that led to the Santiago harbor, and watch was kept night and day to prevent the escape of the Spaniards.

In order to make escape from the harbor more difficult, Rear-Admiral Sampson wished some obstruction placed in the channel, so that the Spanish ships could not get out at all, or only with the greatest difficulty and very slowly. The problem was presented to Lieutenant Hobson, of Alabama, a young engineer. After consideration he proposed to take the coal vessel, the *Merrimac*, into the entrance during the night, turn her across the channel, and sink her. The plan was approved, but the channel was heavily guarded with Spanish guns, and it did not seem possible that any who went on such an enterprise could come out alive. But the young lieutenant was willing to give his life for his country and prepared to go. Volunteers who were willing to face death were called for to accompany him. Practically the whole fleet volunteered. Not only were men willing to go, but they tried to buy the privilege from those who were selected; they fought for the choice, and one man who had been rejected hid himself on the *Merrimac*, and when she sailed to destruction he went along. The crew consisted of Lieutenant Hobson and seven men. The collier entered the channel in the darkness of night, and made her way toward the point selected. She was riddled with shot and shell from the shores. But she reached the point; a hole was blown in her hull, and she was sunk, as had been planned. The crew, all unharmed, clung to a raft that had been previously prepared. They were picked up by the Spaniards, imprisoned for a while in Morro Castle, and afterwards exchanged.



Richmond P. Hobson.



**710. Fighting at Santiago.**—The “bottling up” of Cervera in Santiago harbor determined the course of the war. It



William R. Shafter.

was at once decided to lay siege to Santiago. General Shafter, in command of 15,000 troops, landed on the coast near Santiago (June 22). The first battle by these troops was fought two days later by the vanguard, under General Young. The enemy were discovered in a strong position at Las Guasimas. Colonel Wood, with a battalion of the Rough Riders, supported by small detachments from the first and tenth cavalry, was ordered to drive them out. The

engagement that followed was deadly in its results, and was met by our troops with unflinching heroism.

The enemy outnumbered our troops two or three to one. They hid in dense jungles and fired from concealment with smokeless powder that left no trace of their location. Though their men fell rapidly, the Rough Riders never faltered. They charged into the woods in the face of the concealed fire, routed the Spaniards from their hiding places, and sent them flying back on Santiago.<sup>1</sup>

A few days later (July 1) a general attack was made along the whole line of the intrenchments guarding Santiago. The chief points of attack were El Caney,

<sup>1</sup> This battle produced a great effect at home. A number of well-known men were killed here where our army first set foot on Cuban soil. Every man from Colonel Wood and Lieutenant-Colonel Roosevelt, down through the ranks and including R. H. Davis and Edward Marshall, non-combatant newspaper correspondents, showed dauntless courage. The Rough Riders became popular heroes, and Las Guasimas a symbol of American courage and skill.



Joseph H. Wheeler.

on the extreme right, and San Juan, about the middle of the line. General Lawton had command of the attack on El Caney. He expected to take the position in a few hours and join the main division for the attack on the center. But he met a stubborn and deadly resistance. The fighting continued all day, and cost the lives of many brave men. But at last the Spaniards were driven out and the Americans occupied El Caney. The middle division, facing San Juan, was under the command of General Wheeler.<sup>1</sup> General Kent's division was on the left. The attempt to take the hills here was met with a withering fire from the intrenchments, from the trees along the trails and roads, from every kind of protection and ambuscade. The sixth infantry in fighting its way up the hill lost 119 men, killed or wounded; but every man not stopped by a bullet went to the top. The sixteenth lost 101 men.

The Rough Riders, now under command of Colonel Roosevelt,<sup>2</sup> were again in the hottest of the charge and again acquitted themselves gallantly. But it is impossible to specify gallant deeds, there is such a long list of them. The battle was fought against great odds of position and condition. The American officers and men showed remarkable courage and skill. The Spaniards held to their positions doggedly, even desperately, but they were unable to withstand the rushing assaults of our troops. When night came the Americans were in possession of the hills overlooking Santiago.



