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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 11.

PROGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Compared With Spain Shows the Latter in a Bad Light.

ONWARD MARCH OF PROGRESS

Spain Has Steadily Been Shoved to the Rear, While Uncle Sam Has Steadily Forged Ahead—A Comparison of Strength—Remarkable Growth in the Past Century.

Following is a comparison of the relative strength of the United States and Spain, and the results of the wars waged by the two countries in the past 100 years, showing Spain in a bad light:

RISE OF THE UNITED STATES.	
The following shows how the United States has risen in the family of nations:	
Estimated population in 1800.....	5,308,493
Estimated population in 1898.....	71,500,000
Estimated area in square miles.....	3,692,300
Extent of coast line (exclusive of 8,620 miles on the Great Lakes).....	13,200
Military resources of the United States in able-bodied men.....	10,130,788
Naval strength (active list, 13,582): Naval reserve, 2,800.....	16,382
Total immigration into United States in 1892.....	628,084
Manufactures, annual value, 1897.....	\$3,372,000,000
Imports, 1897.....	742,630,855
Exports, 1897.....	1,069,129,619
Revenue, 1897.....	461,000,000
National wealth, 1890.....	65,000,000,000
National wealth of the United States, 1898.....	90,000,000,000
Balance in Treasury March 7, 1898.....	24,864,297
War fund appropriated and instantly available.....	50,000,000
SPAIN'S DECLINE.	
Spain's decline in the march of progress is shown by the following:	
Estimated population in 1800.....	11,000,000
Estimated present population of Spain.....	17,550,216
Estimated population of Spanish Africa.....	437,000
Estimated population of Philippine Islands.....	9,500,000
Estimated population of Cuba.....	1,521,684
Estimated population of Porto Rico.....	784,709
Manufactures annual value, 1896.....	\$105,000,000
Imports, 1895.....	160,000,000
Exports, 1895.....	140,000,000
Revenue, 1895.....	150,000,000
National wealth, 1895.....	7,962,000
(Spain's national wealth shows a decrease.)	
Balance in Treasury.....	None
War fund.....	None
Military resources of Spain in able-bodied men.....	4,200,000
Total active list in navy, 24,629: Naval reserve, 25,000.....	49,629
In 1892, according to the official statistics, 66,406 persons left and 58,148 persons entered Spain, the excess of emigration thus being 8,258.	

UNCLE SAM'S SUCCESS AT WAR.
The success of this country at war and the territorial extension of American Colonies and the United States is shown by the following:

- 1763—The old French and Indian war concluded by the peace of Paris.
 - 1775—Actual commencement of the Revolution; a contest with the mother country concerning disputed rights.
 - 1776—Colonies placed before the world as a self-declared nation by the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Congress in session at Philadelphia. From this time the War of Independence was waged with renewed earnestness.
 - 1783—After many reverses and long periods of adversity the British Government acknowledged the independence of the American Republic.
 - 1787—A convention of delegates, representing all States, formed the present Constitution, which went into operation March 4, 1789, by the inauguration of Washington as President.
 - 1803—Peaceful acquisition, by purchase from France, of the Territory of Louisiana, embracing the extended district of the lower Mississippi Valley and a broad strip west of the river.
 - 1812-14—The second war with Great Britain, which ended in a peace ratification in February, 1815.
 - 1821—Acquisition of Florida by cession of Spain.
 - 1845-48—War with Mexico in consequence of the admission of Texas to the Union. This ended in Mexico ceding to the United States a considerable tract of her domains.
 - 1861-65—Civil war continued from April 12, 1861, when the first gun was fired in the bombardment of Fort Sumpter, until April 9, 1865, when the war was practically ended by the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court-House. The war was no sooner ended than measures were put in operation for the return of the lately seceded States to their proper status in the Union. These measures so signally succeeded that the Union today is stronger than ever.
 - 1867—Purchase of the territory of Alaska by the United States from Russia for \$7,200,000 in gold after negotiations began in 1859 of a peaceful and business-like nature.
- SPANISH RETROGRESSION.**
Spanish wars and the retrogression of Spain during the present century are shown by this:
- 1779—Spanish successfully lay siege to Gibraltar.

