

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 29, 1898.



Great as is the power of the president of the United States it should be understood at once that it will be impossible for him to co-operate with Spain in any scheme to continue the Spanish flag in Cuba.

Cuban Freedom or War?

In the presence of such grave facts as are judiciously marshaled in the president's message, the Maine court of inquiry report and the accompanying transcript of testimony, the country may well emulate the conservatism of congress, which first of all took time to think.

The verdict is not unexpected but the testimony presents some features which may well be described as significant. The chagrin of the Havana officials when they learned from Consul General Lee that the Maine was coming; their refusal to accept General Lee's disclaimer of an ulterior motive in that vessel's reputedly friendly visit; their endeavor to have the visit delayed, and finally the mooring of the Maine to a buoy not previously used for such a purpose—all these things, viewed in the light of the subsequent tragedy, combine to inspire serious thinking.

There is one thing and one thing only which will be acceptable to the American people as full compensation for this frightful wrong. The liberation of Cuba will stay the avenging hand. As martyrs to Cuban liberty the loss of our brave seamen could be viewed, not without sorrow, but with some abatement of bitterness.

We are not satisfied that Colonel Hitchcock is correct in the position outlined by him in yesterday's Tribune with reference to the president's power to call out the National Guard directly for military duty at any point within the United States.

Patriotism Made Practical.

We print in another place a blank enlistment pledge which requires a few words of explanation. This blank will be printed this week in every city in the United States, and it is hoped that it will be properly filled out and signed by at least two million able-bodied American citizens of fighting age.

The idea is to establish a National Volunteer Reserve, which, as William D.H. Washington, of the American Institute of Civics, who is one of the prime movers in the enterprise, says, "would be a tremendous expression of confidence, power and loyalty on the part of the people to the nation impossible to be misunderstood at home or abroad."

Table with columns: Total Peace Footing, War Footing. Rows include Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Greece, Sweden and Norway, Japan, Mexico, Chile, Great Britain, United States.

"Familiar with the ratings of their own and adjoining nations the people of Europe," writes Brleader General Pierson, "judge the United States a comparison, and our army of 25,000 men and reserve of militia of about 100,000, occasions on their part a feeling towards us of contempt and superiority."

Independence or Death.

In view of the suggestion emanating from the Spanish minister at Washington that the United States give Spain another chance to snare the Cuban independence in an autonomy scheme, this time not so palpably insincere as was the first one, it may not be out of place to remember what the head of the Cuban revolutionary movement in this country, Delegate Tomas Estrada Palma, said on this subject in an appeal to the American people issued on March 17, with this very suggestion in view.

What Has Been Done to Prepare for War

AS THIS country now knows, the president, in his earnest and conscientious pursuit of all lines which promised honorable peace, has not for an instant relaxed the most vigorous preparations for war. Previous to the emergency appropriation this work went forward without general knowledge of its intense activity and extended character.

Home and Foreign Wages.

Some interesting comparisons between labor conditions in this country and Europe are drawn in a report to our state department by Hon. James T. Dubois, of Hallstead, now serving as consul-general at St. Gall, Switzerland. We employ the excellent summary of this report which has been made by the Syracuse Post.

Mr. Dubois takes the case of the carpenter—a laborer in a city of 30,000 in

habitant as his first example, and shows that whereas the American earner \$2.7 a day, and averaging for a year \$100, can easily support his family by his own efforts and save a surplus, the European earner 50 cents a day can get for his labor not more than \$230 a year, and must spend \$231 for the support of his family.

The locomotive fireman in Europe and America is next considered. Mr. Dubois says that in this country the locomotive fireman gets \$60 a month, or about \$550 a year, at the lowest estimate. Our Syracuse contemporary is inclined to think that his figures in this instance may be somewhat exaggerated.

"Whenever it is stated," says Mr. Dubois, "that the wages in Europe are small, but the cost of living is proportionately small, it should not be forgotten that while the cost of living among the workmen of Europe is proportionately smaller than among the toilers in the United States the manner of living is also immeasurably poorer, not only in housing, clothing and food, but in all conditions."

SENATOR PROCTOR'S SPEECH.

