

The Scranton Tribune

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Secretary Sherman's prediction that Spain will lose Cuba is read with satisfaction in America; but the part which the United States government is to play in expediting manifest destiny is what Americans are most curious to know, and on this subject the secretary of state throws no light whatever.

A Warning.

For the act whereby the prime minister of Spain was yesterday so suddenly stricken down by the bullet of an assassin there can be within the confines of civilization only one feeling— that of utter detestation. Humanity will ever weep against it. It is unpardonable.

What its effect will be upon an already dramatic international situation cannot yet be fully conjectured. That for a time it will bring more closely together the discordant elements in Spanish politics and tend to still the rising chorus of dissent from Senor Canovas' Cuban policy seems probable; on the contrary, the assassination itself betokens a tension of feeling in Spain which constitutes the uncertain factor in the broad Cuban equation. Although the assassin is described as an "anarchist" it will be difficult to believe that he did not find special incitement in the popular dissatisfaction having its origin in the costly and fruitless Cuban campaign. His bullet will appear in the eyes of the world to symbolize an ignorant and vicious manifestation of a general feeling of revolt from insensate taxation prolonged under a false appeal to the patriotism of the Spanish nation, in order that Weyler at Havana may drain Spain's life-blood at the same time that he is ruining Cuba.

If the governing forces at Madrid possess the gift of foresight this grim note of tragedy will sound the warning for a reconsideration of the mad policy of rule or ruin to which Senor Canovas stood pledged. It is possible that the assassin's bullet has delayed for a time the hour of Cuba's deliverance; yet in the very view which prompts this opinion there appear reasons to believe that it will ultimately work for Cuba's good. The hand of the United States is now stayed from a master stroke; but the quivering vitals of exhausted Spain offer through this frenzied crime a warning which not even the uncompromising statesmen of Spain will be likely to ignore or forget.

While not needed, the denial that the president intends to take the stump in the approaching Ohio campaign is welcome. The spectacle of a president on the hustings would be undignified.

The Rule of Mr. Reed.

In the opinion of the Springfield Republican, which admires the ability but condemns the parliamentary policy of the present speaker of congress, Mr. Reed will soon need to open a literary bureau to defend the autocracy of the gavel. Here is another solid Republican paper, the Globe-Democrat, of St. Louis, which makes him personally responsible for the system, and declares that "this exercise of authority may establish a precedent which some time or other may bring unpleasant consequences to the country." Reed's rules simply mean that Reed rules, and if Reed rules there's little use in electing congressmen outside the First Maine district every two years.

It is very easy for the average citizen, after reading and hearing utterances like this, to imagine that the present speaker is an utterly irresponsible despot, who knows no law or curb save those of his own caprice. As a matter of fact, such a conclusion would be grossly unjust. The speaker of congress, no matter who he is, is constitutionally the servant of congress and can use for any purpose not a whit more power than congress itself by the vote of a majority of its membership permits him to use. If Speaker Reed can succeed in securing from congress its authority to extend his authority to a degree beyond precedents then it follows either that he has individual charms of an extraordinary character or that new conditions in the public service have impressed the majority element in the house with the need of clothing in excess of those formerly enjoyed by him. It consequently is utterly illogical for any journal, Democratic or Republican, to blame Mr. Reed for the extent to which he has applied so-called paramount power to the shaping or repression of legislation. If it is felt that blame should attach to any man or group of men, the proper location for it is upon the Republican membership of congress which has repeatedly confirmed the gentleman representing the First Maine district in his rulings from the chair.

Emergency rather than precedent is necessarily the important factor in a popular government. If precedent alone had been consulted, this nation would never have had a beginning. More important by far than any theoretical hair-splitting over the question of parliamentary practice is the question, Has Speaker Reed used his authority to the public advantage? If he has, then neither he nor the majority which stood back of him is to be censured. When he with their approval shall abuse that power it will be time to complain.

The movement to establish a school of fine arts in this city, which is explained in our local department this morning, will without doubt heartily commend itself to every one possessing a spark of esteem for true art. That it is to be launched and conducted in a spirit of philanthropy, and out of a pure love of art and genius rather than with any mercenary object in view makes it almost imperative that it should be patronized by those whose

culture and means fit them to promote and cherish such a project. Let it be hoped that the movement will not lag until the school is a reality.

The American people have no ill-will for Japan; but they cannot permit that country or any other to stand on their toes. When this is understood the perplexities of the Hawaiian issue will speedily clear away.

Worthy of Memorization.

