

The Scranton Tribune

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

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



Don't forget tonight's meeting in the board of trade rooms, called to organize relief work in behalf of the dependent families of Scranton soldiers at the front.

The failure of the Gussio to effect a landing in Cuba with arms and supplies for our insurgent allies, coming on top of a number of other repulses of American small ships operating near the Cuban shore, will tend to exasperate public sentiment in this country and provoke renewed criticism at the apparent indecision of the war department.

Our citizens, however, should try to be patient. These minor reverses are undoubtedly vexatious, but there will be no halting when once the invasion gets under way.

It is evidently the policy of the Spanish admiral in command of the Cape Verde fleet now in harbor at Curacao to play tag with Sampson and Schley, drawing them after him in a fruitless chase and thus postponing our occupation of Cuba until the rainy season has made aggressive land operations impossible.

In the meantime, moderate delay will enable preparations to be brought to a degree of perfection which will enable the invasion, when ultimately ordered, to be very greatly expedited.

In these days the cultivation of ignorance is expensive.

Drawing Nearer Together.

The recent speech of Joseph Chamberlain, the British colonial secretary, in favor of an Anglo-American alliance, notable because its author is generally regarded as, next to Lord Salisbury, the most influential and potential of living English statesmen, has attracted world-wide attention.

For such a joining of sympathies and reinforcement of mutual purposes the more intelligent portion of the American people are already prepared. Some opposition is to be expected from the small class of adopted Americans whose chief capital has long been distrust and abuse of England.

As might be naturally expected in the iron and steel industries the utmost activity prevails, while the tone of the market is strong. Great activity exists in iron and steel building construction works, while there is an enormous demand for agricultural implements, rails, building frames and railroad locomotives.

The greatest single obstacle to an Anglo-American alliance in fact if not on parchment is not distrust of England nor fear that the United States might be lured in that kind of a combination, but the effect which such a moral union of English-speaking forces might have in interrupting our traditional friendship for Russia.

rivalries which do not involve the serious menacing of American prospects. In other words, we shall never be the aggressor in a movement inimical to Russia. But if without fault or invitation on our part a time shall ever come when the cause of constitutional liberty and international fair play shall force us to choose between St. Petersburg and London; between absolutism and political principles akin to our own; between strangers in race and creed, and kinsmen but a few generations apart, joint heirs with us to the glories of a common history, literature and speech, we cannot doubt that that choice will be.

Possibly the prophets of a general scrap are merely talking through their apprehensions.

Our Trade in War Times.

The volume of our trade and commerce has remained practically unaffected by the war. Investors and business men generally regard the present and future with equanimity. There has been neither inflation nor depression in the money or industrial markets. The functions of our banks and financial exchanges have not been disturbed by our conflict with a foreign power, nor by anticipated complications arising out of it.

Every day brings forth fresh proof of the extraordinary foreign demand for our breadstuffs. The European supply of cereals has been shorter than was thought at all possible before we entered or had any notion of entering in a war with Spain.

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Havana does not seem to cost them a thought. They expect to call upon him and expect in some mysterious way that he will with his fifty thousand warriors will drop from the clouds. The life of every private citizen of Havana or foreign nationality is not worth an hour's purchase. The British consul is tolerated, but seemingly disregarded and disrespected as an official agent of his government. The insurgents are pressing in upon the city and the Vento water works have been attacked, though unsuccessfully. Without light or food and the supply of fresh water endangered Havana is a pandemonium.

If this is the condition of affairs in Havana, what must it be where the reconcentrados are herded together? Their condition must be appalling. Without food, without sympathy, without hope, those of the miserables who have not died of starvation or been butchered in cold blood are lingering on in the most hapless and helpless state to which it is possible to reduce a human being—that of starvation by inches. Of course the insatiable Spanish soldiery have seized upon the supplies which were sent by this country to feed the starving reconcentrados. The amount was not much, it is true, as the time was short in which to send it; but, little or much, the Spaniards have made a meal of it. The women and children appeal most to our humane and human sympathy.

If it were possible to bring anything like systematic relief to the reconcentrados, the continuance of the blockade would be regarded without much perturbation. We owe the Havana brigades neither good will nor sympathy. They are a crowd of murderous ruffians to whose political machinations and military turbulence Spain owes the greater part of her misfortunes. When we get to Havana the so-called volunteers will receive our most pressing and immediate consideration. Revenge is foreign to our object in Havana or anywhere else, but the military organization of which these brigades formed a part must be instantly disbanded, and the alternative offered the members of leaving the country or returning to civil employments.

Every day brings forth fresh proof of the extraordinary foreign demand for our breadstuffs. The European supply of cereals has been shorter than was thought at all possible before we entered or had any notion of entering in a war with Spain. One man in the United States foresaw this clearly. Young Lester has pocketed enormous profits in his great wheat deal, but it is only fair to say that he took enormous risks and that had not his calculations proved correct, the financial credit of his father would have been no more than sufficient to meet the unparalleled emergency in which he would have been placed.