From the Washington Star. Senator Proctor contributed a striking example of how strong and effective simplicity is as a mold for the preparation of a public speech. There was no bid or applause. There was no straining after effect. The art of the orator and the vocabulary of the rhetorician were alike shunned.

A GROWING BOOM.

From the Philadelphia Times. These hasty war preparations will doubtless cost a pretty penny, for armies and navies are expensive luxuries, and armies and navies hastily summoned into active service are doubly expensive.

Baby Carriages

Just received a car-load of Carriage and Go-Carts. A large variety of styles and prices. If you intend to buy the baby a carriage you can surely please you.

In this work, if it becomes necessary to undertake it, Union and Confederate officers will be comrades. The present week will witness the greatest possible activity at every harbor on the coast, at all points where war material is manufactured or distributed.

THE RIGHT OF WAY.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. A citizen of Montreal, Canada, has written to the Herald of that city a rather pathetic letter, of which the following paragraph is a part: "As your custom is at present, every time I stop upon a crossing, I feel that I am walking on forbidden ground, and that if I reach the other side in safety it is due either to my good luck or to the interposition of a wise and all powerful Providence."

The reckless and careless bicyclist rider is in evidence everywhere, and probably nowhere so much as in Philadelphia. The courts have decided that bicyclists are, in the meaning of the law, "vehicles" with all the rights and privileges conceded to other kinds of vehicles and subject to the same proper restrictions.

The drivers of all vehicles, as well as the motormen on the street cars, almost invariably slow down at the street crossings, and it is not until after pedestrians were to presume upon their "right of way" to freely cross the streets at intersections, under the belief that their right would be respected, that the danger of life would be appalling, and the surgical wards of our hospitals would be crowded with patients.

As the bicycling season is now opening, and as the numerous clubs of cyclists are making their massed runs, often rendering the crossings little better than death traps, it is evident that the police should be instructed to compel bicyclists to respect the pedestrian's right of way, to obligate them to slow down at the intersections and to forbid massed processions of bicyclists, which are a disgrace to the law, for the reason they are dangerous to public safety.

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THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO. 422 Lackawanna Avenue.

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AS NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 3d, WILL BE PALM SUNDAY, we will present each and every lady visitor at our store Saturday April 2d, with a Real Florida Palm Bud.

In Our Muslin Underwear Dept. (SECOND FLOOR.)

We are showing the most complete lines of Ladies' and Misses' Wash Shirt Waists in Madras, Chambrays, Silk Striped and Plaid French Gingham and Percales from 47 cents up.

We have placed in stock within the last week in our Cloak and Suit Department a great many novelties in Suits, Jackets, Capes and Children's Reefers.

Don't forget when buying your Kid Gloves for Easter that we are the leading Glove House in the city. We carry the most complete line and largest assortment in Hook, Button and Clasp Gloves at the lowest prices.

Our Dress Goods and Silk Departments are overflowing with all the new and stylish goods. We have added more help in these departments so that you will be waited upon without delay.

Special this week in all departments.

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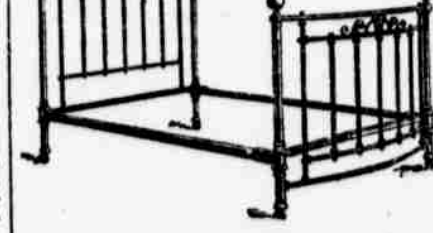


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Special this week in all departments.

SPRING CLOTHING

in endless variety is arriving daily. It is of the "Boyle & Mucklow grade," which is sufficient guarantee of its style and quality.

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Notions and Dress Trimmings. A glimpse at our "Notion Department" these days reveals a wealth of "Jewels" that almost suggests the idea of our being in the business.

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W.M. T. SMITH.

Spangle and all-over Nets. Drapery Nets in chenille dot and spangle. Choice line of "Hand Made" Gimpure and Jet Fronds in new blouse effects.

Elegant new line of fine fringed Sashes and Ties, in plain, roman and Bayadere stripes, and an endless assortment of plain and fancy string Ties.

We cordially invite you to our opening this week of the above lines.

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