

The Scranton Tribune

The Tribune's telegraphic news is from three to five hours fresher than that of any Philadelphia or New York paper circulated in its field.

TWELVE PAGES.

A few more statements like that made in the senate by ex-Secretary Proctor will so impress Americans with the odiousness of Spanish rule in Cuba that they will not care a snap of the finger how soon war shall come provided that it will enable them to clean Spain out.

Print their Names. Mr. Gibson the exceptionally reliable Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, makes the deliberate assertion that an influence is at work in the house of representatives, not among the majority of members, but among the leaders, to embarrass the president in the pending emergency.

Ripe for Action. All who have read the full text of the report made to the senate by ex-Secretary Proctor concerning the conditions observed by him in Cuba must realize that while it is a most carefully repressed statement of facts and observations, offered without comment or suggestion, it is also a terrible indictment of the past course of the American government.

The militia force of the United States, so far as its equipment is concerned, is almost half a century behind the age. In one state thirteen kinds of guns are used by the militia. Because of this failure to equip the militia with uniforms and modern guns, the greater part of it would be ineffective in case of war, and when the men were finally equipped with guns they would have to use rifles with which they were entirely unfamiliar.

The army organization is in the same antiquated condition. For many years congress has been urged by the War department to pass a measure that would give the army an organization like that of the European governments. As long ago as the Fifty-first congress a bill passed both houses on the subject and failed in conference committee because the chairman of the house conference committee could not get recognition near the end of the session to secure the adoption by the house of the conference report.

The need of dry docks is notorious. It has been urged upon congress for years, and yet, if certain leaders could have had their way, the house naval committee would possibly not have done anything on the subject.

These, adds Mr. Gibson, very impressively, "are the reasons why the country is unprepared for war. It is wholly the fault of congress. The leaders on both sides in recent years, Democrats as well as Republicans, have been at fault. The great majority in both house and senate have been ready to vote the necessary legislation to put the country in a condition of defense, but they have been held back by leaders whose plan was that of economy— a plea the country now realizes was very short-sighted. Instead of providing the vessels needed for the defense of the country the navy department is now put to the necessity of purchasing inferior vessels at high prices in foreign markets. The torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destroyers—vessels that are not expensive—have not been provided, and as a result the administration is now forced to purchase tug and yachts and turn them into torpedo boats. So far as the 'destroyers' are concerned the nation is absolutely without a single efficient vessel of that kind. Unless public opinion be brought severely to bear on congress it is by no means certain that this short-sighted 'economy' will be abandoned even at this late day."

If Mr. Gibson or any one else will give to the country the names of the men who are chiefly responsible for this stupid obstructiveness they will warrant that they will not get the chance to repeat their mistake.

Tradition tells of people who have been possessed of such pronounced thievish proclivities that they would steal a red hot stove; but New Brunswick, N. J., seems to be the abode of the most phenomenal thievery on record. Not long ago a brick house in

that vicinity disappeared entirely, no trace of parlor or house remaining. Recently a New Brunswick man was arrested for stealing a locomotive, while a previous offense of the same person had been the theft of a 200 pound anchor. Yet there are some Philadelphia papers which would try to persuade the public that thievery is exclusively confined to certain politicians in the Republican party of the state of Pennsylvania.

The court ruled wisely in refusing the application of Edward J. Walsh for a wholesale license next to the First Presbyterian church. It is but fair to Mr. Walsh to say that the opposition massed against this application was in no sense personal. It gives us pleasure to add, voluntarily, that Mr. Walsh is as worthy a man as is engaged in the liquor business, and one on personal grounds much more deserving of a license than many who now hold licenses. Yet if he were to be permitted to locate a liquor store next to a church it would be simply impossible to deny the same consideration to others, and the result in time would be that many churches would be literally surrounded by such places. If it is good policy to make a rule that licenses shall not be granted within, say, 200 feet of a church or a school it is certainly good policy to enforce that rule impartially. When Mr. Walsh finds a location not open to this objection his petition will not only be unopposed but will be cordially supported by all who believe in liquor licenses at all.

What Pennsylvania needs in her next legislature are men who will be worth something after the senatorial election shall be over. By "worth something" we don't refer to cash.

Hope springs eternal in the breast of President Dole, of Hawaii.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaechus. The Tribune Astrologer.

A child born on this day will be of the opinion that the contemplated war with Spain will be as quiet and orderly as one of Jimmy Judge's draw fights.