- 1795—Cession by Spain of part of San Domingo to France in the treaty of Basle.
- 1797—Spanish fleet destroyed by the English off Cape St. Vincent.
- 1801—Spain re-ceded Louisiana to France, having gotten itself into inextricable difficulties with the United States over boundaries and fearing a revolt which would have lost it the territory.
- 1803—By the treaty extorted by Bonaparte Spain became involved in a disastrous war with England, and the last remnants of its maritime powers were shattered in the battle off Cape Finisterre and Trafalgar; English take possession of Buenos Ayres, in South America, then owned by Spain. Madrid was taken without difficulty and the Spanish army scattered.
- 1810—Revolt in Spain's Argentine colonies in South America.
- 1810—Revolt in Spain's colony in Venezuela and New Granada.
- 1810—Revolt in Mexico, Spain's richest and largest American possession.
- 1814—Ferdinand VII was liberated and again acceded to the throne. Spain groaned under a royalist Reign of Terror. The Cortes (Parliament) was abolished, the inquisition re-established and finances were squandered in futile effort to regain South American colonies, which again took advantage of Napoleon's oppressive and tyrannical rule.
- 1818—Chile lost to the Spanish crown.
- 1821—Florida sold to the United States. Spain had captured the west coast from England. On his way home after his suppression of the Seminole, in 1818, General Jackson captured Pensacola and deposed the Spanish authorities. The resulting differences were ended with the purchase of the peninsula by the United States for \$5,000,000. Mexico's independence gained. Revolt throughout Spain.
- 1823—Armed intervention in Spain by France, Russia and Prussia. Madrid entered by invaders; no effective resistance made.
- 1824—Peruvian independence gained and Spain lost her last stronghold on the American Continent.
- 1836—Spanish Government involved in a desperate struggle with the Carlists.
- 1868—Revolution. Queen Isabella fled to France.
- 1876—Carlist war ended. Alfonso XII reigns. Now in its third and probably triumphant year.
- 1895—Cuban revolution begun.
- 1897—Revolution in the Philippine Islands. These rich Pacific possessions of Spain will be lost as soon as Cuba is, and probably at the same time.

The Sheriffs Surprised.
Sheriff Wagner, of Union county residing at Lewisburg, was awakened early Thursday morning by a vigorous pounding on his door and an urgent appeal to be let in. He was considerably astounded on coming down to find his late caller was Elmer Hassenplug, who, with another prisoner, had escaped from the jail recently. The sheriff had been scouring the country in the effort to recapture the fugitives, and his surprise was great at the voluntary return of Hassenplug.

Killed by Outlaws in Utah.
Word has just reached Belleville of the killing of Valentine S. Hoy, a wealthy stock man of Lincoln, Nebraska, near Brown's Park, Utah. Mr. Hoy was a son of Henry Hoy, an early day store keeper at Jacksonville. He was a cousin of Hezekiah Hoy, Mrs. John Rishel, Amos and John Garbrick, all of this county.

Fire Near Unionville.
The large barn upon the farm of David Spotts, two miles north of Unionville, was destroyed by fire Monday morning at 2 o'clock. All the hay, grain, implements and two cows were burned. There was an insurance on the barn, but none on the stock. The total loss will probably be over \$2,000.

