

The Scranton Tribune

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The action of the administration in notifying Consul General Lee that he has carte blanche to protect American officials and citizens in Cuba has the right ring.

The Germ of a New Republic.

The report that the president, in his message to be communicated to congress today, will advise against the diplomatic recognition of the present republic of Cuba, goes directly counter to the prevailing expectation and wish of the country.

But it must be apparent to all observers of events that the existing republic of Cuba is the necessary germ of the new government which fate is preparing to develop upon the ruins wrought by Spanish tyranny and oppression.

Respect for the office of president of the United States requires that due deference should be accorded to an executive recommendation covering a point upon which there is room for honest difference of opinion and preference.

Any nation which would permit such an outrage as the blowing up of the Maine to go unmentioned would, in the opinion of Senator Mitchell of Wisconsin, "deserve to exist."

Burn Anthracite

Before she left port at New York the warship Texas filled her bunkers with selected anthracite coal carefully packed in sacks and it is to be hoped that this inclusion marks a return of common sense in the navy department.

The April letter of the Authentic Coal Operators' association, which we reprint elsewhere in today's Tribune, gives conclusive reasons why the government at this time should abandon its purchase of bituminous coal for naval purposes and recur to the use of anthracite.

It is reported that in the event of war Lieutenant General John M. Schofield, retired, will upon his own motion be restored to the active list and, by the president's wish, made commander-in-chief of all the country's land forces.

In compliance with a request from the National Volunteer Reserve association, Captain William D. Stauffer, of Lancaster, detachment commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, has issued an order to all the posts of the organization to interest themselves in enrolling able

bodied men in the association. There ought to be at least 5,000 members for the reserve in Scranton.

Spain has had three years of opportunity in Cuba to restore peace, and instead of improving things have grossly and steadily from bad to worse.

Inalienable Rights.

The one bugbear in the Cuban problem is the widely prevalent fear that when the Cubans get their freedom they will not know what to do with it.

It must be said of the Cubans enlisted in the present insurrection that they have shown many qualities calculated to recommend them to American confidence. They are of the Latin race and all people of that race are more merciful than Anglo-Saxons.

In the stress and suffering of a fight such as they have made natural aptitudes are developed and strong men evolve. This is shown in the gradual change which has come over the character of the insurrection. At first limited in membership principally to adventurers and men impatient of any restraint, the movement has grown until now the best families in Cuba are represented among its troops.

The facts cited and deductions announced by Senator Proctor upon this point are worthy of confidence, both because of his own good judgment and also in view of the fact that his conclusions are drawn from information imparted to him by men of the first importance who have studied the Cuban problem on the ground for years.

As to the general relief work on the island, a system of distribution has been perfected within the past week or two which has greatly alleviated suffering. Reconstructions in over 50 towns have been supplied with food, and train loads of provisions are being sent into the interior daily.

As Senator Proctor said: "The fear that if free the people of Cuba would be revolutionary is not so well-founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable. The large number of educated and patriotic men, the great sacrifices they have endured, the peaceful temperament of the people, whites and blacks, the wonderful prosperity that would surely come with peace and good home rule, the large influx of American and English immigration and money, would all be strong factors for stable institutions."

Regrets of course are useless now; but what a saving of anxiety it would have made had Mr. Cleveland recognized Cuban belligerency when the last congress enjoined him to.

It will not be Spain we shall have fought but our own overconfident unpreparedness.

The Cuban insurgents are everlastingly right in refusing all compromise.

They would be false to the cause of humanity as well as to their own if they should recede a hair's breadth.

The president can profit by the experience of Senator Proctor, which taught the preponderating eloquence of plain facts—facts carrying irresistible recommendations on their face.

The foreigner doesn't comprehend the Yankee character who thinks that Uncle Sam would become a party to the settlement of assassination, outrage and tyranny by mediation.

The president doesn't need to make any recommendations unless he wants to. Congress evidently has 'em to burn.

With the price of beef going up just as the price of milk begins to slide down it is evidently premature to growl.

You will observe that no European diplomatist yearns to test the biting power of the American eagle's beak.

Fair play for Mark Hanna. He does not whine.

Distributing Food to Starving Cubans

Under date of March 20, J. P. Dunne writes from Havana to the New York Commercial-Advertiser an interesting account of the scenes attending the distribution of American relief for the starving in Cuba. In the relief of it he says: Two thousand people have died in Belial within the past year.

The Americans who were with the relief train visited a number of houses and found many instances of great distress. As far as clothing is concerned, nearly every one is in rags, and this is particularly so in the case of the children, hundreds of whom can be seen on the streets entirely naked.