The evidences that prosperity is returning abound on every hand, but a parade of them in print should not be needed to inspire every patriotic American with a determination to do all he can to expedite the business revival. The truth is aptly spoken by the Philadelphia Bulletin when it says: "No man can afford to turn his back to these conditions. It is his manifest duty, as good citizen, husband or father, to go his full length in meeting the returning wanderer and bid him welcome. Sulking will not do, doubting will not avail, lying about it is silly as well as futile. Let every man go forward ready to use his strength of brain and brawn in the work of rejuvenation and recuperation. Lost ground has to be reclaimed, lost dollars must be replaced, and there is only one way to do it: Be earnest, be hopeful, be cheerful and work, work, work. The good will know prosperity is here without having to find it out in the papers."

These words of advice are worthy to be committed to memory.

The Right to Argue and to Work.

It is reported that the officials of the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company will apply today to United States Judge Acheson at Pittsburgh for an injunction against the striking coal miners similar to the one recently issued by Judge Jackson, of West Virginia, and for a force of federal marshals sufficiently strong to carry the injunction into effect. The injunction issued by Judge Jackson is said to have restrained the strikers in West Virginia "from in any way interfering with or molesting the management or the property of the Monongah Coke and Coal company or its employes, or trespassing upon the property of the company or the approaches thereto, or inciting its employes to strike, or interfering in any manner whatever, either by word or deed, in the company's affairs."

It is unlikely that Judge Acheson will go so far as to issue a decree of court forbidding the Pennsylvania strikers to "inhibit" their fellow-miners to strike. We know of no power founded on law or justice whereby men at work may not be persuaded to discontinue that work, provided the argument is conducted in a peaceful manner on public territory. We consider that the New York Sun's comment upon the published version of the Jackson injunction is correct in saying that an individual or a corporation is entitled to legal protection against trespass upon its property. No one has a right to go upon a farm or into a coal mine against the command of the owner, to persuade his laborers to leave their employment." Yet the Sun certainly is equally justified in asking: "But in their own homes, or in the public places, where the men from the farm or the men from the mines may peacefully assemble and reason together, by what authority can any court forbid a citizen to advise them to cease work, where such cessation involves no violence to person or property?" In our judgment there is no such authority. If there be, public opinion will speedily abridge it by constitutional means.

The highest law in a free government is the law of common sense. That law says that any man or number of men may reason with another man or number of men whenever the parties reasoned with are willing and the rights of no third party are violated. The attempt by a federal court to abridge this privilege in ever so slight a degree could not be considered other than unfortunate. On the other hand, the moment a man is forcibly kept from his daily work by others who do not want him to work but have no right to interfere with him, then a condition is created which calls for the whole force of the government if necessary to his protection.

The Philadelphia Times offers very sensible advice when it suggests that the present time is too early a time to be passed in excitement over the gubernatorial problem. That is something which may well be committed for solution to the future.

The Degraded Degree.

Professor Lukens, of Bryn Mawr, recently asked one hundred American colleges for opinions as to whether the giving of honorary degrees in this country has not been carried to an excess. From the replies he cites some interesting facts. One college in Kansas granted degrees to two women in a "conspicuous way." A New York college has been giving it to "skilled teachers." A leading Pennsylvania institution bestows it for "eminent attainments." Another college in the same state has been limiting it to professors and principals, while a third gives it for "meritorious scientific work;" and one in Ohio requires "eminence in philosophical pursuits." Some colleges—Harvard among them until lately—give LL. D. to the state governors. "General fitness" is one ground; "valuable services" another; "sufficient prominence" another. One New England college, we are told, granted the degree of LL. D. to a teacher and an efficient worker in the cause of temperance, while another leading college says that it gives the degree to a citizen or benefactor, not literary, whom the university desires to honor.

Most persons who take interest in scholarship will concur in the opinion of the Providence Journal that there is need of a higher standard of fitness among those who are selected both for academic and for honorary distinction by college conferment. "Nothing," it justly says, "is less justifiable than the bestowal of an A. M. or a Ph. D. for other reasons than academic ones. Abroad they always represent actual work done and eminence achieved; and they are no more given broadcast than the degrees of A. B.

or M. D. An honorary Ph. D. is an absurdity. The man who accepts it except on the condition of resigning it is honestly a pretender. There is no way of protecting those who work honestly for a degree supposed to represent scholarship and thus to have a practical value except by limiting the bestowal of such degrees to them and refusing to consider any one else, no matter how eminent, as a possible candidate. In the conferring of honorary degrees, of course, considerable discretionary powers must be allowed."

Yet even here a wrong is done to the cause of higher scholarship when degrees are peddled around among men of indifferent intellectual attainments, merely because it is thought desirable by college faculties that such men should be nursed for particular reasons. Such degrees carry no real distinction and serve only to detract from the credit which should attach to an honest and judicious recognition of merit. Public sentiment will soon have either to insist upon a proper restriction of the degree-giving habit or else bring itself to bear for the utter discarding of degrees, good, bad and indifferent.