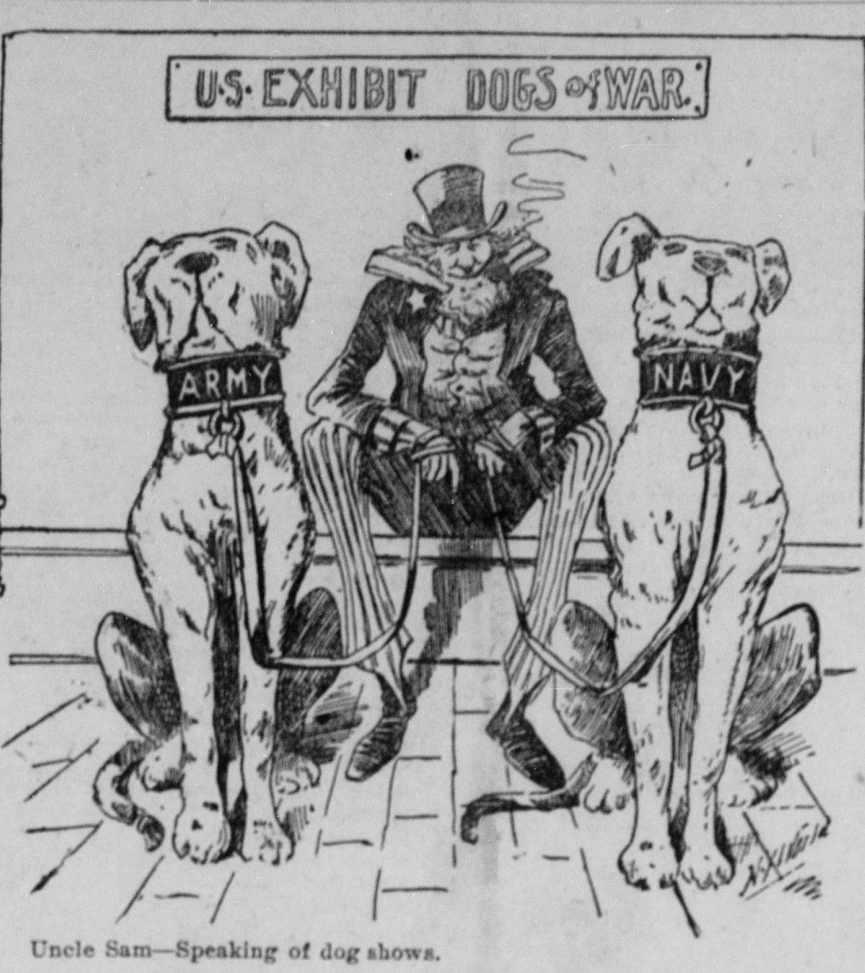
What They Cost.
In view of the war talk being indulged in these days, an interesting bit of information is the statement that projectiles used for the United States army for its modern guns cost as follows: Solid shot, eight inch, \$69.50 each; ten inch, \$144.50 each; twelve inch mortar shells weighing 1,000 pounds \$195 each.

Wonderful Revival at Salona.
The religious revival in the Methodist church at Salona, Rev. W. C. Robbins pastor, continues with interest unabated and the church is crowded nightly. Thirty-four have professed conversion. Many of those professing conversion are heads of families.

The New Soap Factory.
Cheesman & Company, of Mill Hill, are now located in their new building. The structure is three stories high and is arranged especially for the manufacture of soap.

On Tuesday a two-ton order for a large woollen mill was being filled.

The CENTRE DEMOCRAT and the Cincinnati Inquirer for \$1.50 a year.



Uncle Sam—Speaking of dog shows.

WHEELS PASSED OVER HIM.
Patrick Meaney Dies From the Effects of Severe Injuries.
Patrick Meaney, who resided at Blanchard, and who has been cutting wood in the hollow near Mill Hill, met with an accident Friday night that caused his death. Meaney it is said had been indulging freely and while walking up the track from Mill Hill became tired and laid down on the track. A freight train struck Meaney about 7 o'clock. The wheels passed lengthwise over his arm, crushed his shoulder and caused severe injuries to the head. The injured man was found by Pearl and Dela Brown who summoned help. He was picked up and taken to Beech Creek, where the arm was amputated above the elbow. He failed to rally from the shock of the accident and expired Saturday morning. Meaney was about 45 years old and was unmarried. He is survived by his sister, whom he supported. The remains were interred in the Catholic cemetery, at Howard.

