

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 29, 1898.

It will be noticed that President McKinley has a way of saying "no" and looking pleasant at the same time.

Spain's Acceptance.

The formal acceptance by Spain of the American terms of peace concludes, so far as Spain is concerned, the most notable chapter in modern history. That Spain has succumbed "only to superior force" makes no difference in the practical result. The superior force which has finally eliminated Spain...

The force which the American republic exerted in its conflict with Spain was superior because it was guided by conscience and an enlightened conception of political responsibility. The force put forth by Spain was inferior because it ignored every teaching of history and sought to carry over into the twentieth century the exploded ideas and ideals of medievalism.

There need be no fears that the treaty of peace thus accepted by Spain will be rejected by the American senate. The superior force of American public opinion will conquer the senatorial recalcitrants just as effectively as that same force, exemplified in the guns of Dewey, Sampson, Miles and Shafter, overcame the trans-Atlantic enemy.

Having on account of ill health to resign either the editorship of the Outlook or the pastorate of Plymouth church, Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott gives up the pulpit for the tripod—a fact which is in itself an eloquent tribute to the power of the press.

Our Task in Cuba.

It is evident that American energy will have to regenerate Cuba in the face of Cuban opposition. This opposition will not be expressed in military forms; it will not be explosive or violent. It will be the opposition of sullen inactivity and dogged conservatism, the opposition of the Latin race to Anglo-Saxon overthrow of its inherited traditions.

Those who expect sweeping reforms to be accomplished in one day are doomed to disappointment. Cuban character, which has been formed by centuries of contact with the corrupt ruling classes from Spain, is incapable of realizing its own weakness. Cuban reform will be a slow process, as has just been demonstrated to Mr. Conant, an American attorney, who was sent to Guanabacoa to bring the people to that suburb to the realization of their own needs.

Unless unforeseen necessity shall appear, it probably will be wise not to call an extra session of the Fifty-sixth congress as was at first expected. The counsel of many of the Republican leaders is against it and it is understood that the president also favors waiting until the regular session for the consideration of measures looking to the establishment of civil government in the new territory which has come under American jurisdiction by reason of the war with Spain.

Taking Time.

The reason given for this postponement is a strong one. Military occupation, it is argued, will afford ample authority and means for preserving peace in these new possessions until time has been afforded for an intelligent study of local conditions and needs. Under military occupation required improvements in sanitation and in facilities for transportation can be instituted and progress in these directions can be more rapid than under formative and tentative civil rule.

The task before the government and people of the United States in Cuba is unquestionably a big one. It will require courage and patience, perseverance and grit. But we are pledged to it; our honor no less than our conscience is at stake; we dare not hesitate. If it was worth while for the men of the Maine to give their lives as a sacrifice to Cuban liberty or for the heroes of San Juan and El Caney to baptize in blood and suffering the battle ground around Santiago, it will certainly be worth while for their work to be followed up and carried to completion.

Only by such means can they receive a fitting monument.

Ex-Judge Gordon having publicly perorated Colonel McClure "the most ignoble character now living" and pledged his remaining efforts to an attempt to expose McClure, the gallant colonel offers to the irascible ex-judge the free use of the columns of his newspaper for this purpose and concludes a gentle rejoinder by saying: "Gordon's ebullitions present the most offensive diarrhoea of chaotic babbling and the severest constipation of truth that we can recall in our long acquaintance with public men."

Our Merchant Marine.

The war between the United States and Spain has effectively settled several matters that have been hitherto regarded as more or less conjectural or theoretical, but none more clearly than the need and value of a merchant shipping of our own. The effectiveness of auxiliary cruisers, their availability, their serviceableness, have been asserted with ability and persistence by those best qualified to speak for many years, but the war with Spain was needed to demonstrate the truth of these claims. It is true that there were only a few steamships under the American flag capable of being transformed into auxiliary cruisers, but these few, when the crisis came, were effective, indeed, invaluable. They were easily and quickly transformed from peaceful merchantmen into serviceable cruisers, and stand second only to our regular navy in the value of their services.