If some of the school controllers were asked to diffuse a little eloquence in the way of introducing speakers, the objection to university extension in the high school might be overcome.

It begins to look as though Uncle John Wasmaker will furnish all the war that we will have this year.

Up to the hour of going to press the poor board of review has been unable to issue Johnny McNamara.

The United States in Cuba will be the establishment of the Cuban republic. The intervention of the powers named in behalf of Greece was based on three grounds: First, in order to comply with the request of one of the parties; secondly, on the grounds of humanity in order to stay the effusion of blood; thirdly, in order to put a stop to piracy and anarchy. These grounds, like those on which the United States may insist its right to intervene in Cuba, were technically illegal under the rules of international law; but they were morally right. Speaking of this event Mr. W. Harcourt, an Englishman of standing among writers on international law, in his celebrated "Historical" letters, says: "The emancipation of Greece was a high act of policy, above and beyond the domain of law. As an act of policy it may have been and was justifiable; but it was not the case of Turkey, which of all other states might properly have resented by war." It follows from this precedent that, so far as international law is concerned, the intervention of the United States on behalf of the Cubans will be a high act of policy above and beyond the domain of law. As an act of policy it may be argued, may result if the case so desires.

An effect of the intervention of Great Britain, France and Russia on behalf of Greece is that it estops them from objecting to the intervention of the United States on behalf of the Cubans, even if they themselves inclined, while it will have a restraining effect upon other European states which, if they did not forego their claims on Greece, certainly took no steps to prevent that intervention and afterward acquiesced in the result.

There have been other and later instances of intervention on the part of the great powers, such as that in 1850, when they intervened to put a stop to the persecution and massacre of Christians in the district of Mount Lebanon. Great Britain, by her intervention in Egypt, the province of Turkey, which has been carried on with armed force ever since 1882, admits that the interests of a state and its people are good grounds for intervention by one state in the internal concerns of another state. The principal grounds of her intervention in Egypt and her armed occupation of that country are found in her interests in the Suez canal, and in those of her people in Egyptian bonds. The justification of the policy of intervention because of the interests of the intervening state and its people being thus found in Great Britain's course regarding Egypt, it only remains to point out the fact that the interests of the United States and its people require the cessation of the struggle in Cuba which is devastating the island, ruining its industries and destroying its population. Trade with the island is at a practical standstill, and American property is involved in the ruin. This covers the actual ground on which the United States finds justification for such interference in Cuban affairs defined by Lawrence as intervention.

The third ground is different from those cited in the books. Cuba is the home of yellow fever, a disease which has again and again scourged the people of the United States. Our own experience has taught us that this dread disease can be prevented by proper sanitary precautions. Such a sanitary policy is known to the Spanish. The conditions for a fearful outbreak of yellow fever, the worst ever known to mankind, are ripe in Cuba. Once started it will be beyond our powers to prevent its transfer to our shores, only six hours away, and its spread to the interior. Standing alone this would perhaps not be sufficient, even morally, certainly not legally under international law, to justify intervention; yet undoubtedly it would be added to other grounds, such as piracy and anarchy already weighty to the first two reasons for the intervention of Great Britain, France and Russia on behalf of the Greeks.

Concluding his remarks on the general subject of intervention and non-intervention, Mr. Martineau says: "Neither legislation nor unqualified remonstrance is the proper attitude for honorable and self-respecting states. They should intervene, not merely to put a stop to the wrongs of justice and necessity; but when they do intervene they should make it clear to all concerned that their voice would be heard, and that their words would be carried out." In these words the United States finds its pathway for the future laid out.

The acquittal of Sheriff Martin for the murder of strikers at Lattimer, Pa., is a simple triumph of justice. We are not sorry that an indictment was brought against him, and that he was put on trial for this alleged crime, although we have believed from the first that he was only acting in pursuance of his duty as a chief peace officer of Luzerne county. It is undoubtedly a hard thing for a man who does a painful duty faithfully to be arraigned for it, though he were a criminal. Nevertheless, the circumstances surrounding the event were such that there might have been some doubt in the minds of impartial men as to whether he was justified in what he did. No such doubt is now possible. The trial has been a long one. The side judge who presided gave wide latitude to the testimony, and a great number of witnesses were examined. All that can be known about the shooting is made known by the testimony of the numerous witnesses. The jury which heard it all agreed upon a verdict of acquittal without hesitation, and the sheriff is a free man.

