### The Scranton Tribune

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#### TEN PAGES.



The action of the administration it notifying Consul General Lee that he has earte blanch to protect American. officials and citizens now in Cuba bus the right root. And Less is just the man who will know how to use this authority.

#### the Germ of a New Republic.

The report that the president, in his nessage to be communicated to congress today, will advise against the diplematic recognition of the present regulation of Cuba, goest directly counter to the prevailing expectation and wish of the country. The president sidered intelligently until they are fermally made public.

lint it must be apparent to all obgervers of events that the existing republic of Caisa is the necessary germ of the new government which fate is preparing to develop upon the ruins wrought by Spanish tyranny and oppression. It is the crude but necessary postulate of further progress along the line of ripening republicanism in Cuba. It is the erention of the patriots who hove dayed. What it tacks in broadth and efficiency it makes up in the character of its intent. It is the tangible expression of a persecuted people's aspiration for freedom, and if it be not yet ready to enter upon the full dignity of independent statehood it yet is the nucleus which under American protection and guidance must expand into the proportions of completed growth.

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. Argument may well be acferred until we know exactly the presfdent's position and his reasons. Yet leaders of the insurrection, to whom: Cuba owen the only hope of liberation that has ever approximated realization, and justice demands that their recognition be not long delayed.

Any nation which would permit such an outcage as the blowing up of the Maine to go unpunished would," in the opinion of Senator Mitchell of Wisconsin. Snot deserve to exist? The sengter's opinion is obviously growing in popularity.

#### Burn Anthracite

Before she left port at New York the warship Texas filled her bunkers with selected anthracite real carefully packed in sacks and it is to be hoped that this meddens marks a return of common sense in the many departmont. Some time ago anthracite coal-Was used quite generally in the bunkers of our war vessels especially when they were about to begin payar evolutions. Then bituminous came into young, possibly because of its slightly lower cost, but no student of the problem can feel satisfied with a fuel so subject as is bituminous to spontaneous combustion or so profuse in its discharge of sooty and sight-interrunting smoke-

The April letter of the Anthenelte Cont Operators' association, which we reprint elsewhere in today's Tribune, gives concludive reasons why the govconment at this time should abandon its purchase of bituminous coal for mayal purposes and recur to the use of authracite. It may be said that this is an ex parte argument, nevertheless the facts presented speak for themseives. They furthermore have the indorsement of the naval experts, who do not weigh a few cents' difference in cost in the scale against increased efficiency in action, whereby our country might turn defeat into victory and save precious fives. For this reason the need is great that the advantages of anthracite should be emphatically presented before the proper authorities at Washington as we dare say they will be if it has not been done

It is reported that in the event of war Lieutenant General John M. Schofield, refired, will upon his own motion be restored to the active list and, by president's wish, made command--chief of all the country's land s. General Schoffeld is unquestionably our ablest living soldier.

In compliance with a request frem the National Volunteer Reserve association, Captain William D. Stauffer. of Lancaster, desartment commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, has issued an order to all the posts of the state directing the members to intorest themselves in enrolling able

bodied men in the association. There mises. the reserve in Scranton.

Spain has had three years of opportunity in Cuba to restore peace, and instead of improving things have gone stendily from bad to worse. The treacherous hand which exploded the mine underneath the Maine signalled the doom of Spanish sovereignty and scaled the warrant for American intervention.

#### Inalienable Pights.

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. Let us consider this point.

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 mercurial than Anglo-Saxons. Injudging them we must bear this inextinguishable difference in mind. Yet the Cubans have shown not only ardent but sustained patriotism; not only enthusiasm but "sticktoitativeness." They have equalled the Spanjard in diplomacy, far surpassed him in generalship and clung to their purpose in the face of threats, abuse, persuasion and bribes. They have sacrificed all that they had for country and freedom, even to wives and babes, and yet they have not given up. They have affirmed their intention to fight for freedom until it is won absolutely or the last man of them is killed with are to the foe; and while talk like this among the Latin race is often to be discounted, as partaking of unconscious exaggeration and praggadocio, it must be admitted in fairness to the Cubans in arms that down to this moment, so far as the great body of them

from the deed

In the stress and suffering of a light such as they have made natural aptitudes are developed and strong nen evolve. This is shown in the gradual change which has come over the character of the insurrection. At first limited in membership principally every one is in rags, and this is particular adventurers and men impatient of larly so in the case of the children, huno adventurers and men impatient of larly any restraint, the movement has grown until now the best families in unil these abviously cannot be controops. Discipline, loo, has gained in ment they are driven back into the town efficiency. The military genius of Garin and the relentless severity of Gomez have taken ragged and various ber of people who are still alive. Those elements and fused them into an ap- who came into the town aged and infirm proximately orderly whole-much more orderly and effective, all observers agree, than are the troops of Spain which from time to time come awkwardly against them. The administrativo quality which can produce such improvement in the midst of the xtraordinary difficulties of this extraordinary war ought not to be stable government.

