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### TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 10, 1897.

The insurgents of Cuba asked this nation for bread and we gave themrhetoric. When they win their indedependence, will they reciprocate by giving to us commercially the frosty

### "Concerning Pensions,"

We cheerfully give place to a letter from Commander A. B. Stevens, of Ezra Griffin Post, upon the subject of pensions, and indorse nearly all he says. The remarks of ours to which he takes exception must either not have been clearly understood by him or else they failed to make clear the meaning within our mind. We therefore shall try again to state our opinion on this subject.

It is charged by General Boynton, a reputable Union soldier who by meri-Missionary Ridge, won promotion to the rank of brevet brigadier, and whose standing as a soldier was conspicuously endorsed when President McKinley appointed him chairman of the Chickamauga battle ground commission, that on the pension rolls are many names not morally entitled to be there. This opinion has received considerable indorsement from other men who wore the Blue, and these men argue for the publication of the rolls, claiming that such publication would harm no right ful recipient of a pension, but might open the way to the striking from the rolls of names which should not be

Fairly interpreted, General Boynton's article is not an attack upon deserving veterans but rather an appeal to them not to stand in the way of an honest attempt to separate the small percentage of unworthy pensioners from the large percentage whose claims no fair-minded citizen would think of challenging. It was an appeal which could not have been made while Democrats were in nower, because during that period there was scant assurance of Just treatment. But now that an administration is in power whose friendliness to and warm sympathy for the deserving pensioner is everywhere conceded, why should a revision be opposed? Why should not all honest veterans gladly co-operate in a request for it, as a matter of fairness both to themselves and to the generation which has grown to manhood since the war?

This was the spirit in which we wrote. It was what we tried to say, Does it deserve to be condemned?

In this connection we quote from the Washington letter of William E. Curtis, published in the Chicago Record under date of Dec. 7. Mr. Curtis, like General Boynton, has for years stood , at the very front of reputable Washington journalism and it is unlikely that either would knowingly misrep-

A bill will be introduced in congress and present for passage this session providing for the publication of a list of percts now drawing pensions from the mitting it to public scruting. The ultiwill appear. There are tens of thousands of persons drawing pensions who are not entitled to them and have obtained them by fraud, although it is dif-ficult to prove it. If a list of the names of pensioners in every county or township was posted in a conspicuous place with a brief statement of the military service claimed, the amount of the pension and the reason why it was granted it would doubtless bring down upon the commu-sioner here voluntary evidence from neighbors and former comrastes of the and is conferred upon those who have

no title to it.

If the pension list should be published as proposed the revelation would cause astonishment in every community. It would expose thousands of impostors and men who performed no military service or so little that they would not be able to face their former comrades. Every now and then the agents of the pension bureau stumble over eases in which men who performed little or no service during the war have been awarded honors which to, and others who are in ill-health or are disabled are receiving credit and com-pensation for disabilities that can in no way be attributed to their military service. This movement was not proposed by civillans or enemies of the pension sys-tem. It is backed by the Loyal Legion and members of the Grand Army of the Republic, who feel a pride in facir percan to drive the frauds out of the persio office just as they drove them out of the camps during the war.

The foregoing estimate of the number of fraudulent entries may be ex-We trust that it is, although can see no reason why men like General Beynton and Mr. Curtis should consciously overstate the matter. But whether true or false, the steady growth in pension expenses. which now, 32 years after the close of the war, require for their liquidation almost every other dollar of the notion's entire revenue, suggests at least the propriety of taking every fair precaution to prevent the diversion of pension money into unworthy hands. Let that be done and public opinion will gladly sustain the remaining expenditure and even approve its increase,

Unquestionably the most contemptthic creature on earth is the stock gambler whose motto is: "Peace at any price." Yet very often he is the power behind the throne.

### Child Training.

significance of this work among the invasion and combined land and sea

did, unloyely lives would etherwis- Kinley, Instead of being neutral, is de The Scranton Tribune and unlevely lives would etherwise never be touched by any influence. wise and noble and uplifting, is probably underestimated even by the kin-

dergarteners themselves. The beautiful and gracious effect of companionship with such young women as seem invariably found in this work would of itself work miraculous results in the development of the untaught and often uncared for little enes who enter the free kindergarten, and when to this refining atmosphere s added the world of instruction, in natural methods, all play to the child, it is no wonder that not alone are the children benefited, but in the homes among the adult inmates a remarkable improvement is noted.