So, too, with our transports and our colliers. The lack of a sufficient supply of these was, for a long time, the most serious embarrassment of our government, and made necessary large purchases of foreign ships, at exorbitant prices, while at the same time straining, nearly to the breaking point, the neutrality treaties between the governments under whose flags the purchased ships had been and the Spanish government. Had we been at war with a first class naval power, it is quite probable that we should have been able to secure a single foreign vessel for the use of our government.

The lack of trained American seamen and firemen was a most serious one during the whole of the war, and, while it was possible to secure the services of aliens, especially in some of our auxiliary cruisers, that very success admonishes us of our danger, and clearly shows how close to disaster we were, and how great disaster would probably have been had our enemy been one of the leading powers.

While the perfection of laws for the government of our new possessions will probably engage the attention of congress for a long time to come, it is obvious that it cannot postpone for a moment the adoption of such laws as shall induce American capital to go into shipbuilding and as shall attract to our merchant marine our own citizens, to the end that both may be drafted into the service of the government at a moment's notice, without discussion or hitch.

If Secretary Long's recommendation for three more battleships and three fast armored cruisers shall be accepted by congress, we shall have, at once or prospectively, a total of 12 fighting ships of the first class, manned by the best sailors and the best gunners in the business. This surely ought to keep the peace.

Denmark's Discovery.

In Denmark some one has discovered a process by which milk can be preserved by freezing it into blocks, and the process is said to be a great success. The milk cans cannot be kept longer than forty-eight hours without losing something of its flavor, but it is claimed that milk frozen by the new process may not only be preserved an indefinite length of time if kept in an even temperature, but is as entirely free from bacteria as if it had been bottled. The Chicago Record says a company has been formed at Copenhagen with a capital of \$50,000 to perfect this process and erect a plant capable of turning out 100,000 pounds a day, which can be shipped to any part of the world in vessels that have a refrigerator capacity.

With reference to an article now going the rounds of the newspapers claiming that the Lehigh Valley is about to introduce a theatrical car, its introduction, in which vaudeville companies will give continuous performances between New York and Buffalo for the edification of such passengers as will pay for the privilege of witnessing them, the "Tribune" New York edition remarks: "We have no authority for denying the proposition, but venture the assertion that when the Lehigh Valley goes into such an enterprise there will be brass knucks put on the horns of the moon to prevent it looking the stars."

The dairy industry of Pennsylvania is one of the largest, if not the largest, of the state's agricultural interests. The total annual valuation of the dairy products of the state is \$25,725,725, of which milk is sold for immediate consumption, Pennsylvania stands third in butter production with a total product of 8,129,228 pounds, sixth in cheese production, with a total of 2,472,297 pounds, and fifth in the number of milk cows, with a total of 927,254.

Only one country in the world has a larger average of individual savings deposits than the United States. That is little Newfoundland. Her savings banks have \$125,210,000. Next come Canada, with \$227,970,000. Hungary is fourth, with \$227,125,000. In the whole United States there are only 300 savings banks, but the number of depositors is 4,575,325, and the whole amount deposited is \$1,818,527,728, or nearly one-third of all the savings in the world.

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For a grove of 12 walnut trees located in Cass county, Michigan, the Sanderson Furniture company, of Mishawaka, Ind., lately paid \$10,000. It would pay our Populist friends to go to tree planting.

DESTINY.

From the Philadelphia Times. The war with Spain, that covered a period of but little exceeding one hundred days, has shaped a new destiny for the United States that is inexorable. Theorize as we may, and strongly as our traditions and declared purposes plead against territorial expansion beyond the continent, a new destiny has been shaped for us by a power vastly greater than ourselves.