Want Their Back Fees.
The supreme court having decided that constables are entitled to ten cents for each and every mile traversed in the discharge of official duty, these officers throughout the commonwealth are jubilant, and their state association, recently organized at Harrisburg, is preparing to institute proceedings for the recovery of back fees, and the constables are preparing to fight the matter to the end. The commissioners of several counties are now engaged in strengthening their organization, but what special purpose is not apparent at this time.

Sudden Death.
On Wednesday morning Mr. Henry Koch died suddenly at his home near Axemann, of heart failure. He had a leg fractured recently, but that was not the cause of his death. Mr. Koch was a farmer and was 44 years of age. His wife only survives him. Last Friday Mr. Koch was kicked on the leg by a furious bull that was kept in the stable. This fractured the limb, but no such a sudden termination was anticipated.

The Gardeners Ready to Start.
The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will send out a large army of gardeners in a short time, who, under the direction of the chief florist and landscape artist, will begin planting flower beds and trees at many of the stations. Many new stations lawns are to be sowed, and at places where new work has been done the cuts and embankments will be looked after.

Big Fire at Chicago.
It is believed that fully sixty people lost their lives in the fierce fire which broke out Wednesday at Wabash avenue and Adams street, in Chicago, in the building which was occupied by a number of business firms. The burned building was across the street from the Wellington hotel.

A Freight Conductor's Fate.
J. F. Aurand, freight conductor on the Pennsylvania railroad, was cut in twain and instantly killed at Tyrone Saturday night. He was stepping from one car to another, when his foot tripped on the bumper and he fell under the wheels.

Left for the South.
Bishop McGovern left Harrisburg on Friday on a trip for his health through the southern states. It was the tenth anniversary of the bishop's consecration to that office.

FIRE AT PINE GROVE MILLS.
The large barn of J. M. Keplers Burned to the Ground.
The large barn of Capt. J. M. Kepler, on the Harter farm at Pine Grove Mills, burned to the ground with all its contents Friday afternoon. The fire was noticed about 4.30 p. m. It caught in one of the lower stables where a lot of straw bundles were packed away. How it started, however, seems to be a mystery. Wm. Stone and wife were in on the barn floor filling a bed tick with straw, and did not realize their danger and had to flee for their lives, so sudden did the flames envelope the whole building. A lot of hay and straw with a small amount of rye and oats, five head of cattle and valuable agricultural machinery were destroyed. Also several sheep. Several head of cattle were badly burned.

This barn was one of the largest and most complete in Centre county, and contained some valuable machinery, all of which was destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$6,000, fully covered by insurance.

Famous Horse.
George, the Shetland-Canadian horse, for seventeen years the property of John T. Fowler, sickened and died at the Fowler home in Centre county on Monday morning last. George was a great animal in his time. He was thirty-one years old when he died. In 1871 he was shipped to Tyrone in a box car for Mr. Fowler. When being taken from the car he tore loose from those who were handling him, jumped from the car and rolled down the railroad embankment, at the foot of which he regained his feet, ran across the river and into the nursery of W. George Waring, where he was recaptured. One time George was stolen from Mr. Fowler and taken down Bald Eagle Valley. Everybody knew the animal and it was long until the thief had to abandon him. The animal was a great favorite of Mrs. Harriet Fowler, and when she died she left a request that George be well cared for during his life time. He was a noble little animal, and though he had been unfitted for service the past five years Mr. Fowler very much regrets his death.

About Lester's Wheat.
He has 12,000,000 bushels. It would make 2,666,666 barrels of flour. It would make 900,000,000 loaves of bread. Could it be loaded on one train, the train would be 150 miles long. Shipped by water it would require a fleet of 100 vessels of 4,000 tons each. If baked into bread and placed end to end, the loaves would reach around the earth more than four times. If in barrels, these placed on end, would reach from Chicago to New York and back again in a double line. Baked into bread it would feed the population of Greater New York for a year, at the rate of two and a half loaves for each person per day.

