

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sundays, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty cents a Month.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 10, 1897.

The insurgents of Cuba asked this nation for bread and we gave them—rhetoric. When they win their independence, will they reciprocate by giving to us commercially the frosty ha-ha?

Concerning Pensions.

We cheerfully give place to a letter from Commander A. B. Stevens, of Ezra Griffin Post, upon the subject of pensions, and endorse 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.

It is charged by General Boynton, a reputable Union soldier who by meritorious service at Chickamauga and 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.

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.

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.

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 Press are empowered to forbid at their option the use by any Associated Press paper of any other news service.

kinley, instead of being neutral, is de 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 Whom of the Baltimore American, who Scholar 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.

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.

Of the \$1,015,732,011 worth of American goods sold in foreign markets in 1897, \$799,328,252, 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; \$5,493,587, or .53 per cent, were products of our fisheries, and \$3,838,947, or .38 per cent, were miscellaneous products.

Returns for the period from June 30 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.

Rev. Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts announces his intention vigorously to urge congress to enact into law his bill to make it illegal for any newspaper to transmit descriptions or pictures of prize fights.

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.

An Opinion on the Pension Problem

Editor of The Tribune: Sir! I could not help feeling a sentiment of indignation when reading the article written by General H. V. Boynton, copied from the New York Sun, and the comments on the same in your paper.

General Boynton says that the pension roll now far exceeds the membership of all the patriotic societies. And so it should. During the war 40,000 loyal men laid down their lives for their country.

I am thankful that an administration is now in power which would conduct a revision of the rolls fairly and without prejudice against deserving enrollees.

The old soldier stands before the public treasury not as a pauper, not as a mendicant, not even as a beneficiary. They are the preferred creditors of the nation of America.

My countrymen, it was a costly sacrifice; but it was worth all its cost, and infinitely more. And today there is not in all our borders one veteran of the civil 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.

We know something of General Boynton, Hoke Smith and Grover Cleveland. But we do not fear if the people of America can have their say. Let the roll 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 had been made by nearly all the larger railway lines in compliance with a recent act of congress requiring that freight cars must be equipped with automatic couplers and train brakes.

The work of equipment is going on rapidly, and although it may be impossible to comply with the letter of the law, which requires a complete change by Jan. 1, 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.

Let us rest ourselves a bit. Worry? Wave your hand to it. Let it fret you not, in dread. Let it fret you not, in dread. Let it fret you not, in dread.

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.

Let us rest ourselves a bit. Worry? Wave your hand to it. Kiss your finger tips and smile. It farewells a little while.

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

What is more acceptable than a nice piece of

China, Cut Glass or Bric-a-Brac,

Umbrella Stands, Jardiner and Pedestals, Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO.

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Big Bible

Bargains this week at Beldeman's Holiday Board of Trade Building.

Our Gift

Bargains and polite attention to visitors, whether buyers or not. You Are Welcome.

Reynolds Bros 136 Wyoming Ave., SCRANTON.

GOLDSMITH'S G. B. BAZAAR.

Store Open Evenings Until Christmas.

Ready for the Rush

All prepared for the gay Holiday time. Christmas Gifts are here in abundance, suitable for all people, suited to all pockets. Rich or poor, you can do your Christmas shopping here with satisfaction to yourself and pleasure to the recipient of your generosity.

Don't fail to see "The Old Homestead" in big show window. White Handkerchief Arcade on main floor, and Christmas Grotto in basement. Selections can be made now and will be held for you until Christmas.

Professor Miller will give his Piano Recitals every afternoon from 2 to 5.30 o'clock. Sheet music at half price.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING



Sensible presents. Slippers and Shoes from 25c to \$5.00. Our best efforts are at your service. Always use our stores as if they were your own.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies. Wholesale and Retail. OPEN EVENINGS.

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FOR THE

Holidays

Hill & Connell At 121 North Washington Avenue.

INVITE THE PUBLIC TO CALL AT THEIR NEW QUARTERS AND INSPECT THEIR FINE WAREHOUSES AND THE IMMENSE STOCK OF ORNAMENTAL AND USEFUL PIECES OF FURNITURE, APPROPRIATE FOR

A Christmas Present

WE THINK YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AT OUR EXHIBIT, AND BELIEVE YOU CANNOT FAIL TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL PLEASE YOU.

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TO THE MANY-HEADED TOWN

The Messrs. Reynolds, stationers and engravers, Hotel Jermyn Building, Wyoming avenue side, extend to you a cordial invitation to inspect their line of holiday goods.

Novelties, Calendars, Souvenirs, Booklets, Etc. BOOKS—of Substance, handsomely bound and bound to please.

Bibles

As blessed to receive as to be given.

Our Gift

Bargains and polite attention to visitors, whether buyers or not. You Are Welcome.

Reynolds Bros 136 Wyoming Ave., SCRANTON.

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Clothing at reliable prices, has always been our motto. Quality unexcelled, prices the lowest.

Your money back if you want it; and the same price to everybody. Open Evenings Until After the Holidays.

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FINLEY'S Put Neither Money

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GENUINE AGATE WARE

WE HAVE IN OUR WINDOW A LINE OF

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WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU CALL AND EXAMINE IT

COSTS A LITTLE MORE BUT WILL LAST TWICE AS LONG AS THE CHEAP GRADE.

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to close them out. The greatest bargain of the season.

WM. T. SMITH

Unquestionably the most contemptible 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.

The free kindergarten work and its value in this region is a subject but little understood and far less appreciated by the mass of citizens.

With respect to the soundness of a legal standpoint of the president's argument against a recognition at this time of Cuban belligerency the New York Sun yesterday printed an editorial which leaves scarcely a shred of the president's position.

It demonstrates by copious citations from standard authorities on international law that the Cuban insurgents possess today beyond question every necessary condition precedent to recognition as belligerents, and passing from the law points to the equity involved.