

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JULY 7, 1898.



REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

STATE. Governor—WILLIAM A. STONE. Lieutenant Governor—J. P. S. GOBIN. Secretary of Internal Affairs—JAMES W. LATTI. Judge of Superior Court—W. W. PORTER.

LEGISLATIVE. Senate. Twentieth Dist.—JAMES C. VAUGHAN. House. First District—JOHN R. FARR. Fourth District—JOHN R. REYNOLDS.

COLONEL STONE'S PLATFORM

It will be my purpose when elected to so conduct myself as to win the respect and good will of those who have opposed me as well as those who have given me their support.

American Honor Vindicated.

This is indeed an American year. Right after the thrilling victory at Santiago comes another victory, not of armor and ships and guns, but of plain American common sense.

The annexation of Hawaii plants American influence impreguably in the heart of the Pacific ocean; gives us command of this great water in peace and in war; adds to our domain 6,677 square miles of as charming territory as the sun shines on; and serves notice on the world that the American republic proposes hereafter to fulfill the measure of its magnificent opportunities.

In consummating this great triumph of statesmanship the administration of William McKinley has done for posterity a service of incalculable value; and the enlightened patriotism of a two-thirds majority in both branches of congress has wiped from our national records the stain put there by Grover Cleveland and Paramount Commissioner Blount when they tried to enforce their "policy of infamy."

Why are we so chary of bestowing naval honors on our naval heroes? Sampson and Schley and Watson are all old enough and know enough and have done enough to be placed in the front rank of their profession. Besides, American titles are not hereditary.

On a Profitless Tack.

Today at Delaware's Water Gap the committee on law reform of the Pennsylvania Bar association will make public the changes in existing statutes and judicial processes which it will recommend to the favorable consideration of the Pennsylvania legislature.

Some faults and defects there are in the mechanism of our ordinary courts to be sure, and these may well be pointed out by the Pennsylvania Bar association for remedy by the law-making power.

But the great fault which lies at the root of most of the injustice done in our courts and gives life to most of the popular criticism of the courts is indifference with which the great body of well-to-do citizens view the operations of the courts in directions in which they are not primarily and personally concerned, and by this indifference make it an easy task for the jury fixer, the professional pettinger, and the scoundrel in general to gain over the courts an undue ascendancy.

books were enforced with reasonable vigilance the work of the courts would be so greatly improved as to excite general astonishment. There are laws ample for the punishing of embezzlement, subornation of perjury, false personation, jury fixing, perjury and neglect of sworn duty. These laws, if enforced, would quickly cleanse the jury room of professional or speculative jurors and the bar of the harpies who under the license of officers of the court are in fact plotters of mischief and fomenters of litigation.

But if the better citizens in the community don't call for improved enforcement of the law, if they don't even take the pains to see for themselves how the law is being enforced, but on the other hand sedulously try to avoid even the small item of jury service once a year, resorting to all kinds of excuses and sometimes to downright lying in order to gain exemption, we are unable to see what substantial betterment can come through more additions to the dead-letter verbiage of the statute book.

When La Bourgeois was struck she was it is reported, steaming at a 17-knot gait through a dense fog. If that be true it tells the whole story. The navigator who goes at such a speed under such conditions should be put in irons the minute he attempts it.

Weighted and Found Wanting.

If the Spanish government had deliberated in solemn conclave over the most expeditious and certain method of ruining the existing dynasty, it could not have more effectively lost the pent-up forces of anarchy and revolution on the unhappy monarch to whom it owes and no doubt gives its allegiance.

In the meantime we are told in a dispatch from Madrid that the cabinet council, after a short session, decided not to open negotiations for peace but to continue the war at all risks, while a single soldier remains in Cuba.

It is worthy of note that Don Carlos has stood by his promise not to hamper the government while it continues to prosecute the war. It seems, however, that he has let slip his chance. The discontent is gaining ground among the people; they are arming, and the loyalty of the army is dubious.

There is one man who must be a hoodoo who was injured at Santiago the other day. He is Private Henry A. Holzkamp, of a New York regiment. He was reared in an orphan asylum, broke his leg twice when a little child, later on fell and broke four ribs and his breast bone.

Writing in 1880 of the relations between England and America, Mr. Gladstone said: "The union between the countries is close, and is likely to grow closer still."

General Miles' anxiety to go to the front is to his credit. There is work and glory sufficient for both him and General Shafter at Santiago and the personal equation should not lead to friction.

District Attorney Beck, of Philadelphia, has drafted a bill for consideration by congress dealing with the naturalization problem. It embodies the essence of the rules of practice now governing the courts of Lackawanna

county; that is, public examination of applicants after opportunity has been given for production of evidence of unfitness, the examination to be such in kind and thoroughness as to debar the grossly unfit; and its object is to make naturalization practice uniform throughout the country.

It is unlikely that the criticism of Admiral Sampson for not mentioning Schley's name has just foundation. Sampson was reporting hurriedly a momentous fact, whose importance rose far above personalities.

Prisoners of War.