Will Locate in Juneau.
I. N. Gordon, better known as "Newt" in his old home here, left Pittsburg, last week, for Juneau, Alaska. For years he had been connected with the Fairbank's scale company, of Pittsburg, but resigned to locate in the gateway of the new Eldorado, where he will become resident manager of the Last Chance gold mining company.

Station Broken Open.
The Beech Creek railroad station at Beech Creek was broken into Friday night by burglars, but they failed to find anything of any value.

THE ISLAND OF CUBA

Its Location, Area, Population, Resources, Government

IS FERTILE AND PRODUCTIVE

The Last of the Spanish Possessions on this Hemisphere—Past Efforts to Secure its Annexation—Why it Should be Part of the United States—Its Resources Would Soon be Developed.

At present all eyes seem to be turned towards Cuba and Spain. For that reason a brief and comprehensive review of the island of Cuba should be appreciated by our readers. The following interesting sketch is from the pen of C. M. Bower, Esq.:

The island of Cuba is situated between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. It is separated from Mexico by the channel of Yucatan, about 130 miles wide, and from the United States by the Strait of Florida about 80 miles wide. It is the largest island in what is generally known as the American Archipelago. These islands are divided into groups, the Bahamas and the Antilles. The latter are again subdivided into the Greater and Lesser Antilles. Cuba, being the largest of all of these groups, is by common consent called the "Queen of the Antilles." In shape it is long, narrow and slightly curved, being about 760 miles in length and from 20 to 135 miles wide. Along the coast the country is low and flat, containing vast swamps and marshes, but in the interior the country is hilly and mountainous. Some of the highest ranges rising into peaks 7,000 to 8,000 feet above the level of the sea. The mountain ranges extend from east to west the entire length of the island and form magnificent valleys, some of which are 200 miles long and 50 miles wide. These valleys are extremely fertile and in them are located mostly the celebrated sugar plantations, upon which Spain has so long depended for her revenues, which the poor Cuban's are obliged to pay to the mother country.

The principal products of the island are sugar and tobacco, although the soil, which is extremely fertile, will produce all of the products of the tropics, Oranges and pineapples are raised for export, all other fruits only for home consumption. Cotton, coffee and flax have lately been raised to some extent. While the island contains all kinds of minerals, gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, salt, asphaltum, etc., the mining interest is not developed. Cattle are raised in some localities but the product of this industry is not sufficient for home consumption. The vegetation is very luxuriant. The forests contain some woods almost as hard as iron and are almost imperishable. For furniture they are almost unrivaled. Lignumvite, ebony, rosewood and mahogany are among the valuable exports of wood used in fine and expensive work.

The climate is said to be exceedingly fine and salubrious, while yellow fever and other epidemics exist along the coast and in the low lands, it is never known in the valleys and hills of the interior. The thermometer never rises as high as it does sometimes in our own cities, and sun-strokes are unknown. The highest recorded temperature since 1801 was 104, and the thermometer seldom falls to the freezing point. Even in Havana, which is situated along the coast, the average temperature is only 77°, the highest being 89° and the lowest 50°. The seasons are reduced to two, the rainy and the dry seasons. The rainy season begins in May or June and ends in November, when the cold or dry season commences. During the rainy season it rains almost every day, while during the dry season rain rarely falls, but the dews are very abundant both at night and in the early morning. The climate being very moderate, the soil more than ordinarily productive, and the country very healthy, the island is a very desirable place to live. The population is about 2,000,000, composed of a mixture of whites, blacks and Indians. The city of Havana alone has a population of 230,000 about one-third being black or of the mixed races. Slavery existed for many years, being introduced by the Spaniards soon after the discovery of the island. The native Indians and negroes brought from Africa, and their descendants constitute the slave population. Slavery is nominally abolished, yet it still exists in a modified form, by which many of the poorer people are apprenticed, under the name of "Emancipados" for terms of years according to their ages. These emancipados are really no better off than slaves.