Perhaps our calamity howling contemporaries—of which a few yet remain—will take note of the fact that the freight traffic on the middle division of the Pennsylvania railroad is larger now than it has ever been during a previous August in the road's history. And perhaps they won't. As a rule they don't care much for facts.

The Buffalo Express announces that it is preparing for Aug. 22 a souvenir issue treating especially of the forthcoming national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. As the Express never does things by halves, it may be taken for granted that this publication will be of real interest to veterans and the friends of veterans.

We notice with pleasure that our good friend, Colonel E. H. Butler, is again, to use a turf phrase, showing heels to the newspaper field in Buffalo, and that the circulation of his phenomenally successful Evening News is headed for the \$5,000 mark. The good feature of that journal's popularity is that it is merited.

Many of the sayings of Richard Quay that embarrass the paternal pathway were never said by him—a fact sometimes necessary to remember.

How the Czar Curbs Reckless Wheelmen

The American bicyclist has no reason to find fault with such regulations as have been adopted in most cities, but when so many have taken to the wheel it is no wonder that fault finders are numbered by the score. If they will take trouble to investigate the regulations attached to bicycle riding in foreign countries they would be compelled to admit that they are especially favored. Take Russia, for instance. Of course no country being under the rule of an autocrat, Russian ideas do not appeal to Americans, but it does not follow that those ideas are not sound. On the contrary, the bicycle regulations in force in St. Petersburg seem to be so good as to be deserving of consideration in this country. Bicycling is fast coming to the fore in the Russian capital in spite of the natural conditions, which are unfavorable to the sport during a greater part of the year. Consul General Karlov, in one of his reports to the state department sums up the Russian regulations as follows:

"Bicycle riding in the streets of the city is allowed only on low, two wheeled bicycles or on bicycles of other types which are considered by the city administration not dangerous. Only those persons of proper age, who have received a permit from the St. Petersburg city administration, can ride. The permit must bear the name of the proprietor and is given only to persons who know how to ride a bicycle. By the city governor's special order the person who receives a permit to ride a bicycle must give a photograph of himself to the city administration. Every person who has received a permit to ride a bicycle in the city is supplied by the administration with a number. He must have on his bicycle a bell and after dark a lighted lantern. The kind of tag, the time and way in which it must be attached to the bicycle are ordered by the city administration and confirmed by the city governor. Each person riding a bicycle must carry with him the permit, with the printed regulations printed in it. Past riding or racing in the city is allowed. Riders must always keep to the right, as near to the sidewalk as possible. Riders must pass foot passengers or an equipage the bicycle rider must in due time ring the bell and he must pass slowly. To ring without the bell is prohibited. No other signals except bells are allowed. In case horses should take fright at a bicycle the rider must stop and alight."

"In turning a corner or in crossing a street the bicycle must be ridden very slowly and the bell rung. In localities where there is much public traffic and many equipages riders must alight and lead their wheels. When several bicycle riders are together they must ride one after the other at a distance not less than fourteen feet between each bicycle. It is prohibited to ride or lead a bicycle on sidewalks, roads for pedestrians, boulevards, squares and parks. A bicycle in the city in a racing costume such as would attract special attention, is prohibited. The riding of bicycles can be stopped on some streets by order of the police, in the following cases: During the time when their imperial majesties are expected to pass, during religious processions and in places where there is a large gathering of people and equipage. The riding of bicycles is not allowed in certain parts of the Nevski Prospect nor in the Summer park. The city governor has the right to prohibit the riding of bicycles in some of the streets of the city. A person violating these regulations may be deported by the police or he may also be brought by the police before the court."

It would be interesting to note how the men who grumble at the mild American regulations would like the idea of complying with the St. Petersburg rules. Doubtless they would assert that more liberty should be allowed in this free country than in czar-ridden Russia. This may be true enough, but liberty should never be allowed to take the form of license, nor should innumerable autocrats astride of bicycles and "scorching" along the streets, to the imminent danger of innocent passersby, be substituted for the one autocrat who lives in the winter palace and rules with an iron hand. This is indeed a free country, and freedom should be for all and not for any particular class, either riders or non-riders.

A CONTRAST.

From the Archbald Citizen. As a sample of how politics is carried on in this county it may well be said

the attention of the voters to the methods of conducting business in this, our own, Fourth legislative district. In the call for the convention made by the Republican chairman and secretary, notice is furnished their party papers, a few weeks preceding the convention, giving ample time for every voter in the district to be prepared for the coming event. The Democratic committee, or what purports to be such, meet, they issue a call, it incidentally, or accidentally gets into the city press; a few days after, a convention is held, the fellow who is always on the look out for such things gets elected, or arrogates the power of the party's representative, goes to a convention and all of the faithful are obliged to ratify his choice.