Little children have been carried off by the hundreds and for no other reason than that their parents were unable to sustain life. Those who are left walk the streets begging morsels of food under the eyes of the Spanish soldiers, who parade in front of the wretched huts in the heart of the village, and cannot associate these unfortunate little creatures with the children of his own land, even the ragged and ill-fed urchins who are seen in the narrow streets of large cities.

But recently a new factor has entered into the picture. There has been told that a people, strangers in tongue and in the representatives of a humanity that they know nothing about, would feed them. When a half-dozen Americans walked through the principal streets of this little town of Belial they were followed everywhere by over 200 children, who had probably never seen an American before.

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THE DEMANDS OF JUSTICE.

The main question is not whether there shall be peace or war. The general arguments for peace in preference to war are weighty, as they always are, under any circumstances in any international crisis, but the question of war or peace is incidental to a greater question, and that is whether the dignity of the American flag shall be maintained and the honor of the American nation preserved, and the duty of the American government performed by the immediate liberation of Cuba from the slavery and mercenary brutality of Spanish dominion there.

As to these two requirements of duty, the overwhelming sentiment of American patriotism is fixed unalterably. Every other consideration, including the question of war or peace is subordinate to them, not they to it.

THE PRESIDENT WILL LEAD.

From the Times-Herald. War is imminent but it is not unavoidable even now. Let it never be forgotten that it is the last resort of nations, and that there must be just influence brought to bear on the Spanish government that may stay its fatal course.

But, war or peace, the president must still be the leader. The country owes it to his wisdom, courage and high sense of responsibility that he was not plunged headlong into war six weeks ago without preparation of defenses.

His wisdom, too, was shown in his taking the leaders of all parties into his confidence and convincing them of the justness and patriotism of his purpose. Having manifested his skill in leadership in the controversy, and the republic there to another "Bull Run" if they could.

The hour has struck, and whether peace comes or war the Cuban question will be settled. If it is peace, it will be peace with honor. If it is war, it will be war for humanity and not for revenge.

WORTHY OF CONFIDENCE.

From the Washington Star. The defamatory gossip, alleging weakness and vacillation in the president's views concerning the Cuban problem, has never met with any respectable fraction of the American people. It is true that he has exhausted every possible means consistent with national self-respect to attain a peaceful settlement of the controversy, and the republic there to another "Bull Run" if they could.

Congress appropriated \$3,000 for national defense without a dissenting vote. Since that time the army and navy have been working night and day to prepare for any emergency. When that appropriation was made all the people, irrespective of party creeds and nationality joined harmoniously in the action. It was for national honor. The president in the meantime was using every effort with Spain to bring about peace and a proper recognition of the insurgents. He was led to believe that success was to crown his efforts.

THE POPE, SPAIN AND CUBA.

From the New York Sun. If there is to be mediation by the pope it will undoubtedly be between Spain and the Cubans fighting for their independence. Obviously, the pope could not be a mediator between the United States and Spain or in any international question. So far as his relations to us are concerned he is a spiritual sovereign and not in any respect a temporal sovereign.

Since both the Cubans and their Spanish oppressors are Roman Catholics, the pope naturally and rightly desires to end violence between them on general Christian principles, and his influence should be efficient to induce Spain to cease from the barbarous wrong which has marked its whole military policy in Cuba, shocking all civilization.

It is not possible, however, for the pope to induce the Cubans to renounce to any down their arms in an armistice, unless to make arrangements with Spain consistent upon the recognition of the independence of Cuba by her. There are no other terms than such independence to which the Cubans would listen for a moment, and reasonably enough, for an armistice arranged for any other purpose would be a step toward the permanent establishment of a Cuban republic which would conduce to the advantage of Spain only and be seriously, if not fatally, injurious to the Cuban people.

Freedom for Cuba is assured, no bargaining by which Spanish diplomacy can prevent it is now possible. The mediation of the pope, accordingly, would have to be for the purpose of stopping the further waste of blood and the awful barbarities on the island, with a view to the peaceful settlement of the preliminary to an independence which Spain explicitly recognizes.

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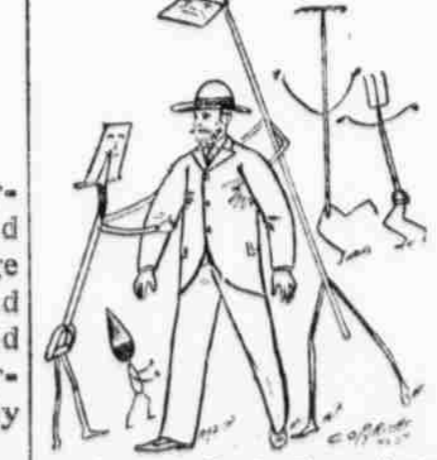


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