

The Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 150 Nassau St., N. Y. VIRELIAN, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 19, 1898.

The next mayor of Scranton can make an enviable reputation if he is the right kind of a man. The people are in a mood to appreciate good government.

Jury Service.

That was an intelligent reply of Andrew Carnegie when, upon being examined as a juror, he said that while personally opposed to capital punishment he would not let that opinion prejudice his finding of fact. The juror is not responsible for the punishments prescribed by law for capital offenses.

Two of the scruples on this subject professed in court are merely make-shifts for the evasion of a public duty. Men who would willingly volunteer to shoulder a musket and go to war, there to kill or to be killed, if called by their country, think that the same country's call to jury service is a summons of light moment, to be dodged by any expedient which inhumanity may suggest.

Senator Quay seems willing that Mr. Wannamaker should go ahead in fishing down the legislative stream. Leonard Wood.

The attorney general of the United States, in his brief but significant address at the New York Chamber of Commerce dinner on Tuesday night, dismissed as unworthy of notice the complaint of the anti-expansionists that we lack administrative talent in this country and should, therefore, assume no new responsibilities.

Exc-President Cleveland is to visit Cuba. His Spanish friends ought to show him high honor. It will be remembered that he proposed once to help them put down the insurgents.

The Race Problem.

The race problem as intensified by recent occurrences in the South is capable of solution along two lines, and along two lines only. The negro must be educated. The law must be enforced justly.

It has long been the belief of such liberal-minded and far-sighted negroes as Professor Booker T. Washington that the negro when in a condition of literacy and economic inferiority as is his lot in most of the Southern states does his own cause harm by mixing assertively in politics and by disputing with the whites for political control. This is not a denial of the fact that under the constitution he has a perfect right to political equality; it is a recognition of existing conditions.

What the negro needs first of all is development, and there is the widest field for this expansion, outside of the field of politics or of intimate, familiar intercourse with the dominant race. The negro should generally accept self-effacement as a controlling political factor, even in those communities where his numerical preponderance confers upon him the abstract right. This policy should certainly be adopted in those instances where the material holdings of the race represent only an insignificant fraction of the substantial interests of the community.

The elective franchise is destined to be of inestimable benefit to the race if it is used wisely and with discretion. In a majority of the northern and western states the political parties are so evenly divided that the colored vote has decisive weight. Wherever possible this vote should be utilized to effect just legislation and wholesome public sentiment. But to state the truth mildly, the negro is not yet qualified to exercise political control, in state, town or county, according to the standards of western civilization.

A knowledge of this truth on the part of the colored race is essential to its true development along those substantial lines which count for progress. Wherever the negro has attempted to control the political machinery the result has always redounded to his detriment. The reconstruction regime in the south worked lasting injury to the colored race. The best talent of the population was diverted from productive and moral pursuits into the whirlpool of politics. The minds of the young were vitiated by looking with admiration upon corruption in high places. Antipathies were engendered which will embarrass the progress of the race for generations to come.

resistance, but of the greatest usefulness also.

On the other hand, this incisive writer points out that in the final adjustment of causes and consequences the victims of violence and outrage will suffer less than the perpetrators of them. "The last Mr. Douglass," says he, "was fond of prophesying that, in course of time, the so-called negro problem would be looked upon as essentially the white man's problem. Daily occurrences are making the truth of this prophecy more and more apparent. The white race represents the dominant element in all parts of this country, and is responsible to the enlightened conscience of the civilized world for the suppression and punishment of crime, the maintenance of law and order and the continuance of a peaceful regime. This is the white man's side of the question. That he is the inevitable ruler of the south no one any longer questions. But is he not answerable to the enlightened opinion of mankind to rule in justice and equity? If he does not protect life and property and maintain law and social order, what becomes of his boasted right to rule? The doctrine of the 'divine right of race' is no more sacred or acceptable to the common sense of mankind than its twin relative, the 'divine right of kings,' but both must be submitted to the human test of practical fitness and efficiency. Although the white race has the power, it must prove its right to rule by ruling right."

The conscience of the nation is powerful enough, when aroused, both to educate the negro, to provide means for his peaceful employment in industrial pursuits and to require of the whites who assume political superiority that they shall "prove their right by ruling right." The conscience of the nation must be aroused.

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Leonard Wood.