We will take the Philippine Islands because it seems not possible for us to take any less than the whole of them. We do not need them; we do not want them, but we could do no less than retain Luzon and that necessitates the expulsion of the Spanish flag from all the islands. There can be no divided authority there, and we will take possession of all the Philippines because it is an imperative necessity. Spain will continue them to us for the same reason. We have possession of the leading island of the Ladrone and one supposed to be of great value. This means the absolute control of all of them so far as it shall be necessary to exercise authority. We have acquired the Sandwich Islands by annexation, and these new acquisitions in the Pacific bring us, for the first time in our national history, in close relations with the great powers of the old world and blend our interests inseparably with them. Spain has ceded to us Porto Rico, the most valuable of her West Indian possessions excepting Cuba, and Cuba itself, and these new acquisitions in the Pacific bring us, for the first time in our national history, in close relations with the great powers of the old world and blend our interests inseparably with them.

Such are our new possessions, all of which are entirely outside of the long-declared policy of the republic, but the destiny has been shaped for us and we could not escape it if we would and would not now escape it if we could. The people of the country will naturally wish the government in accepting the new destiny shaped for us by the Spanish war. One of the first duties of the government will be to hasten the construction of the Nicaragua canal, that has always been a great want for the commercial nations of the world, and that has now become a supreme necessity for our government.

With all due respect to the heretic individuals who laid the keel of the American navy, it is evident that the parties who arranged the system of grading officers were a lot of numskulls. From the present outlook the two great political parties will be expansionists and contractionists.

NEWS AND COMMENT

According to official reports 2,567,455 persons received assistance or relief from the various charitable associations of New York state last year. This includes only such associations as are organized under the state laws and are required to make reports of their transactions to the commissioner of charities. It does not embrace a multitude of religious organizations, mission schools, the King's Daughters, the Epworth League, Christian Endeavor, and many others, with their helping hands and the many benevolent branches of the Catholic church which are always offering succor to the poor and needy.

The ocean steamships all serve ice cream at dinner and buy a supply for the round trip in New York. The same is true of clams and oysters. They stow the shells away in a tank which is half-full of rocks and seaweed. They keep off the water every morning and refill the tank with a hose from the sea, so that it is always full of fresh water. They keep lobster in the same way. Ice cream is more difficult to handle. It takes about 600 pounds for the round trip. In New York city the number of persons receiving assistance was 1,223,699. The hospitals, religious societies and other associations took care of 28,000 persons. The remainder received what is known as "outdoor relief"—that is, at their own homes. The number of patients in the insane asylums, when the latest count was made, was 7,624. The number received and cared for during the year in such institutions was 28,121. Bear in mind, these figures are only for one state.

A GOOD NATURED MAN.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. President McKinley's letter read a few evenings ago at the banquet of the New York chapter of commerce, the chief of the president's utterances, is distinguished for its courtesy and kindness of tone, and especially for its cheerful, hopeful spirit. It is perfectly frank in its disposition and sentiment, and is an optimistic. No one can cite a more cynical or despondent word that has fallen from his lips or pen. The whole influence of his presidential utterances is in the direction of encouraging and stimulating the hopes and purposes of the country. He has a good word for every good cause; he sees the silver lining in every gloomy cloud. His faith in this country, in its people, in its resources and its destiny is unbounded. To say this is not to say that he is insensible to the present evils of the grave problems confronting the nation. No one takes a closer account of them than he, but his broad, generous soul has a large outlook, and while he knows that here and there a mountain or a valley may call for his shadow, he sees the sunshine lighting up the land and the future.

Can a bigamist be admitted to membership in the house of representatives at Washington?

Mr. Roberts, who was recently elected in Utah, is said to have three wives and in view of the fact that Utah was granted statehood upon the pledge that polygamy would be abolished, it is argued that congress should not appear to sanction its continuance by recognizing the claims of a polygamist. Friends of Roberts say that while he may be a bigamist, he is not a polygamist, and that he is entitled to sit in congress. He fulfills obligations contracted prior to the admission of Utah to statehood. The question is likely to give rise to discussion when Roberts next comes to Washington. If he takes his three wives with him, the Utah Press thinks they may be able to do some persuasive talking in his behalf.

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