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demonstration in its general unselfishness, except so far as there is in it a manifestation of a youthful craving for adventure. Naturally enough, there is much eagerness on the part of individuals to obtain the distinction of commission as officers and escape from the harsh subordination of enlistment, even at the expense of greater liability to danger; but relatively the amount of such self-seeking is small. Purely personal and political influences exerted in disregard of military requirements have been comparatively unavailing, and the organization of the volunteers has proceeded generally on lines approved by the military judgment which seeks only the accomplishment of the highest attainable efficiency. No military generals have yet appeared. No distinctions in favor of any class of the volunteers have been made. The great mass of the young men entering have neither made nor thought of making any efforts to obtain discrimination in their behalf or any mitigation of the hardships of service because of any artificial social distinction created to themselves. They are ready to take their luck along with the rest as comrades in arms, and ask and expect no special consideration. They know that the only way of entering their individuality for the good of the whole can be useful to the republic in war, and that only on the condition that they render to the country a more efficient military discipline will they be entitled to the name of soldiers. They must be at command for whatever duty is committed to them by their officers. The military law can recognize no distinctions between them, and the more intelligent they are the more complete is their understanding that by the oath of enlistment they are compelled to an obedience which is binding on all and is enforced equally on all under the most painful penalties. But such knowledge has not restrained any degree the youthful impulse to enlistment.

The American military spirit is now more earnest, more aggressive, and more general than ever before in the history of this republic, and its manifestation in every condition of our society, uniting the whole by a common enthusiasm, affords assurance that America is well fitted to go forward in the larger career to which its destiny is leading it.

ENGLISH POSTAL ODDITIES.

Puzzles Found in the Mails and Turned Over to Experts.

From the Youth's Companion. Some of the anecdotes of the English postoffice recently related by Mr. Framley Steerforth are very amusing. The British public, one must infer, is not apt to perplex itself with puzzles, but the London mail clerks seem to be quite as clever in the interpretation of such puzzles as are the ingenious savants of Uncle Sam in the dead letter office at Washington.

Here is one little anecdote which ought to prove encouraging to such of our readers as are beginning the study of French, inasmuch as it proves that very slight smattering indeed of that elegant tongue may occasionally be of use. Any high school student will perceive why the letter of a certain anxious servant, left in charge of the house while her mistress was visiting at Aix-les-Bains, France, was returned with the postoffice stamp "no knowledge" as it reads in French. The mistress had written home certain instructions, using the letter paper of the hotel where she stayed; the maid had replied, having, as she supposed, carefully copied the address from the printed letterhead. But unfortunately the hotel employed that conveniently conspicuous envelope to mention a few of its advantages with the result that she mailed an envelope boldly inscribed: "Miss Blank, Hotel Britannique, Quvert toute l'annee, Ascenseur Hydraulique."

The number of hotels kept open all the year round and supplied with elevators proved sufficiently large to discourage the French officials, and the letter found its way back to the sender, who was much perturbed, until a friend of the lady of the mansion chanced to call, to whom she showed it, when an explanation ensued and she obtained a more definite address.

Perhaps this incident is fairly offset by another in which it was the postoffice official whose knowledge of foreign languages was put to a severe test. A lady living in England had lost many newspapers in the mail, and went to the village postoffice to complain. The sub-postmaster, after her departure, received instructions from his chief to ask her the next time she came for the titles of the papers which had gone astray. He did so, and soon complacently reported that she subscribed to the "The Home Magazine and Pictorial and Journal" ("I fail to receive" and "many" and "newspapers," he stated in one of the curious address books kept at the Postal Museum in London. This letter was from a lady's son, who had mailed his mother's search advertisement. The letter was duly and promptly delivered.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Al cebus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrologer Cast: 1.21 a. m., for Monday, May 15, 1898.

A child born on this day will notice that persons who crave faked war news were given the real thing by some of the January 1st sheets yesterday. At the hour of going to press, Admiral Sampson's ships were all afloat, but there is no telling what the afternoon papers may do to them.

Although there's always room at the top a good many people seem to prefer to stay down in the crowd. It might be an improvement if some of the Scranton papers would consolidate with the Christian Advocate or the War Cry.

The "Gossip" by any other name might have landed.

Ainechus' Advice.

Let us hope that the war rumor editor will not again escape from his keeper for another month at least.

This exhibition of martial and patriotic spirit extends to young men generally. It is evident that the strike now that it was at the outbreak of our civil war. The president's call for volunteers was for 225,000 only, but six times that number responded, and the volunteers were obtained easily. The places of members of National Guard regiments made vacant by the wise severity of the medical examination are quickly filled, while all parts of the Union there is a grievous disappointment that the remaining opportunities to enter the services are so few. If the Hull bill for the reorganization of the army had passed in its original form, as the exigency of the war required so imperatively, the whole of the proposed regular force of 300,000 men would have been filled rapidly and with a quality of recruits fully as high as that which the call for volunteers brought out. The best blood of this republic would have rushed to meet in the ranks of the regular army, already made up of the most desirable material it has contained since its establishment.

The most remarkable thing about this

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