In no community can there be more seed for this work than throughout this valley where a bewildering number of nationalities may be found These are often most difficult to reach with the modern touch of civilization, as court records show. It is from the children that enlightenment must come and they are only approachable in the kindergarten; as very early they are set at work despite the laws of the lend. Already in many cities the pubhe schools are taking hold of the matter and are establishing kindergartens as fast as possible. The laws of this torious service at Chickamauga and state permit appropriations to a fund for this purpose, and in Philadelphia and Pittsburg marvelous results are fready shown from kindergarten work

the public schools. There are many interested in the novement in this city who have labored incessantly to effect such a plan. Enormous sums of money have been expended on new buildings, and it was hoped that some of these might be quipped with a kindergarten departent. When the high school was in urse of construction efforts were nade to have a room for the little ones, but it was declared that there was not space enough for such an innovation, and in fact but little encuragement has been given the Free Kindergarten association that the board of control would ever seriously unsider such a step. It is nevertheless true that money could not be more judiciously placed under the pubschool system than in taking care the forfern and wretched little ones chose earliest years are often passed in a school for crime.

It has been suggested that the primary Sunday school rooms can be utilized as kindergarten establishments. but even in this case money is needed and now that the state has made it possible for such provisions the funds should be appropriated to this

There is some talk to the effect that the tide of sentiment in congress is turning against Hawaiian annexation but we do not credit it. A show-down, in our judgment, will reveal the administration line intact. The memer who goes against the measure will probably not enjoy the reception which will await him afterward among his

### Alleged News Monopoly.

An interesting action has been brought by the New York Sun against the Associated Press. Under the contracts made by the latter with its members, the officers of the Associated gress to enact into law his bill to Press are empowered to forbid at their option the use by any Associated Press mate object is to secure criticism and in-formation concerning these whose names year ago or thereabouts the Sun resold its special news to a number of other papers, receiving therefor from each paper from \$50 to \$200 a week. The Associated Press ordered these papers to discontinue the Sun service and under their contracts they were compelled to obey, although it is not claimed that they were dissatisfied with the Sun's news. Now the Sun sues for an injunction to restrain greatest value. There is no good reason why the pension list should not be made public. A pension is a badge of honor, a roward for patriotism and faithful military service, and its value is very much to duced in the mind of every honest citi-zen when it is enjoyed by unworthy men out for discrimination while other paout for discrimination while other papers, members of the Associated Press, are permitted by that organization to re-sell their special news at their

While the technical points in this ase are of interest to newspaper men more especially, the equity in the case is of the widest interest. The Sun has its faults, but they are so far overshadowed by its incomparable merits none but crippled veterans are entitled that any curtailment of its business would involve not only injustice in the abstract but also concrete lujury to the intelligent reading pubtic. Until the Associated Press makes known its reply judgment on the merits of the case will naturally be withheld; but it seems proper at this time sions and are determined to do all they to express the hope that these and other differences may be amicably adjusted and old rivalries, with their inevitable accrbities, composed and Hoke Smith withheld until he abandoned. The Associated Press pelled to retire. Would General abandoned. The Associated Press stands strongly entrenched in the American journalistic field but not so strongly that liberal practices would not strengthen it or the reverse lead tual organization for the benefit of all its members. It can fall into disfavor, il at all, only by the neglect of its management to act in harmony with the spirit which led to its organiza-

> If we may believe the Philadelphia Ledger, the present civil service system is "heartily commended by every respectable newspaper in the land, Trust the Mugwump to claim a monopoly of respectability.

With respect to the soundness from legal standpoint of the president's argument against a recognition at this time of Cubaft belligerency the New York Sun yesterday printed an edi-The free kindergarten work and its torial which leaves scarcely a shred of value is this region is a subject but the president's position. It demonlittle understood and far less appresstrates by copious citations from stands clated by the mass of citizens. If they ard authorities on international law think of the kindergarten at all it is that the Cuban insurgents possess toas a day nursery by means of which day beyond question every necessary shiftless mothers can be rid of their condition precedent to recognition as children at the most treublesome age, belligerents; and passing from the law for the space of several hours. Few points to the equity involved, it shows realize the importance of such a bene- furthermore that by withhelding this ficent training at a period in the child's recognition from their our government lift when its mind is most plastic and is depriving them of their one chance most ready to receive and assimulate to meet Spain in battle on the high all impressions, good or bad. The great seas and try their fortunes in harbor

facto a partisan of Spain; effectively If not by desire an accomplice to oppression. We trust that the president will read the Sun's article.