The destruction of the Spanish fleet at Santiago and the immediate fall of the city itself will place in our hands a large number of prisoners of war which we will have some difficulty in disposing of satisfactorily. To hand them over to the military authorities in Cuba would necessarily hamper their operations, and they are equally impossible with the fleet.

As it is we have nearly two thousand Spanish prisoners of war at Key West, and with Admiral Sampson and General Shafter. The Spaniards themselves are in no hurry to leave us, now that they have ascertained our humane intentions. They have learned to appreciate our courtesy, our food, and our considerate sympathy for a fallen enemy.

Not is there anything in the inference of Mr. Edmunds that our territorial "aggrandizement" as a consequence of this war will involve a gross violation of our principles of self-government. Our territory has not been acquired by conquest or purchase, and our further expansion will not be more contrary to our principles than what aggression of earlier days. We have carried freedom, self-government, education, and civilization wherever we have gone.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. The resolution which Representative Berry, of Kentucky, offered in the house of representatives tending the thanks of congress and the American people to Commodore Schley, for his heroic and distinguished conduct, is eminently proper. Schley has made himself as a true man and a brave sailor.

HOW TO SECURE IT.

The business men of the anthracite coal regions are making an earnest effort to relieve their district from the restriction that is inflicted by the excessive rates on anthracite coal maintained by the railroad combination of the section. One of the projects set on foot is the building of a railroad from the Lackawanna district to New York to carry coal to the market.

The objection to a fanciful one, as the history of similar projects shows, nor does it impute insincerity to the present promoters of the enterprise. These men will not put their stock on the market or they may need to sell their stock in the future for business reasons.

Yet there is one means of preventing the absorption of a competing line which has never been tried. Let one condition be incorporated in the charter and repeated in every grant of right of way or franchise. That is, that any shipper or transporting company shall have the right to run its own trains and engines over the road on payment of tolls per ton per mile, which, calculated on the total business, will pay 5 per cent. on the bona fide, unincorporated cost of the road, together with maintenance of way and general expenses.

A CANADIAN TRIBUTE.

From the Toronto Globe. Discuss the scientific aspects of the case as we may, the exceedingly good fighting of the Americans forces attention. It is needless to claim for our parity of endurance under suffering with the British regiments at Albuera, who won a victory with three-fourths of their number on the ground; with the Russian battalions, who pressed up the hillside of Plevna to literal annihilation; or with Pickett's men in their charge up the awful slope at Gettysburg.

EQUAL TO EVERY DUTY.

From the Philadelphia Times. It is the glory of the navy that not only in the brilliant naval history of this war has an officer, holding responsibility according to his rank, failed to meet the full measure of his opportunity, from Sigbee keeping his calm judgment in the face of the Maine disaster, or later engaging the Spanish torpedo destroyer and the British cruiser, to Wainwright sailing in to destroy two of the most terrifying destroyers with his armed pleasure yacht, Dewey at Manila and Schley at Santiago are the two commanders who have had great opportunities and have met them greatly. Each occa-

America's Mission for Civilization

From the New York Sun. THE Hon. George F. Edmunds, formerly and so long a senator of the United States from Vermont, delivered an essay at Philadelphia on the subject of "Civilization," in which he expressed strong misgivings regarding the extension of our national domain which will be the inevitable consequence of this war. It is needless to go over his arguments carefully, for they are substantially the same as those whose true meaning during the Hawaiian debate and since the triumph of Dewey at Manila has wearied the public so sadly.

In the first place, it is a weak nation, as it is a weak individual, that is veered from the pursuit of any course which is desirable and requisite because of fear of the opinion of somebody else. This argument, accordingly, can be dismissed at once as unworthy of discussion by a sane and self-reliant people. Actually, moreover, we shall stand the better in foreign opinion the more we govern our conduct by common sense, and the less we allow it to be influenced by merely sentimental considerations such as those upon which Mr. Edmunds dwelt. The purpose for which a war is waged and the consequences actually proceeding from it are usually at variance.

The climate of the islands we shall acquire from Spain is not so far different from that of our own gulf coast as to cause any radical distinction in the character of those regions united by them. Intrinsic to our form of government, the application of that is not limited by the thermometer. Under modern sanitation, as the scientific opinion holds, and as experience is proving in actual results, the old danger to health from malarial fevers is being eliminated. These islands being inhabited by alien races, all races are represented in our citizenship already. America is cosmopolitan in its population, and its function, performed so successfully hitherto, has been to assimilate all through the force of our political institutions and political methods.

Concerning the alleged danger of the acquisition of "distinct" territory, has not that argument been disposed of very effectively by our experience during this century? How about the Louisiana purchase, Florida, Texas, and the purchase of Alaska? They were all "distinct" territory, in the sense that they were inhabited largely or solely by distinct races, were under different institutions, and were far more remote in time from our settlement of the continent than are the more remote possessions of Spain which will come to us as a recompense for our sacrifices in this war. Modern science has neutralized time and distance, so that they are no longer elements in the political problem. Hawaii will be brought into instant communication by cable with Washington, which will be as near practically as New Orleans or Galveston. Nor will Manila and the Philippines be separated from us with it is established. The West Indian islands, of course, are at our very borders, even geographically, they belong naturally to this continent.

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