The attorney general of the United States, in his brief but significant address at the New York Chamber of Commerce dinner on Tuesday night, dismissed as unworthy of notice the complaint of the anti-expansionists that we lack administrative talent in this country and should, therefore, assume no new responsibilities.

By an interesting coincidence, as we were reading this fine tribute from the personal representative of the president of the United States our eye lit upon a letter from Santiago, written by Malcolm McDowell to the Chicago Record, which includes some mention in detail of General Wood's work. Says Mr. McDowell: "I asked General Wood about five minutes after he had taken his seat at the desk formerly used by the Spanish governor general what he would do first 'clean out about 500 years of dirt,' he replied. That very hour the first gang of Cubans was put to work on the streets. The first week of his administration Governor Wood was in the saddle eighteen hours a day. He personally inspected every foot of every street, alley, court and lane in old Santiago. He made a house to house canvass, examining interior courts, rooms and hallways, and before the Spaniards and Cubans of the city knew what had happened they were whitewashing their houses, sweeping dirt out of their courts, sweeping their halls, cleaning their rooms and obediently and dutifully filling barrels with refuse, which was set out every morning on the curbs of the narrow sidewalks for the carts and quarter-masters' wagons which patrolled the town."

As a military governor of Santiago was a veritable Peoh-Bah; he was mayor, corporation counsel, commissioner of public works, superintendent of police, commissioner of health, oil inspector, inspector of weights and measures, port physician, harbor master, superintendent of street and alley cleaning, gas inspector, city attorney, city collector, city treasurer, city clerk, chief janitor of the city hall, desk sergeant of the central station and police magistrate. In this continuous municipal performance General Wood played all parts without leaving the stage, sometimes acting two or more roles at once.

As police magistrate he was unique. Most of the men brought before him were American, seafarers who had slipped from their ships in the harbor or at the docks and had tried to get the better of Santiago rum; soldiers who had run the guard or sneaked through the lines for a day in the city; civilians who found themselves in Santiago and had attempted to run things on the wide-open policy. The culprits were lined up in the broad entrance of the governor's palace in the morning, with an armed soldier guarding each end of the line. The corporal of the guard and sergeant of the patrol acted the part of prosecuting witnesses, and ninety-nine times out of a hundred the accused turned state's evidence on himself, pleaded guilty and threw himself on the mercy of the court. General Wood was a law unto himself. He addressed himself to the accused man, and generally three or four incisive questions served to convict or discharge.

Sometimes the culprits became fighting mad when sentenced, and the corridor would echo with oaths and vociferous appeals to justice and loud threats to bring the matter before the president or some congressman. But General Wood, as impassive as a curbstone, never raised his voice above an ordinary conversational tone. He would say "Take him away" as he would say "Good morning," and then would turn to the next case. In a short time his fame as a police magistrate went abroad, and did more to keep the streets of Santiago free from disorderly characters than all the armed guards and patrols. It is a broad, wide jump

from arranging a plan which would bring the existing civil code in harmony with the stern mandates of the military code to passing sentence upon a dozen drunks and disorderlies. But he passed from the height to the depth, from tragedy to comedy, without the change of a muscle in his face. I never saw him perplexed, excited, elated or depressed, for his features at all times wore the same mask—the face of a man who fully realized the great responsibilities imposed upon him without the first suggestion of shrinking a single one of them."

In three months General Wood has reconstructed the city of Santiago and is now rapidly civilizing the country round about. The city used to yield up 50 to 100 corpses from yellow fever a day. Since Wood cleaned it a yellow fever death has not been reported in two months. Business is already better than it was ere the war broke out and confidence is far better. In short, in this wonderfully brief time a man one year ago unknown outside a narrow circle of personal friends has accomplished what could almost without exaggeration be called a modern miracle of regeneration, and the American army and navy are full of young men of his caliber. Well may the attorney general of the United States say: "If this country will keep to the front in the future such men as Leonard Wood all the arguments of distress and ill-success that have been prophesied will fall to the ground."

with other countries for its own markets and began to compete with them for the markets of the world. That mighty change altered the relation of the American people to the world and dragged a whole train of novelties in fiscal policy, foreign policy and policy of domestic government after it. It exacts already new views of tariff and revenue legislation; it has changed the American point of view of foreigners, whom we are to regard hereafter as buyers more than sellers; it has altered our view of diplomacy, which is to be a practical thing hereafter, relating to commercial opportunities and industrial openings; it presents the whole world to us as a field for the exercise of our national energy.