Editor Agnus of the Baltimore American, whom Schator Wellington sued recently for criminal libel and \$100,000 damages, announces that the senator's case will be attended to in a manner calculated to make his head swim. It we were addicted to betting we should wager on Agnus.

### Instructive Trade Figures.

Of the features of the annual report of the secretary of the treasury just presented to congress none is more interesting, if we except the discussion of currency reform, than the allusion which is made to the significant growth in the United States' export trade. It is well known that the exports of 1897 established a high-water mark, exceeding by more than \$16,000,000 the highest previous returns in the commercial experience of the United States, which were those for the year 1892. But the secretary incorporates in his report an analysis of these exports, according to sources of production, and compared with the exports of 1892, which greatly illumines the subject.

Of the \$1.015,732.011 worth of American goods sold in foreign markets in 1892, \$799,328,232, or 78.69 per cent. were products of agriculture; \$158,510,937, or 15.61 per cent., were products of manufactures; \$20,692,885, or 2.04 per cent ... were products of mining; \$27,957.423, or 2.75 per cent., were products of the forest; \$5,403,587, or .53 per cent., were products of our fisheries, and \$3,838,-47, or .38 per cent., were miscellancous products. In 1897, the total exports were \$1,932,007,693, and the corresponding groupings were: Agricul-\$638,471,139, or 66.23 per cent.; manufactures, \$277,285,391, or 26.87 per cent.; mining, \$20,804,573, or 2.01 per forest, \$40,489,321, or 3.92 per fisheries, \$6,477.951, or .63 per cent., and miscellaneous, \$3,479.228, or 34 per cent. In other words, while agriculture last year fell off 12 per cent, manufactures gained H per cent But the gain in manufactures is steady and continuous while the fluctuation In agriculture depends upon crop conditions at home and abroad. In 1892 there was a shortage of cereals in Europe and a surplus in the United States. Hence the large per centage of exports credited to agriculture, The fiscal year 1897 was a normal year; but the fiscal year 1898 will again show agriculture in the ascendant, not because manufactures have fallen but because Europe is having another wheat famine

Returns for the period from June 0 to October 30, 1897, not covered in the foregoing analysis, bear this out. They show exports of manufactures steadily increasing in value and volume but temporarily retarded in the percentage column by the large emergency exports of grain. These figures explain why European statesmen have begun to talk about an anti-Yankee combine. Westward the star of commercial empire is taking its way. And the end is not yet.

Rev. Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts announces his intention vigorously to urge conmake it illegal for any newspaper to transmit descriptions or pictures of prize fights. We fear he is trying to put the cart before the horse. Newspapers do not report prize fights for the fun of the thing. So long as ninety-nine men out of every hundred, reformers included, read prize fight reports with avidity, it will not be feasible to prevent them from receiving the information which they so eagerly

Certain eminent citizens of Philadelphia have organized to support for mayor a man, if he can be found, who will not use his office for the benefit of any political organization or private interest. It will be interesting to learn how many votes such a candidate can poll in a city where apparently every other professional reformer has his fist elbow-deep in some malodorous franchise job like, for example, the recent gas steal.

### An Opinion on the Pension Problem

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I could not help feeling a sentiment of indignation when reading the ar-ticle written by General H. V. Hoynton, cepied from the New York Sun, and the comments on the same in your paper. You say "Men ought to be ashamed to accept from the government aid which they do from the government aid which they do not need." General Daniel E. Sickles and General Beaver will not be ashamed to have their names appear on the pen-sion rolls, neither the judge whose pension Would General Boynton or you, Mr. Editor, like to trade places with either the veterans above named and take their pensions?

General Boynton says that the pension to its ultimate disruption. It is not a all the patriotic societies. And so it news trust in intent, but a great mushould. During the war 400,000 loyal men labi down their lives; 300,600 Union sol-diers and sallors were made cripples for life, and since the close of the war social veterans have died premature deaths leaving in all more than 2,000,000 devoted mothers, widows and orphans to mourn for their leved ones. It is an insult to the veterans to class them with camp followers and bounty jumpers. And I know of no law that will give that class pen-

I am thankful that "an administration is now in power which would conduct a revision of the rolls fairly and without prejudice against deserving enrollments."
Nor is it a fact that the well-to-do pensioner crowds out a comrade in need. If General Sickles or General Beaver is entitled to a pension it does not deprive the needy from getting the same. And I he lieve that the loyal people of America, who are not controlled by political selfishness, or greed of gold, are willing to pay theral pensions to all deserving veterans, and I will conclude by quoting from the speech of Hon. J. P. Dolliver;