The result of the trial, important as it is to Sheriff Martin, is far more important in the influence it must have over other peace officers of Luzerne county. It is the pursuit of duty, using the best judgment he has, comes into collision with a mob that will not obey his orders, and in which men are killed and wounded, may be convicted of murder, the effect would be to give rioting pretty nearly free course. No sheriff over whom the danger of indictment of murder might hang would be likely to perform his duty with very great fidelity in preventing or suppressing riot. He knows perfectly well that when he faces a mob he takes his life in his hands and runs the same risk of being shot and killed as a soldier does in battle. If, in addition to this, he is liable to be tried as a murderer his office would be one of extraordinary risk.

Lawrence says: "An intervention to put a stop to barbarous and abominable cruelties is a high act of policy above and beyond the domain of law. It is a duty of technical legality, but it may be morally right and even praiseworthy to a high degree." The moment the United States is called upon to decide for itself whether or not it is justified in interfering in Spanish-Cuban affairs on the broad ground of humanity, it is not that we are not without a precedent, created by three of the principal European powers. The case in point is that of the intervention of Great Britain, France and Russia on behalf of the Greeks in 1827 and the following years. "The contest between them and their Turkish oppressors had gone on for years," says Lawrence, "and had been marked throughout by the most horrible barbarities. It seemed as if it would end in the extermination of the whole Greek race." This description of the Greek struggle for independence from the Turkish yoke is the only one which is not "Spanish" or "Greek" but "Cuban" people, faithfully and accurately to describe the Cuban situation today. The result of the intervention was the establishment of the present kingdom of Greece. The result of intervention by

the United States in Cuba will be the establishment of the Cuban republic.

The intervention of the powers named in behalf of Greece was based on three grounds: First, in order to comply with the request of one of the parties; secondly, on the grounds of humanity in order to stay the effusion of blood; thirdly, in order to put a stop to piracy and anarchy.

These grounds, like those on which the United States may insist its right to intervene in Cuba, were technically illegal under the rules of international law; but they were morally right.

Speaking of this event Mr. W. Harcourt, an Englishman of standing among writers on international law, in his celebrated "Historical" letters, says: "The emancipation of Greece was a high act of policy, above and beyond the domain of law. As an act of policy it may have been and was justifiable; but it was not the case of Turkey, which of all other states might properly have resented by war."

It follows from this precedent that, so far as international law is concerned, the intervention of the United States on behalf of the Cubans will be a high act of policy above and beyond the domain of law.

As an act of policy it may be argued, may result if the case so desires.

An effect of the intervention of Great Britain, France and Russia on behalf of Greece is that it estops them from objecting to the intervention of the United States on behalf of the Cubans, even if they themselves inclined, while it will have a restraining effect upon other European states which, if they did not forego their claims on Greece, certainly took no steps to prevent that intervention and afterward acquiesced in the result.

There have been other and later instances of intervention on the part of the great powers, such as that in 1850, when they intervened to put a stop to the persecution and massacre of Christians in the district of Mount Lebanon.

Great Britain, by her intervention in Egypt, the province of Turkey, which has been carried on with armed force ever since 1882, admits that the interests of a state and its people are good grounds for intervention by one state in the internal concerns of another state.

The principal grounds of her intervention in Egypt and her armed occupation of that country are found in her interests in the Suez canal, and in those of her people in Egyptian bonds.

The justification of the policy of intervention because of the interests of the intervening state and its people being thus found in Great Britain's course regarding Egypt, it only remains to point out the fact that the interests of the United States and its people require the cessation of the struggle in Cuba which is devastating the island, ruining its industries and destroying its population.

Trade with the island is at a practical standstill, and American property is involved in the ruin. This covers the actual ground on which the United States finds justification for such interference in Cuban affairs defined by Lawrence as intervention.

The third ground is different from those cited in the books. Cuba is the home of yellow fever, a disease which has again and again scourged the people of the United States.

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Concluding his remarks on the general subject of intervention and non-intervention, Mr. Martineau says: "Neither legislation nor unqualified remonstrance is the proper attitude for honorable and self-respecting states. They should intervene, not merely to put a stop to the wrongs of justice and necessity; but when they do intervene they should make it clear to all concerned that their voice would be heard, and that their words would be carried out."

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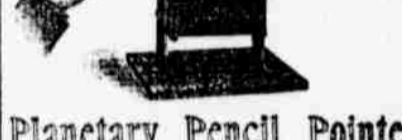
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