nounced 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. sympathy cannot be withheld from the H we may estimate that 400,000 Cubans have been starved or killed since the war began-200,000 whites and 100,000 blicks-the population of the island would remain on a rough estimate at the following: Cubaus (pure whites), 00,000; negroes and creoles, 400,000; and Spaniards, 200,006, not half of when have any real quarrel with the Cubans. The absence of a color prejudice in Cuba, the peaceful instincts and general good nature of Cubans and negroes alike, and the rapidity with which the native Spaniard transforms into a Cuban in sympathy after generation's residence on the island all go to show that the general suspicion as to Cuba's probable career under freedom, while not wholly without reason, is based largely on misapprehension. The unfitness of Mexico for self-government was far worse when it became a republic, yet it today is progressing steadily. The Cuban at his worst is better than the Mexican at his worst; and the percentage of Cubans fully qualified for a republican form of government is larger in Cuba than the percentage of Mexicans so qualified was or even is in

Mexico: As Senator Proctor said: "The fear that if free the people of Cuba would se revolutionary is not so well-founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable. The large numher of educated and patriotic men, the great sacrifices they have endured, the peaceable temperament of the people, whites and blacks, the wonderful presperity 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." The people of Cuba are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty. and the pursuit of huppiness; and they are at least entitled to have a fair chance to work out these rights into government along their own haes and in pursuit of their own

Cautain Sigsbee has been promised the command of the best battleship in the American navy; and as for General Lee he ought to have anything he wants, from the United States treasury down.

itegrets of course are useless now; but what a saving of anxiety it would have made had Mr. Cleveland recognized Cuban beliigerency 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 everlast-

They would be false to the ought to be at least 5,000 members for | 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 recommendations unless he wants to. Congress evidently has 'em

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

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 Distributing Food

to Starving Cubans

ning writes from Havana to the New York Commercial-Advertises an inceresting account of the scenes attending the distribution of American relief for the starving in Cuba. In the course of it he says: Two thousand people have died in Rejucal within the past year. The original peopleation of the town was about 2,000, but now the place is crowded with the families who were driver in there by then, whether which will justify us forever in the year. The will be the place is crowded with the families who were driver in there by them. We will consider the world and of history. The driven in there by Gen. Weyler's edict. Notwithstanding the fact that the people in Bejucal, owing principally to the rich district surrounding it and its proximit; o Havara, are in far better condition is concerned, the boast is not different than those in almost every other part of Cuba, there is great destitution there, and the marks of femine can be seen in hundreds of faces.

The Americans who were with the relief train visited a number of houses and tound many instances of great distress. As far as clothing is concerned, nearly dreds of whom can be seen on the streets entirely naked. Fathers of large families can obtain no work, for the moment that by the Spanish soldiers. There is no business of any consequence in the town itself, and one has to marvel at the numhave died long ago.

Little children have been carried off by the hundreds and for no other reason than that they had not the food 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 walled barracks in the heart of the village. One cannot associate these extraordinary war ought not to be without its value for good order in an ensuing time of peace. Besides, peace would bring back to Cuba all the citerly Cubans whom war and poverty and fear of Spanish maltreatment have driven into exile; and these men, highly educated as a rule and ripe in experience and in Judgment, would further reinforce the influences which, after independence would tend toward stable government. unfortunate little creatures with the chilof their own starvation. These children know nothing beyond their lives on a sugar plantation and the days and nights of hunger they have had since they field with their parents from the blazing fields which once gave them home and subsis-

> But recently a new factor has entered into their flyes. They have been told that a people, strangers in tongue and the representatives of a humanity that they know nothing about, would feed them. When a half dezen Americans walked through the principal streets of this littown of Bejucal they were followed erywhere by over 200 children, who had obably never seen an American before, pplies have been going into the town several weeks, and these children wanted to see the kind of people they were who had appeared their hunger There was nothing offensive in their manner, and they did not even attempt to ask any alms. They had been told that e people had fed them, and that they would feed them more. But the curiosity to see "Los Americanes" was not confined to the children. Men and women of all ages crowded every doorway and window in every street through which the small party of Americans passed, and many a one who had been a beneficiary of people who had given them food let fall a sincere word of blessing.

sland, a system of distribution has been perfected within the past week or two which has greatly reduced the suffering. Reconcentrados in over 400 towns have been supplied with food, and train loads of provisions are being sent into the interior daily. Those in charge of the work sent circulars to the Alcaldes of towns in every province asking for information as o the necessities of the people and re-uesting the Alcaldes to act themselves or to appoint committees to act in the cribution of the supplies that were to sent them. It cannot be denied that the Spanish officials in Cuba resent the efforts of Americans to feed the starving people, and Capt.-Gev. Blanco instructed fical officers throughout the island not to give the information that the American mmittee asked. But, nevertheless, the ofermation has been obtained from any ources possible, and train loads of prorisions have been going to every part of Tuba which can be reached by railroad, and other means have been employed in nding relief to remote sections. Since relief movement started in January 800 tons of provisions have been received Cuba from the United States, and with the supplies on hand now and those or the way here it is believed that the 200,000 reconcentrados can be fed for three

