

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 1, 1898.

Judge Day blames Dewey for the retention of the Philippines. The probabilities are that Dewey can stand it.

Martyrs to Duty.

The frightful losses occasioned to our coast-wise shipping interests by the recent sudden storm, losses accentuated by a large sacrifice of life, send a shiver of horror throughout the world; yet they are dwarfed by individual instances of heroism which do much to supply consolation. It is not for handsomeness to say whether any of these losses were due to carelessness; the more probable supposition is that they represent simply a part of the price which civilization has inevitably to pay for its modern conveniences.

It is no more than justice to say of the officers and men who handle the ships that operate our coastwise commerce that taken as a class, they compare favorably in point of coolness, skill and caution with any in the world. Science has not yet equipped wholly the rebellious elements now equalling man to resist with certainty the coming of cataclysmal storms. When chance is altogether eliminated it will be time to hold these mariners to blame for sacrifice of property and life at sea. The more timely thought for present contemplation is how few are the accidents in this department of human activity which can be directly traced to negligence or incompetency—how actually and especially few when put in contrast with the many thousands of steamboat passengers who are annually carried in safety and comfort from port to port in spite of difficulties and perils which might well excite a larger fear.

It is necessary, in considering such tragedies as these, to remember that destruction of human life is one of the inevitable penalties of success. It is a penalty of successful travel, of successful mining, of successful manufacture. The very level of civilization is baked from a dough moistened with the heart's blood of martyrs. Not all the heroism is exemplified on the battlefields; the ordinary war of mankind against natural difficulties which wins as its indemnities the things we call progress is full of bravery and self-sacrifice and noble in its records of high devotion to duty. All honor, then, to the sailors along our New England main who went down in the storm with colors flying. They are martyrs in an evolution which we could not spare.

It speaks well for Admiral Dewey that his warmest champions are the newspaper men who were with him at Manila. A good reporter is rarely a hero-worshipper unless the hero is worth worshipping.

The Open Door.

According to the latest official report, issued Aug. 2, last, the trade of the Philippine islands is as follows:

Table with columns: Imports from Philippines, Exports to Philippines, and various countries including Great Britain, France, Germany, etc.

It will be noted that the smallness of Germany's commercial interest in the islands contrasts strangely with the largeness of Admiral Dewey's office-busness in Manila bay. Dewey received reinforcements. It will also be noted that, eliminating Spain, whose trade when this table was prepared was artificially propped up, the bulk of the business of these islands is divided between Great Britain and the United States, Great Britain leading. A preferential tariff scheme would therefore be a direct slap in the face of the one nation in Europe which was our friend throughout the late unpleasantness; the one nation which stands beside us in Eastern policy and in diplomatic and commercial interests. We could ill afford to forget so soon a friendship that saved us from many embarrassments if it did not actually prevent a hostile coalition of European powers.

If we give to England equal privileges and then have her out in fair and open competition, no one can complain. That is what the administration evidently proposes to do.

A fight between District Attorney Shaffer, of Delaware, and Fred W. Fleitz, esq., of this city, for the deputy attorney generalship under the Stone administration would have one advantage. No matter which won, the commonwealth would be well served and the one who didn't win would cherish no ill feelings.

Currency Reform Can Wait.

The currency reformers are employing every energy in an attempt to induce President McKinley to call an extra session of congress after March 4 for the purpose of considering legislation looking to the retirement of the government from the banking business. Circular letters are being sent throughout the country calling upon citizens favorable to currency reform to make a loud noise so as to convey to the president an impression that the people are clamoring for the legislation which these gentlemen want. Thus far, however, it must be confessed that public opinion has not been particularly responsive.

Currency reform is desirable. The odds and ends in our patchwork currency system some day should be picked up and harmonized. The spectacle of three different kinds of government paper money in circulation alongside bank notes is suggestive of slovenliness, to say the least. Such a variety of currency is unnecessary and

there are occasions when it becomes dangerous. To gradually retire these different forms of paper issue and to put the burden of maintaining a circulation as good as gold upon the banks which receive benefit from the issuing privilege should be the purpose of congress, as it is the general desire of people who have given thought to this subject.

But there is no frantic hurry; certainly none warranting the calling of an extra session of congress for this purpose solely. The last elections have made it certain that no successful attack can be made on the gold standard inside of eight years. The financial condition of the government and its credit among the nations were never better. We are no longer a debtor nation; the great recent growth in our export trade—a growth seemingly only in its infancy—has already converted us into a nation of creditors. The movement of gold is heavily in our favor. Individual enterprise is again confident and venturesome. The volume of our bank clearings is greater than ever before. Every sign along the national horizon points unmistakably to an era of new and far-reaching prosperity before which the free silver bogie will sink away and disappear for at least a generation.