This is the parting of the ways which is important, and we passed it almost without seeing it. The question of political expansion and colonial development would have little vitality but for this thrilling sense of social expansion and industrial development behind it. The political question is secondary to and dependent on the social. We shall take on no new burdens and responsibilities abroad unless the American people shall be convinced that the new exigencies of national life require it. We shall pursue our own national interest as shrewdly as we did in our century of internal development, and shall not add new theories of national policy unless it is clear that new conditions require it. But it is too late to talk about choosing the new conditions. They are here, and our national life must be shaped to them.

The new mayor of Minneapolis, James Gray, is moving editor of the Times of that city; and he announces that he will give the town a newspaper man's administration. All his responsible assignments are to be executed from the ranks of the active newspaper workers and put on their honor to make the old town hum.

A curious story is told to explain why Colonel Roosevelt was elected governor of New York. According to "Holland" it was because the American club, prominent Hebrew social organization, some months ago backhanded Samuel Untermyer, a leading Hebrew lawyer and partner of President Roosevelt in the municipal council. Untermyer blamed the backhaling on Edward Lauterbach, the Republican leader. When Lauterbach's friend, Judge Croker, was up for reelection Richard Croker at first intended to have Tammany endorse Cohen in exchange for a Republican endorsement of Judge Croker, thus taking the bait of the lion out of the gubernatorial canvass. But Untermyer, through Guggenheimer, to spite Lauterbach, worked on Croker to change his mind. The result was the election of Roosevelt.

As a revenue raiser the Baines law is such a pronounced success that we may expect this winter to see a renewal of the effort at Harrisburg to adopt it to Pennsylvania. In the last year of the old law the total receipts were \$2,377,000. The liquor issued in New York state, and the total net receipts were \$2,071,249. Under the Baines law, for the year ending April 30, 1898, a total of 27,472 certificates to sell liquor were issued, the total receipts being \$1,638,183.67. The decrease in the number of saloons was 4,899, while the increase in the receipts was \$718,057. The increase in the receipts for this fiscal year, ending April 30, 1899, will be still larger, as it is known that the total receipts have been over \$12,000,000.

In 1890 the percentage of people living in American cities of 8,000 population and upward was 22.5. A little over a little over one-third. The census of 1890 increased this percentage of urban population to 29.2, nearly one-third of the whole. More than one-half of the total increase in population between 1880 and 1890, viz., 12,496,567, was in the cities. This urban increase was precisely 6,965,878. In 1890 there were 6,965,878 people and upward, and their aggregate population was 11,318,547. In 1890 the number of these cities had increased to 18,000, an aggregate population of 18,284,355 out of a total of 62,622,250. It is expected that the next census will show a proportionate increase in city population.

Adjutant General Corbin's estimate of the casualties of the late war up to Sept. 29 is as follows: Killed, 25 officers and 227 men; wounded, 13 officers, 1,661 men; died of disease, 4 officers, 61 men; total, 107 officers and 2,893 men, out of a total force of 25,717, a percentage of 10.5 to the thousand. The death rate of many cities is three times as high.

Present discussion of the details of our policy in relation to the late colonies of Spain is not only premature but futile. That policy will not be framed until the immediate issue of the war shall have been settled by the capture of Spain. Then it will be settled, after careful study and long deliberation on our part, probably, but by no conscious operation of forces stronger than our national will. The laws of national development will fix our course in relation to the world external to our own states, and our policy in relation to the late colonies of Spain will have to bend to this law. In one sense we have not reached the parting of the ways; in another, we have passed it, because the course of national development had undergone a most profound change before the accident of this Spanish war. But for that change the war might have been, but the effects which seem to proceed from it, though they really proceed from deeper causes, would not have followed.

This country started unconsciously upon a new path of national development a few years ago, when it ceased to compete

with other countries for its own markets and began to compete with them for the markets of the world. That mighty change altered the relation of the American people to the world and dragged a whole train of novelties in fiscal policy, foreign policy and policy of domestic government after it. It exacts already new views of tariff and revenue legislation; it has changed the American point of view of foreigners, whom we are to regard hereafter as buyers more than sellers; it has altered our view of diplomacy, which is to be a practical thing hereafter, relating to commercial opportunities and industrial openings; it presents the whole world to us as a field for the exercise of our national energy.

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