

Week 35

After the Civil War — Part I

Lesson 1

Write the definitions from the glossary for the following vocabulary words.

1. flourishing _____

2. industrious _____

3. exposition _____

4. utterly _____

5. devastation _____

6. blockade _____

7. cruisers _____

8. scheme _____

9. cavalry _____

LFBC Sample Page H125

Read the following text for good understanding.

The Years Following the Civil War How the North and the South Grew after the War; The Great West

After the war the united North and South grew and prospered (succeeded, grew rich) as never before. In the South, many new and **flourishing** towns and cities sprung up. Mines of coal and iron were opened, hundreds of cotton mills and factories were built, and long lines of railroads were constructed.

In the West, even greater changes took place. Cities rose up in the wilderness, mines of silver and gold opened, and immense farms and cattle ranches produced food enough to feed all of America. By the end of the 1800s, five great railroads lines were built in the West to connect with railroads in the East, giving the nation railroads that stretched across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Into that vast country beyond the Mississippi, hundreds of thousands of **industrious** people

moved from all parts of the earth to build homes for themselves and for their children.

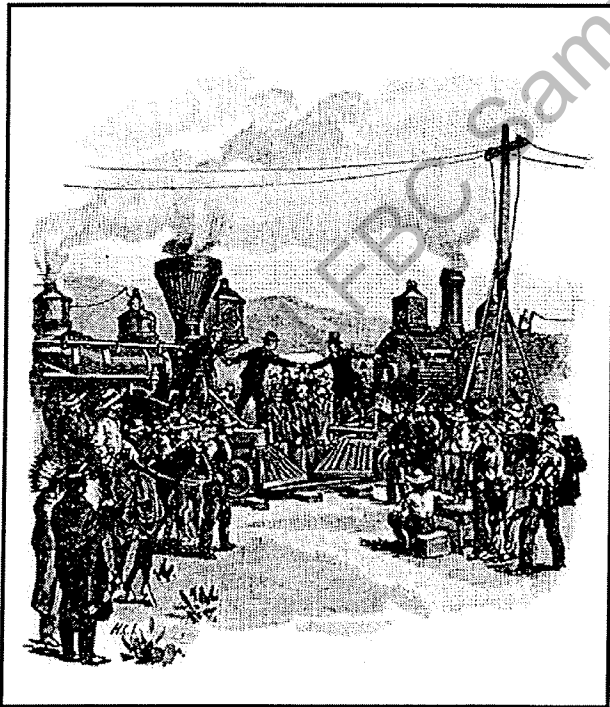
Celebration of America's Discovery by Columbus

In 1893, more than 400 years since Columbus crossed the ocean and found this new world, the United States celebrated that discovery with a great fair — the “World’s Columbian Exposition” in Chicago, Illinois. There, on the low shores of Lake Michigan, on what was once a swamp, the people of the West had built a great city. They had built it, too, where an engineer for the U.S. government had said it was simply impossible to do, and by 1893 Chicago had more than a million inhabitants. Multitudes of people from every state in the Union visited the **exposition**, and many came from all parts of the globe to join us.