Theodore Roosevelt.

<sup>1</sup> General Wheeler had been sick for several days prior to the battle, but he was in ceaseless activity at the front during the fight, and showed in picturesque way the same courage and dash that gained him in the sixties the sobriquet of “Fighting” Joe Wheeler.

<sup>2</sup> Colonel Wood had been put in command of a brigade of Wheeler's division.



**711. The Destruction of Cervera's Fleet.** — The next Sunday (July 3) Cervera's fleet made an attempt to escape. Early in the morning our lookouts descried the Spanish flagship *Maria Teresa* emerging from the channel into the open sea. She was followed at some little distance by the *Vizcaya*, the *Cristobal Colon*, the *Almirante Oquendo*, and in the rear the torpedo destroyers *Pluton* and *Furor*. Our vessels, that for more than a month had been lying in wait for this very opportunity, instantly engaged them.<sup>1</sup> In less than an hour all the Spanish ships except the *Colon* were wrecks and in flames. In three hours the *Colon*, rated as one of the fastest cruisers in the world, was run down and captured. About 1300 prisoners were taken, including Admiral Cervera. Not an American vessel was seriously damaged. One American seaman was killed and two wounded. This was the most rapid and destructive naval battle of modern times, and the American victory was a fit companion to that of Manila.

**712. The Surrender of Santiago.** — Following the advance our troops had made upon Santiago and the crushing defeat of Cervera's fleet, General Shafter demanded the surrender of Santiago. Negotiations were slow, but eventually (July 15) terms were agreed upon and signed. The Spanish troops were transported to Spain by the United States and our troops marched in and took possession of Santiago.

**713. Annexation of Hawaii.** — The revolutionary party in Hawaii, having established a republican government, renewed the negotiations for annexation (§ 679). A new annexation treaty was sent to the Senate by President McKinley for ratification. Before action on this treaty was taken, however,

<sup>1</sup> Sampson had steamed away eastward on his flagship to confer with General Shafter, leaving Schley in command of the fleet. The engagement has been called a "captains' fight," as each ship commander acted independently in accordance with a prearranged plan of action.

annexation was consummated by joint resolution of both houses of Congress (July, 1898).<sup>1</sup>

**714. Peace.** — The surrender of Santiago virtually closed the war. With her fleets destroyed and one of her armies surrendered; with a large part of Cuba wrested from her and the whole island within the grasp of our victorious troops; with an American army, under General Miles, commander of the Army of the United States, landed in Porto Rico and another in the Philippines, where Manila already lay at the mercy of Admiral Dewey's guns; with her national finances on the verge of bankruptcy and a domestic revolution threatened, — nothing was left to Spain but to admit defeat. Through the French minister at Washington she applied for terms of peace. On August 12 a protocol, or preliminary treaty, was signed by our secretary of state, in behalf of the United States, and the French minister, representing Spain. Orders



Nelson A. Miles.

<sup>1</sup> The Hawaiian Islands are situated in the Pacific, 2100 miles southwest from San Francisco. They have a total area about equal to that of New Jersey, and they include eight inhabited islands, of which Hawaii, the largest, gives its name to the group. The islands were first made known to the world by Captain James Cook, an English navigator who visited them in 1778 and named them the Sandwich Islands after the Earl of Sandwich. In 1820 missionaries from the United States established themselves in the islands, introducing Christianity and civilization, and beginning the era of American predominance. In 1875 a reciprocity treaty with the United States enormously increased sugar planting and stimulated foreign immigration. The total population is 109,000, of whom 40,000 are natives and half-breeds, 5000 Americans and British, and the remainder chiefly Chinese, Japanese, and Portuguese, imported as laborers on the sugar plantations. Honolulu, the capital, has a population of about 25,000.