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WAR MEASURES THAT MAKE FOR PEACE.

The extreme tension of the past few days in our foreign relations has undoubtedly been greatly relaxed by the action of Congress in appropriating, unannounced and practically without debate, the sum of \$50,000,000 for the purpose of national defense.

Although the Court of Inquiry on the "Maine" disaster has not yet reported, there is a growing impression that the loss of the ship was not accidental. At the same time it is doubtful if anyone, outside of that section of the press (happily very small) which would criminally drag the country into war, believes for a moment that if the ship was deliberately wrecked the Spanish government was in any way concerned in such an unspeakable crime.

The administration is for peace, if peace can be preserved consistently with the rights of all the parties concerned in the present crisis. It is admitted on all hands that the President has acted with the moderation, dignity and self-restraint that become the representative of a nation of our wealth and power.

The defense fund is to be used in thoroughly equipping the army and navy, in strengthening the fortifications and possibly in the purchase of ships which are completed or nearing completion in foreign shipyards. If a conflict should occur, it would largely be confined to the sea, and while our navy is undoubtedly stronger than that of Spain, the difference is not so great but the purchase by Spain of the warships nearing completion in European yards might make matters even, if it did not give the Spanish navy a slight preponderance.

In order to render available to the full our own preponderance of naval strength every ship is being placed in commission. An enlistment board has been named which is enlisting some 2,000 additional seamen, and plans have been completed for commissioning our fast merchantmen, such as the "St. Louis" and "St. Paul," as auxiliary cruisers.

Meanwhile our various fleets are being concentrated at strategic points—the Atlantic fleet in the neighborhood of Cuba, the Pacific fleet at Hong-Kong, and our ships on the European station within striking distance of Spain. In the event of hostilities—which we consider to be very unlikely—the chief fighting ground would be in the West Indies and more particularly in Cuban waters, where Spain would soon be at enormous disadvantage through the difficulty of securing adequate coal supplies.

Whether matters are pushed to the last extremity or not, it is certain that Congress has realized the necessity of keeping the defenses of the country up to the state of efficiency which its naval and military advisers have so long and so vainly recommended.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY.

From December 1 to 14, 1897, representatives of the countries belonging to the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property met in conference at Brussels, Belgium, to discuss the advisability of changes in the provisions of the convention concluded at Paris on March 20, 1883.

This convention (to which the United States adhered in 1887) had for its object to secure to subjects or citizens of the contracting states reciprocal privileges in regard to the protection of inventions, designs and

trade marks: also for suppressing fraud in the designation of the origin of goods.

One of the most important sections of the Paris convention is that which allows citizens or subjects of any of the contracting parties a right of priority during a predetermined period after the filing of an application for a patent, design or trade mark in one of the states of the International Union.

The Brussels conference has adopted a series of amendments to be submitted for approval and ratification to the respective governments.

The first amendment extends the privileges of the convention to the subjects or citizens of states not belonging to the International Union, provided that they are residents of one of the countries of said union, or have bona fide industrial or commercial establishments in such a country.

Another amendment has been proposed to make it appear more clearly than in the original wording that public use of the invention by the inventor, after he has filed his application in one of the contracting states, shall not invalidate his claim to a patent in any country in which he files an application in conformity with the convention.

The most important amendment is one declaring that patents obtained in countries belonging to the union, by persons entitled to the benefits of the convention, shall, in their term or duration, be entirely independent of any patent obtained for the same invention in any other country, whether this latter country be a member of the union or not.

As to inventions, designs or trade marks used or exhibited at official or officially recognized international expositions held in one of the countries belonging to the union, such inventions, designs or trade marks shall receive temporary protection in all the countries of the union, in accordance with the legislation of each country.

For the protection of trade marks and trade names, it is proposed that in countries where the law does not permit of the seizure of goods bearing such marks or names unlawfully, a prohibition of importation may take the place of the seizure.

Furthermore, goods will be liable to seizure or to be prohibited from importation in the countries of the International Union if they bear, as a fraudulent indication of origin, the name of a well defined locality, provided said name is used together with a fictitious trade name, or with one borrowed with fraudulent intention.

In regard to the manner in which these amendments are to be adopted by the countries belonging to the International Union, and with reference to admission of other states to the union, and to the time when said amendments shall be and remain in force, the following conditions have been agreed upon:

The governments of the countries comprising the union are invited to sign the amendment within six months from December 14, 1897; said governments shall ratify the amendments, and forward the ratifications to Brussels for exchange as soon as possible, and not later than within one year.