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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 21, 1898.

The next mayor of Scranton can be either a creature of special interests, a mere marionette ready to dance as the concealed power tugs at the strings, or he can be a man carrying his sovereignty under his own hat and ready in duty's name to stand up against every form of municipal crookedness, jobbery or prostitution of public power to dishonest private ends.

The Only Salvation.
While the decision of the Republican city committee to cast overboard the rule forbidding any Republican to vote at the spring primaries who cut the party ticket at the preceding fall election is the only one which could have averted party suicide in view of the recent large defection to Swallow, the substitution of a rule compelling every voter at the primary to pledge in advance loyal support to the nominees is a harmless bit of law-making, of which there cannot possibly be assurance of enforcement.

Isn't it about time that the Republican Democrats in Pennsylvania made known who they are going to put up for United States senator against Senator Quay?

Self Help for the Cubans.
Ex-Mayor Charles A. Schieren, of Brooklyn, treasurer of the Central Cuban Relief committee appointed by President McKinley to distribute the American people's contributions to the starving victims of Weylerism and its attendant evils, announces that that organization, whose responsibility will cease on Jan. 1, when the American government takes control of Cuba, has sufficient funds and supplies to last until that time.

To De-Croakerize the Democracy.
John Britten Walker, millionaire mine owner, editor of the Cosmopolitan magazine, founder of the Cosmopolitan university and leader in a dozen other movements which are at large in the beginning, has now undertaken the task of organizing a Democratic party in New York city in opposition to Tammany Hall.

Every observant student of the Cuban problem will agree that self-help is the only kind of help which can put Cubans on their feet. Continued gifts of food and clothing without requiring work in return would pauperize the island and take away what little stimulus remains among its inhabitants.

Beginning today and continuing daily for an indefinite time, Mr. Walker will at Madison Square building in New York city confer with citizens who believe in "an honest, fearless, uncorrupted judiciary; the fullest educational privileges for all; the preservation for the people of all franchises which should inure to their benefit; thus removing from political spoils the chief source of existing corruption; a strict adherence to the principles under which our independence as a nation was achieved, namely, that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed"; a just ad-

ministrations will carry itself, obedient to the natural laws of commerce. To help toward a work of this kind should be a noble American ambition, as well as, in time, a profitable one.

Where there is much smoke there is some fire. England's mobilization of fleets on a war footing, Russia's diplomatic anxiety to play for American favor and Kaiser Wilhelm's haste to get home from Jerusalem all seem to point to a probable early dropping of something on the European chessboard.

West Point.
At present the number of cadets at West Point military academy is 570, or about enough to supply second lieutenants for a regular army of 22,000 men on a peace basis.

It is easy enough to whip a volunteer army into shape in a pinch if you have the trained officers to do it; officers who have been specially prepared for just such an emergency.

Hence by all means increase the attendance at West Point, or, better still, build two or three new West Points and throw them open to the young men of the country to all who want to attend, and can pass the necessary examinations, regardless of politics or pull. It would be real economy.

The Washington Star warns the non-combating whites in the South that they are making inevitable either a new force bill separating national from local elections and protecting the negro in his right to vote for congressmen and presidential electors, or a law cutting down the South's representation in congress to fit the vote that the South permits to be polled and counted. The South cannot have its cake and eat it, too.

Private Dairies is a general. He writes to the Washington Post that if he were congress he would in one act "provide for a uniform, livable service pension of \$12 a month for every person who served during the Spanish-American war, on land or sea. No pension should be payable in any case through any agent or attorney, nor should any such be allowed any fee; but the person entitled to receive it should apply directly to the person entitled, whether soldier, sailor, marine, nurse, officer, or enlisted man, or the dependent relative of such person. No pension should be granted other than that of identity and of the rank of the army and navy. All correspondence in relation to such claims should pass through the mails, and all installments thereof might be sent by mail without charge. In another act I should provide for the appointment to office in the civil service of the persons who served in the war, and preference to all others, precisely as the law now stands with reference to soldiers, sailors or marines of the civil war.

Congressman Hill, of Illinois, chairman of the house committee on foreign affairs, is again mentioned for the English embassy in Spain in place of General Woodford. President McKinley urged him repeatedly to take the place as a personal favor, saying he could come back if he desired after six months' service; but Mr. Hill's health was not robust and he felt that it would be difficult for a new member to take up the threads of an intricate and important work in the house. Mr. Hill is the ablest and best respected member of congress. He would make an ideal ambassador to England.