The old soldier stands before the public treasury not as a bauner, not as a mendicant, voteven as a beneficiary. They are the proferred creditors of the nation of America. We must not question it, Nor ought we to go into partnership with the grave and plead the precedent that enables us to drive a hard bargain with old age. Now is the accepted time of complete the act of national gratitude Within twenty years the most of the veterans will be gone. I do not know what others may think, but in that day I thildren of the very poor, whose sor- attack. In other words, President Me- been kept in the ample measure of grati-

tude and justice. I shut my eyes white the busy fingers of calculation compute the cost. It makes absolutely no differ-ence what it cost. The American people, with eager patriotism, were ready to pay all that it cost, to the last furthing. Nay, more, they were willing to bury their dead, they were willing to put the sign of mourning upon nearly every altar: they were willing to take back their loved once from the hospitals of disease, from the stockades of merciless prisons, that the flag of this great republic might live through the storm of battle.

"My countrymen, it was a costly sacri-fice; but it was worth all it cost, and infinitely more. And today there is not it all our borders one veteran of the civi war, but we are his personal debtors; no war, but we are his personal debtors; not one woman whose broken heart gave to the nation husband, or son, or brother, but we are her personal debtor. And so when I hear men talking of the extravagance of pensions appropriations and read in newspapers the idle habble that the old soldiers of the country are seeking to loot the treasury I reply that every dollar of the material weith in the treasury of the paragraph weith in the treasury to the paragraph of the paragraph weith in the treasury to the treasu dollar of the national wealth in the treasury, and out of it, is incumbered and first lien to the men and women who thought not of their blood and their tears in the hour of national trial."

We know something of General Boyn on, Hoke Smith and Grover Cleveland But we do not fear if the loyal people of America can have their say. Let the rell of honor (not of shame) be published and if justice demands, let it be increased. Loyally yours, A. B. Stevens,

Scranton, Dec. 9.

### IMPROVED FREIGHT EQUIPMENT.

From the Times-Herald.

At a meeting of the American Association of Railway Passenger Agents held in St. Louis last week the interesting fact was brought out that substantial progress already has been made by nearly all the larger railway lines in compliance with a recent act of congress requiring that freight cars must be emipped with automatic couplers and train brakes which will enable the engineer to control the great of the train. the speed of the train. The Southern P'cific, for instance, reported that % peccut, of its freight cars are now equippe with train brakes and to per cent, of its cars have automatic couplers. The Baltimore and Ohio reports 80 per cent, of new equipment under each head. The Eric already has 74 per cent, of its cars equipped with safety couplers. The Fenn-sylvania reports 67 per cent, east of Pittsburg and 38 per cent, west of that point. The Chesapeake and Ohio already has 55 per cent in a coveration and other life. per cent, in operation, and other liz make an equally favorable showing.

The work or equipment is going on rap lly, and although it may be impossible to comply with the letter of the law, which requires a complete change by Jan. I, 1898, the progress made thus far is sufficient Indication of the willingness of the railway interests to conform to its provisions gracefully at the earliest practicable moment. A few roads nave represented to the interstate commerce commission that owing to the long period of depression and the sudden increase in business their resources at present are taxed to the utmost, and an extension of ime will be necessary to enable them to omply with the law. As the commis-ion must be convinced from the snowing already made that there is no intent to evade the law, there seems to be no reaon why reasonable requests of this sort should not be granted. The railroads are responding well to the demands made upon them, and no unnecessary hardships hould be entailed in carry out this r

### REST. Let us rest ourselves a bit, Worry? Wave your hand to it, Kiss your finger tips and smile

It farewell a little while. Weary of the weary way We have come since yesterday, Let it fret us not, in dread Of the weary way ahead,

While we yet look down-not up-And the daisy, where they wave O'er the green home of the grave

Let us launch us smoothly on Listless billows of the lawn. And drift out across the main Of our childish dreams again. Voyage off, beneath the trees,

O'er the field's enchanted seas, Where the lilles are our sais, And our seagulls, nightingales, Where no wilder storm shall beat Than the wind that waves the wheat And no tempests burst above

The old laughs we used to love. Lose all troubles-gain release Langor and exceeding peace Cruising idly o'er the vast

Calm mid-ocean of the past, Let us rest ourselves a bit. Worry? Wave your hand to it-Kiss your finger tips and smile It farewell a little while,

—James Whitcomb Riley.

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