As to the general relief work on the

#### THE DEMANDS OF JUSTICE.

From the New York Sun. The main question is not whether there hall 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; out the question of war or peace is inc dental to a greater question, and that ) whether the dignity of the American fac shall be maintained and the hous f the American nation preserved, and se duty of the American government erformed by the immediate lineration f Cuba from the slavery and mercites

crutility of Spanish dominion there.
Cuba must be free, unconditionally, abcolutely free, or the flag of our own tree
republic will be so covered with shame
that neither its stars nor its stripes
will be distinguishable. The destruction f the Maine in Havana harbor must be toned for, As to these two requirements of duty

he overwhelming sentiment of Ameri-an patriotism is fixed unalterably. Every other consideration, including the ques-tion of war or peace, is subordinate to them, not they to it. The patience of congress and the people has not been ex-ercised in order that peace might be pre-served by the sacrifice of Cuben indeingly right in refusing all compro- pendence or the condentation of the crome

of Feb. 15. Peace is an inestimable boo but there are conditions under which it would be intolerable to Americans.

#### THE PRESIDENT WILL LEAD.

From the Times-Heraid.

War is imminent but it is not unavoic able even new. Let it rever be forgotten that it is the last resort of nations, and that there may be yet influences brought to bear on the Spanish government that may stay its fateful course. For what can war be to Spain but destruction and loss so great as to bankrunt it forever?
What can be gained even in prestige by fighting a losing battle for its already lest island? It is true but a few days remain ere the final decision must be made. but we are living in a time when events move swiftly. We do in days what once occupied months, and in hours what once occupied days. If Sagasta means peace let him summon his cortes at once. war came now he would be obliged to convoke it without delay. Why should he not do so in the interest of peace?

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 we were not plunged of responsibility that we were not plunged headlong into war six weeks ago without preparation or defenses. When the yellow journals and Jacobins were shouting "war exista," and that we must "On to Cuba" they would have forced us to another "Bull Run" if they could. But the president knew the condition of our army and may better than noisy congressing and irresponsible newspapers. gressmen and irresponsible newspapers and firmly and resolutely held the reins in his own hand and proved himself to be the master of the situation. He was rganizing victory silently but with exhaustless energy.

His wisdom, too was shown in his taking the leaders of all parties into his confidence and convincing them of the rectitude and patriotism of his purpose. the eyes of the world and of history "Cuban question," which has perplexed our statesmen for more than bull a con tury, has at last reached its crisis. It ! the legacy of President Mckinley to solve

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

#### WORTHY OF CONFIDENCE.

From the Washington Star. The defamatory gossip, alleging weak-ness and vacillation in the president s views concerning the Cuban problem, has never gained credence with any respectable fraction of the American people. It is true that he has exhausted every possible means consistent with national cell-respect to obtain a peaceful settlement of the controversy, and the republic thor-oughly indorses and approves his labors in that direction, and the wise and Chris-tian policy upon which they were based. But whether peace or war was to result the people expressed their confidence in the firmness and wisdom of the executive

Congress appropriated \$50,009 for na-tional 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 approis no possibility of a withdrawal from it

The Star is convinced that in his me age soon to be submitted to congres he president will meet the Cuban eme tency as completely and as satisfactorily s the others which have confronted hi his official career, and that the policy which he will announce will in its vigar ous Americanism voice the sentiments and receive the hearty approval of the people of the republic.

#### THE POPE, SPAIN AND CUBA.

From the New York Sun,

If there is to be mediation by the pope will undoubtedly be between Spain and the Cubins fighting for their inde-pendence. Obviously, the pope could not e a mediator between the United States and Spain or in any international ques-lon. So far as his relations to us are oncerned he is a spiritual sovereign only and not in any respect a temporal sov

Since both the Cubans and their Spansh oppressors are Roman Catholies, the ope naturally and fitly desires to eniolence between them on general Christian principles, and his influence should no efficient to induce Spain to cease from the barbarities which have marked its whole military policy in Cuba, shocking all civilization.

It is not possible, however, for the pope to induce the Cuban revolutionists to tay down their arms in an armistice, unless to make arrangements with Spain conscquent upon the recognition of the inde-pendence 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 purformal establishment of a Cuban repub-fic would conduce to the advantage of Spain only and be seriously, if not tatal

y, injurious to the Cuban patriots. 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 fur-ther waste of blood and the awful barburitles on the island, with a view to the peaceful settle ment of the preliminar-les to an independence which Spain explicitly recognizes,

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