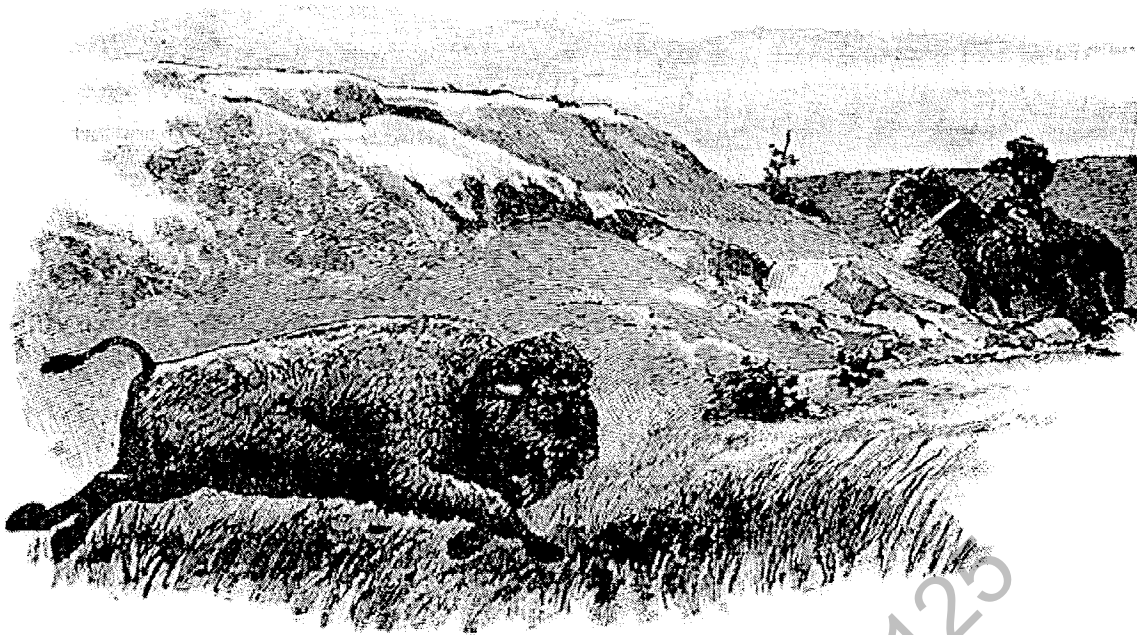
Our Hundred Days War with Spain

A little less than five years after the opening of the Columbian Exposition, the United States declared war against Spain. It was the first time we had crossed swords with any European nation since General Andrew Jackson won the famous battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812 against Great Britain.

When William McKinley became President in 1897, we had no expectation of fighting Spain. The war came suddenly, and Cuba was the cause of it. Spain once owned not only all the large islands in the West Indies, which Columbus had discovered, but held Mexico and Florida, and the greater part of that vast country west of the Mississippi River, which by 1897 had belonged to the United States for many years. Piece by piece, Spain lost most of these enormous possessions, until finally she had nothing left but the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico.



The Meeting of the Engines



How they used to shoot buffalo in the far West.

The Rebellion In Cuba

Many of the Cubans hated Spanish rule, and with good reason. They made several attempts to rid themselves of it and fought for ten years (1868-1878), but without success. Finally, in the spring of 1895, they took up arms again, and with the battle cry of "Independence or death!" they began their earnest to drive out the Spaniards. Spain was determined to crush the rebellion. She sent over thousands of soldiers to accomplish it. The desperate fight continued to go on year after year, until it looked as though the whole island — which Columbus said was the most beautiful he had ever seen — would be converted into a wilderness covered with graves and ruins. In the course of the war, great numbers of peaceful Cuban farmers were driven from their homes and starved to death; and many Americans who had bought sugar and tobacco plantations saw all of their property utterly destroyed.

The Destruction of the *Maine*

Cuba is about the size of the state of Pennsylvania. It is our nearest island neighbor

to the south, just out of sight from Key West, Florida. The people of the United States could not look on the war of **devastation** unmoved. While we were sending shiploads of food to feed the starving Cubans, we hoped that the terrible struggle might be quickly brought to an end.

Our government first urged and then demanded that Spain try to make peace in the island. Spain did try, and tried honestly as far as we could see, but it failed. The Cuban revolutionaries had no faith in Spanish promises, and they refused to accept anything short of separation and independence. Spain was poor and proud; she replied that come what may, she would not give up Cuba.

While we were waiting to see what would be done, a terrible event happened. We had sent Captain Sigsbee in command of the battleship *Maine* to visit Havana. On the night of February 15, 1898, while the *Maine* was lying in that port, she was blown up. Out of 353 officers and men on board the vessel, 266 were instantly killed or were so badly hurt that they soon died. We appointed a court of inquiry, composed of naval officers, to