IN CUBA.

From the Springfield Republican. From the latest glimpse of the situation in Cuba is through a letter just printed by the London Chronicle from a correspondent who writes from Santa Clara province. This is testimony of recent date coming through an English and impartial source. "The unspeakable savagery of General Weyler's attempts to repress the rising of the Cubans against Spanish tyranny," is the Chronicle's own way of calling attention to the correspondent's letter, which thus begins: "The most one-sided of the struggles and the fearful devastation occasioned thereby, the stronger grows the conviction that Spain is plunging deeper and deeper into a slough of despond which threatens to engulf her at every step, and from which her chance of emerging victoriously seems hopeless. The accumulated debts will be a fearful load for a country in Spain's position. Intrinsically the island is not worth the struggle, the price in blood and money has been far too high for the island in prosperity, and now it is an ash heap from Cape Antonio in the extreme west to the great trocha."

The insurgents hold the eastern districts and there "Cuba libre," one reads, is an accomplished fact. "In the west, this howling waste, once the best and most prosperous part of the island, the insurgents roam around at pleasure and the 'pacifist' are still dying of starvation, yellow fever and small-pox." Spanish treatment of the non-combatants, which amounts to "the compulsory starvation of thousands," will add another blot to the bloody story of Spain. "It even disgusts many leading officers of the colony 'who are not slow now in condemning the the famous policy of the captain general.' And the respondent continues: "The scenes daily to be witnessed in the filthy reeking elements of the 'reconcentration' are so utterly revolting that the Spanish soldiers, hardened as they are by rough treatment and scenes of blood, are often touched by the misery of these people, and give their sorry ration of bread to stop the mournful wails of the children for food. Yet there is no hope for them, no chance of the famine being assuaged. Where can food come from with barren interior and blockaded coast? Small-pox is rife among these poor wretches, with every precaution disregarded, while yellow fever dances a ghastly attendance. The condition of the Spanish troops is nearly as pitiful—poor ragged Spanish boys, enduring hardships, plodding wastefully on in straggling and torn, harsh, linen suits, till they fall exhausted and lack for the roadside for lack of care in providing ambulances or proper medical stores by the authorities, which have torn these youths from home and forced them to fight in these noisome swamps."

There has been severe criticism of General Weyler in American journals, but none of it has surpassed that of this writer in an English newspaper: "Nevertheless, he has turned the Cuban struggle into a near approach to the campaign of Alva in Holland." The writer is exact in his estimate for the crime of rebellion, and before the final scene, I hear, on the authority of eyewitnesses, that ineffectual forces are resorted to if the fact is suspected of withholding information. The evidence of horrors and savagery is too varied, circumstantial and cumulative to doubt much. And it all goes on and on.

A HIGHER LEGAL STANDARD.

From the Philadelphia Times. The first examination for admission to the bar under the raised standard adopted in Lackawanna county was held recently, and out of seven applicants three failed. All of those who took the examination were of excellent ability, and had pursued the usual course of study in some lawyer's office, and the failure of almost half of the candidates is due entirely to their not meeting the higher standard of admission, and the reform instituted by the Lackawanna county examining committee is its legitimate fruit.

Uniformity in the standard of admission to the bar is desirable, but apparently impossible in this state. The Pennsylvania Bar association has been agitating the matter for some time without any tangible result, and there seems to be no prospect now of any one standard being agreed to. But the discussion of legal education by the state association and in law journals has resulted in the better appreciation of the need of a higher standard of admission, and the reform instituted by the Lackawanna county examining committee is its legitimate fruit.

As long as there is no state examining board, the responsibility for the turning out of poorly-equipped lawyers rests solely on the shoulders of the courts and bar of each county. They prepare their own course of study and formulate their own questions. And they are, therefore, the only organizations to which an appeal can be made for a higher standard. Such an appeal should be unnecessary. The need of a more exacting examination, in certain counties at least, should be too plain to be pointed out. But the very fact, that a higher standard is being insisted on in counties where the average of the bar is of the first class, while in those where the legal reputation of the lawyers is not so good comparatively low qualifications are maintained, proves that the need is not universally appreciated in this state.

A stream cannot rise higher than its source, and it will be hard to elevate the standard of admission to the bar in some counties, but a higher standard should be made in that direction everywhere. When Lackawanna considers its standard too low, surely other counties cannot but see that they are manufacturing lawyers too easily and with too little preparation.

WON'T WANT A REPETITION.

From the Globe-Democrat. The Spaniards who think that the best way to unite the Spanish people is to pick a war with the United States will never be willing to take a second dose of that political tonic.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaachus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 4.18 a. m., for Monday, Aug. 9, 1897.

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