Such being the situation, what is the need of hysteria in the matter of currency amendment? Other things just now are of far greater importance.

A letter from the pope to Archbishop Corrigan, recently made public, strongly condemns the separation in the United States of different nationalities into Catholic congregations of their own, using a foreign language, and urges the amalgamation of these different elements into one great body of Catholics, using the English language above all other languages. It is evident that the pope has been wisely and prudently advised.

Sampson and Shafter.

On the face of the facts which are accumulating with reference to the Santiago campaign the conviction is rapidly being forced that Major General William B. Shafter was a monumental misfit. He seems to have been lacking in every quality of successful generalship save blind obedience to the war department. To that he paid active homage; everything else went by the board.

The correspondence between him and Admiral Sampson, made public this morning, is only a part of the evidence which is now before the public to Shafter's discredit. This correspondence convicts Shafter of trying to throw upon Sampson's shoulders much of the blame for his own shortcomings, and is corroborated by the fact that Shafter stands convicted of similar unfairness toward General Canby, a man who can teach Shafter more generalship than he ever dreamed of. In view of these things it is not surprising that Sylvester Scovel offers to prove by credible affidavits that in his notorious altercation with Shafter it was the latter who debased his uniform by descending to strike the first blow in a first fight with a newspaper reporter.

It cannot be said that the American people were originally prejudiced against Shafter. The contrary is true. He went on his mission to Santiago with the confidence and respect of every fellow-citizen. But the sense of fair play which is so prominent an American characteristic does not prove easy to let him escape from the severe indictments which have been brought against his management of that campaign on the plea that the successful termination of the campaign, constitutes a vindication. Unless he can show that these grave charges from numerous sources of entire respectability are false or ill-founded, he will go down in history as the sorriest specimen of a general that has lately worn an American uniform.

The report of the secretary of the interior shows that of an original total of 1,536,237 acres of public domain only 71,000,000 unoccupied acres remain which are capable of cultivation. Expansion came just in time.

Mr. Chamberlain's Views.

In the December number of Scribner's magazine the British colonial secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, expresses the belief that those who peddle the idea of a colonizing power under the administrative capabilities of the English-speaking race. He invites attention to the fact that England, with one-fourth our population and less than one-tenth our national resources, successfully administers the affairs of hundreds of millions of people of almost every race under the sun with the smallest army of white soldiers of any of the powers of Europe.

Thus in India, with 300,000,000 native population, only 70,000 white soldiers are used, and in Egypt, with 9,000,000 population only 3,700 soldiers, while in Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the British West Indies and West Africa not a single white regiment is employed, order being kept by native soldiers and police under the command of British officers. Assuming that we can do as well, we shall need in the Philippines, after normal conditions are restored, not more than 3,000 to 5,000 American regulars, and in Cuba and Porto Rico none except officers. It is Mr. Chamberlain's opinion, based on experience with which he is intimately familiar, that the dread in this country lest colonial responsibilities should necessitate a career of militarism calculated to disturb the equilibrium of republican institutions has absolutely no basis.

It is true that England enjoys an advantage over us in the fact that her colonial administrators are a specially educated class of men to whom comparatively high salaries are paid and who are not disturbed in their tenure of office by changes in home politics, but are retained during efficiency and retired on pension after a certain limit of service. But our lack of this kind of a class of public servants is due solely to the fact that hitherto we have not needed such a class. The need will call it into existence, and we do not have so poor an opinion of the Yankee wing of the English-speaking race as to believe that in any form of

competition with the British people it is necessarily and inherently inferior. It takes Mugwumps to believe that.

General Woodford says that after the blowing up of the Maine, when he seemed to be dilly dallying at Madrid and when public opinion in the United States was daily abusing him and the administration for lack of spirit, he was under specific orders to temporize until ammunition could reach Dewey at Hong Kong and other necessary naval preparations for war be completed. Ten days after he received word that things were ready he called for his passports and took train for home. This being true, we guess he will have to be forgiven.

Some one has figured it out that counting in her territorial losses and all, the war has cost Spain over a billion dollars. The estimate is doubtless within the truth. The war has also cost us a pretty sum, probably not much less than a billion dollars when all our expenses are figured in. But it will be worth the cost to both nations if they shall profit by their experience. And it must not be forgotten that the president of the United States gave Spain every possible chance to avert war.

The Maryland Steel company has just sold steel rails in India and Ireland in the face of British competition. This certainly seems to be an American year.

