

A MOST REMARKABLE SPEECH

President McKinley Seeks to Justify the War of Subjugation in the Philippines.

Following is the text of President McKinley's speech at Pittsburgh:

Governor Stone and My Fellow-citizens—I am glad to participate with the families, friends and fellow-citizens of the Tenth Pennsylvania volunteers in this glad reunion. You have earned the plaudits, not alone of the people of Pennsylvania, but of the whole Nation. Your return has been the signal for a great demonstration of popular regard from your landing in the Golden Gate in the Pacific to your home-coming, and here you find a warmth of welcome and a greeting from joyous hearts which tell better than words the estimate of your countrymen and their high appreciation of the services you have rendered the country. You made secure and permanent the victory of Dewey. You added new glory to American arms.

You and your brave comrades engaged on other fields of conflict have enlarged the map of the United States and extended the jurisdiction of American liberty.

But while we share in the joy that is yours, there remain with us softened and hallowed memories of those who went forth with you not found in your ranks today. Your noble colonel, devoted to his men, beloved by his command and respected by his superior officers, gave his life to his country with many others of his comrades. The Nation sorrows with the bereaved.

These heroes died for their country and there is no nobler deed.

Our troops represented the courage and conscience, the purpose and patriotism of their country. Whether in Cuba, Porto Rico or the Philippines or at home awaiting orders, they did their full duty and all sought the post of greatest peril. They never faltered. The Eighth army corps in the Philippines have made a proud and exceptional record. Privileged to be mustered out in April, when the ratifications of the treaty of peace were exchanged, they did not claim the privilege—they declined it. They voluntarily remained in the service and declared their purpose to stay until their places could be filled by new levies and longer if the government needed them. And they understood it was not to be in camp or garrison, free from danger, but on the battle line, where exposure and death confronted them. They did not stack arms. They did not run away. They were not serving the insurgents in the Philippines or their sympathizers at home. They had no part or patience with the men, few in number, happily, who would have rejoiced to have seen them lay down their arms in the presence of an enemy whom they had just emancipated from Spanish rule and who should have been our firmest friends. They furnished an example of devotion and sacrifice which will brighten the glorious record of American valor. They have secured not alone the gratitude of the government and of the people, but for themselves and their descendants an imperishable distinction.

They may not fully appreciate and the country may not, the heroism of their conduct and its important support to the government. I think I do and so I am here to express it. The mighty army of volunteers and reg-

ulars, numbering over 250,000, which last year responded to the call of the government with an alacrity without precedent or parallel, by the terms of their enlistment were to be mustered out with all of the regiments above 27,000 when peace was effected with Spain. Peace brought us the Philippines by treaty cession from Spain. The senate of the United States ratified the treaty.

Every step taken was in obedience to the requirements of the constitution.

It became our territory and is ours as much as the Louisiana purchase or Texas or Alaska. The body of the insurgents, in no sense representing the sentiment of the people of the islands, disputed our laws and even before the ratification of the treaty by the American senate were attacking the very forces who fought for and secured their freedom.

This was the situation in April, 1899, the date of the exchange of ratifications—with only 27,000 regulars subject to the unquestioned direction of the executive, and they for the most part on duty in Cuba and Porto Rico or invalidated at home after their severe campaign in the tropics. Even had they been available it would have required months to transport them to the Philippines. Practically a new army had to be created. These loyal volunteers in the Philippines said: "We will stay until the government can organize an army at home and transport it to the scene of hostilities." They stayed cheerfully, uncomplainingly, patriotically. They suffered and sacrificed; they fought and fell; they drove back and punished the rebels. Without them then and there we would have been practically helpless on land, our flag would have had its first stain and the American name its first ignominy. The brilliant victories of the army and navy in the bay and city of Manila would have been won in vain, or our obligations to civilization would have remained temporarily unperformed, chaos would have reigned and whatever government there was would have been by the will of one man and NOT BY THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED. Who refused to sound the retreat? Who stood in the breach when others weakened? Who resisted the suggestion of the unpatriotic that they should come home?

Let me call the roll of the regiments and battalions that deserve to be perpetuated in the Nation's annals. Their action was not a sudden impulse under excitement, but a deliberate determination to sustain, at the cost of life if need be, the honor of their government and the authority of its flag: First California artillery, First Colorado, First Idaho, Fifty-first Iowa, Twentieth Kansas, Thirteenth Minnesota, First Montana, First Nebraska, First North Dakota, Nevada cavalry, Second Oregon, Tenth Pennsylvania, First South Dakota, First Tennessee, Utah artillery, First Washington.

To these must be added about 4000 enlisted men of the regular army who were entitled to their discharge under the peace proclamation of April 11, 1899, the greater portion of whom participated in the engagements of the Eighth corps and are still performing arduous services in the field.

Nor must the navy be forgotten. Sixty-five devoted sailors participated in the engagements of May 1 in Manila bay whose terms of service had previously expired,

continuing on duty quite a year after that action.

For these men the army and navy have only honor and gratitude.

The world will never know the restraint of our soldiers—their self-control under the most exasperating conditions. For weeks subjected to the insults and duplicity of the insurgent leaders, they preserved the status quo, remembering that they were under an order from their government to sacredly observe the terms of the protocol in letter and spirit and avoid all conflict except in defense, pending the negotiations of the treaty of peace. They were not the aggressors. They did not begin hostilities against the insurgents pending the ratification of the treaty of peace in the senate, great as was their justification, because their orders from Washington forbade it. I take all the responsibility for that direction; Olds only executed the orders of his government and the soldiers, under great provocation to strike back, obeyed.

Until the treaty was ratified we had no authority beyond Manila city, harbor and bay. We then had no other title to defend, no authority beyond that to maintain. Spain was still in possession of the remainder of the archipelago.

Spain had sued for peace. The truce and treaty were not concluded. The first blow was struck by the insurgents. Our kindness was reciprocated with cruelty, our mercy with a Mauser. The flag of truce was invoked only to be dishonored. Our soldiers were shot down while ministering to the wounded Filipinos. Our humanity was interpreted as weakness, our forbearance as cowardice. They assailed our sovereignty, and there will be no useless parley—no pause until the insurrection is suppressed and American authority acknowledged and established. The misguided followers in the rebellion have only our charity and pity.

As to the traitorous leaders of the insurrection, I will leave to others the ungracious task of justification and eulogy.

Every one of the noble men, regulars or volunteers, soldiers or seamen, who signally served their country in its extremity, deserves the special recognition of congress and it will be to me an unfeigned pleasure to recommend for each of them a special medal of honor.

While we give you hail and greeting from overflowing hearts, we do not forget the brave men who remain and those who have gone forward to take our place and those other brave men who have so promptly volunteered, crowding each other to go to the front, to carry forward to successful completion the work you so nobly begun. Our prayers go with them and more men and munitions if required for the speedy suppression of the rebellion, the establishment of peace and tranquility and a government under the undisputed sovereignty of the United States—a government which will do justice to all and at once encourage the best efforts and aspirations of these distant people and the highest development of their rich and foreign lands.

The government to which you gave your loyalty welcomes you to your homes. With no blot or stain upon your record, the story of your unselfish services to country and to civilization will be to the men who take your places at the front and on the firing line and to future generations an example of patriotism and an inspiration to duty.

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