Cuba was discovered by Columbus, October 28th, 1492, and he named it Juana, in honor of Prince Juan, the heir to the Spanish throne. Other names were afterward given to the island, but none of these names supplanted that of Cuba, by which it was known by the natives. The natives were a docile race of Indians, who were easily subdued and soon became the slaves of their Spanish conquerors. Since its discovery by Columbus, Cuba has belonged to Spain, and has been governed from Madrid, by a Captain General appointed by the Crown. Some of these Captain Generals have honestly tried to advance the interests of the island but the most of them have done little else than oppress the people and made fortunes for themselves. The government has been generally of the most oppressive character, and any advancement made by the people of the island has been in the face of all the obstacles mismanagement and oppression could invent. The royal order of the omnidadas empowers the Captain General to rule at all times as if the island were in a state of siege, and most of these officers were more noted for the abuse of this power than for its use.

There has been more or less discontent in Cuba since the beginning of the present century, and much sympathy has always been manifested for these people by the United States, but the project of annexation was not mooted until about 1848. After the acquisition of Florida the United States became deeply interested in the future welfare of the island. It was feared that it might eventually fall into the hands of the English or French, and Spain and those nations were duly notified that such a disposition of it would never be consented to by the United States. Its nearness to our coasts and its position at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico gives it an importance that cannot be disregarded by our government. The United States has so far consented that Cuba should remain a Spanish colony, but always averred that it should never pass into the hands of any other foreign power. In 1825 Spain proposed that in consideration of certain commercial advantages to be granted, the United States should guarantee to Spain the perpetual possession of Cuba. This offer was emphatically declined, on the ground that such a course was contrary to the established policy of this country. In 1848 President Polk, through the American minister at Madrid, offered to buy the island for \$100,000,000. The proposition was rejected by the Spanish government. In 1852, President Fillmore refused to join with France and Great Britain in a treaty guaranteeing to Spain the undisputed possession of Cuba. This led to some complications between the two governments, and finally culminated in a Spanish war vessel firing upon the American Steamer Black Warrior. War seemed to be certain to follow this uncalculated outrage on the part of Spain, but the matter was finally adjusted without actual hostilities. Since then the question of the annexation of Cuba has frequently entered into American politics, and the feeling that the island should be a part of the United States has become stronger and stronger, until the acquisition of the Queen of the Antilles seemed to be a question of only a few years. Again in August 1854 Messrs Buchanan, Mason and Soule, United States ministers at London, Paris and Madrid respectively, held a conference at Ostend and drew up a statement popularly known as the Ostend Manifesto. In this document they argued "that Cuba ought to belong to the United States, and that Spain would find its sale highly advantageous; and that in certain contingencies, the United States ought to possess themselves of the island by force." It was also proposed in the United States Senate, in the session of 1858 and 1859 to place \$30,000,000 in the hands of the President with a view to the acquisition of the island; but after considerable debate it was withdrawn by its author Mr. Sibley, of Louisiana.

The constantly growing discontent in Cuba culminated in an insurrection or rebellion in October 1868, which lasted until about 1880, when it was finally suppressed. The island was practically quiet from this time until the present insurrection broke out several years ago. During the insurrection of 1868, according to Spanish records, Spain lost not less than 80,000 men, and expended \$100,000,000. The same records show that not less than 20,000 Cubans were killed in battle, and Spain took 50,000 prisoners, all of whom the Spanish minister admitted were put to death. The recent rebellion so far has been much more expensive to Spain, in both men and money, than that of 1868, besides the island has been devastated and a large portion of the population, including men, women and children, murdered and starved to death. The conduct of Spain has been such that it seems impossible that intervention, by the United States on behalf of the Cubans, can be postponed much longer. The feeling that the so called insurgents should be accorded the protection that a common humanity demands may be jingoism in the minds of some of our statesmen, but this same spirit has manifested itself among our people for years, and the government has at all times strongly maintained that we had a right to see that the people of this island should not be ruthlessly murdered.

Continued on page 4.