Miss Lottie Bovee, whose stage name is Charlotte Crane, announces that she is engaged to be married to Cauden Horace Peterson, of the United States navy, the veteran who escorted Miss Bovee to the naval cadets' ball at Charleston, S. C., last winter, when Miss Bovee was requested to leave the ball room because she was an actress, and who showed his contempt for that request by leaving the place with her. Snobbery in this instance evidently proved a blessing in disguise.

It is a brave programme, Mr. Walker, but why not save time by co-operating directly with the Republican party?

Two of the Spanish ships that Dewey sunk at Manila are already raised and docked and Dewey will see to it that they aren't towed into the hurricane belt before they are dented for selling.

The steel rail pool failed to pool, yet prices are to remain at \$29 a ton. This means that all hands are heartily sick of doing business at a loss.

The medal superiority of Harvard over Yale having been decided without loss of life, let us all prepare for Thanksgiving.

Spain relinquishes Cuba January 1 and as a farewell message ought to tell Uncle Sam who blew up the Maine.

General Shafter is somewhat silent these days, but, then, what is there to say?

These charges have now, one by one, been dropped by the highest authorities. General Lawton, Wheeler, Ludlow, and lastly General Miles, all make acknowledgment of services received at the hands of General Garcia and his forces, and General Miles in his report states that not only did General Garcia take orders from him, but succeeded in obedience to them, in keeping a large force of Spaniards out of Santiago and the American investment of the city began. As to the alleged pilfering and gouging by the Cubans, General Wheeler has explained that they merely picked up in plain view of everybody what had been thrown away. The Americans found themselves too heavily clad for the tropics, and upon landing they discarded their march inland began stripping themselves of all extras. The Cubans, who were nearly naked, gladly snatched up what they discarded, thus discarding and clothing themselves with it. There was doubtless some petty thievery, but General Wheeler explains away the gravest charges. The Cubans prove to be healthy feeders, because for the first time in three years they found themselves at a bountiful table.

The last, the most serious charge of all, has now been refuted by Admiral Cervera himself, whose report of the destruction of his fleet and all the attendant circumstances are before the public. After describing the plight of himself and his men, who had been cast ashore naked, the admiral says: "The surgeons had captured about two hundred men, and with them five or six who were wounded. The surgeons tendered their services, which I thankfully declined. We have surrendered to the Americans." I told them "if you have surgeons with you, kindly permit them to attend to the wounded, several of whom are in a very bad condition." So the incidents of being cowardly and thieves and savages, according to the wild yarns of the hour, the men commanded by General Garcia, according to official reports, carried themselves like soldiers and were of service to the United States forces, "trading the Cubans so far not been eminently successful."

The children government has notified all applicants for military service that they will hereafter be examined in army and stone slinging. Now if it had been mud slinging.

President McKinley hopes so to adjust the tariff relations of our prospective new colonies that there will be no harmful competition between domestic and colonial industries. Since he took office the American beet sugar industry has doubled. He does not want to check this fortunate development.

It is worthy of note that if we take the Philippine islands and Cuba in addition to Hawaii we will practically control the cane sugar of the world. They produce nine-tenths of the total supply of cane sugar.

The indictment brought consisted of three counts: (1) The insurgents were cowardly and wholly inefficient. They were represented as having rendered no aid at all to the United States forces. (2) The men were thieves and gluttons. They purloined everything they could lay hands on, forced themselves with Uncle Sam's grub, and then flunked when the fighting began. (3) They murdered their own kind, like savages in the presence of Spanish prisoners. Special mention was made of the way in which it was alleged they had helped out the rebels of the original Cervera's fleet when those helpless men were cast ashore after the Spanish ships went down. It was stated that but for the intervention of the crews of the American ships the Cubans would have butchered the Spaniards.

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THE TRUTH AT LAST.
From the Washington Star.
It is a noteworthy circumstance that as General Garcia is on the eve of visiting the United States to confer with the president on the subject of Cuba the last and most damaging of the charges brought against his men in the Santiago campaign is officially disposed of. Having the Cubans under his command at that time and place, with a record of character and efficiency to their credit.

DEPEW FOR SENATOR.
From the Philadelphia Bulletin.
The drift in New York politics apparently indicates the choice of Chauncey M. Depew as the successor of Murphy in the senate. As soon as the results of the election become known many names were mentioned for the position, including that of Chauncey M. Depew, ex-Minister to St. Petersburg, and State Chairman of the Republican Party in New York. Chauncey, like Abou Ben Adhem, leads all the rest, and, unless unexpected developments make their appearance before the legislature meets, he seems likely to secure the support of the Republican machine and become the colleague of the silent and saturnal Plat.

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