General Shafter, it is said, is preparing an elaborate defense. He needs one.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The effect of territorial expansion upon the merchant marine of the country is already being felt, writes W. C. Clark in the Chicago Record. The Chicago and North-Western building four fine ships of 1,500 tons burden and sixteen knots speed, fitted with double decks for the carriage of cargoes whenever needed by the government, which will be engaged between New York and Porto Rico. The New York and Cuba Mail company, which has been doing business for many years, also has two 5,000-ton steamers on the stocks at Chicago. The Red Line, which has been doing business since 1870, or nearly a century, now stops at the Porto Rico ports and has had to charter foreign vessels to meet the demand for freight and passengers. The Newport News Shipbuilding company has \$1,100,000 now under contract and in course of construction including six merchant ships of 4,000 tons each for the Marine and Greenwell lines, and it is understood that plans are now being prepared there for two 6,000-ton steamships for the Pacific Mail company, to sail between San Francisco and the Philippine Islands, stopping at Japan, and Chinese ports. On the Pacific coast all the shipping has been ordered to the Asiatic and the Alaska routes. The Santa Fe Railroad company has closed an arrangement with a Japanese steamer line to charter a number of sailing ships from San Diego, and the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroad companies are increasing their sailings from Puget Sound by chartering English vessels.

Here is a new Dewey story vouched for by the Chicago Times-Herald. Soon after Major General Merritt reached Manila he began to experience trouble with the insurgents. Aguinaldo was not disposed to meet Merritt's force, and so on, and the general complicated matters more or less by endeavoring to avoid any clash of the American with the insurgent forces. The situation was becoming somewhat strained when General Merritt sought a conference with Admiral Dewey on the Olympia. The general and the admiral discussed the situation at great length, the former giving special attention to the question of jurisdiction in the Philippines. At this General Merritt put this question to the admiral:

"Admiral, how far, in your opinion, does your jurisdiction extend on the island?" "General Merritt's jurisdiction extends as close to shore as I can throw my 'triton,' pointing to the American fleet, 'to as far into the island as I can throw a shell.'"

Domingo Mendez Canalis, former vice-president of the Cuban provisional republic, and now president of the executive committee representing the general assembly of the army, in an interview at Havana, recently said: "The desire for independence has never been stronger among the Cuban people than at present and the country in this respect is unshaken. If a general prohibitive were taken today I believe 95 per cent. of the people of Cuba would vote for independence. At the same time we recognize that annexation is the only course inevitable. We believe it will come naturally, that it will be by the almost unanimous will of the people, and that 'no time will be long before this will be expressed, but we desire first to see established that for which we have fought and for which so many of our bravest and best have given their lives—the republic of Cuba. We believe the United States is going to help us realize this wish. We have faith and are willing to do everything in our power to secure it. And whatever reports to the contrary may be circulated, the Cuban leaders are in hearty accord with the United States, and are willing to accede to whatever may be proposed by the American government."

Postmaster General Smith, in his annual report, made public Saturday, says the rapid and amazing growth of the postal business is its most striking feature. In 1880 the gross revenue of the department was \$2,325,475, and the gross expenditures \$2,542,891. The number of post-offices was 45,096, and the total number of postage stamps received was 1,236,387,047. In the fiscal year 1898 the gross revenue was \$9,912,418 and the gross expenditures were \$9,832,521; the number of post-offices was 72,000, and the total issue of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and wrappers and postal cards was 1,611,240,000. Within this period, our population has increased 20 per cent., while the volume of postal business has multiplied nearly threefold. The increase of improved facilities, more enlightened methods, and advancing activity is plain.

With reference to a report that the Cuban General Rabi had become ugly an American military officer attached to the staff of General Miles writes to the Sun: "I met General Rabi and saw his wife and child. He seemed as gentle and kindly as a woman. He is very unassuming and retiring, but those who know him say he is unorthodox. He is very dark-skinned, almost black; it is said he is one of the few in Cuba with original hood in his veins. It is not in keeping with his character to send a commissioner to Havana with a demand and a threat. It seemed to me while in Cuba that Rabi was using every effort to discredit the Cubans in the eyes of Americans and to fill their minds with suspicion and distrust of us by lying to each about the other."

The total number of all kinds of merchant ships under the United States flag on the 30th of June, 1898, was 22,795. There was a slight increase from the 22,637 reported for the previous year, and a falling off from the 22,558 reported for 1896. The tonnage of all these vessels amounted in 1898 to 4,261,885 tons; in 1897, 4,269,629 tons, and in 1896 to 4,179,728 tons. The aggregate

real distribution of our merchant marine is as follows:

Table with columns: Number, Tonnage, and various ship types including Atlantic and Gulf coast, Pacific coast, Lakes, and Rivers.

According to the Washington Post (Philadelphia), James Rankin Young, of Philadelphia, has an infallible recipe for political harmony in Pennsylvania. He would give Wasmaker the English nation, Stuart Patterson the senate, and the postmaster generalship, Emory Smith the governorship of Porto Rico, and Warren M. Vaughn the majority of Philadelphia. All is on the principle that the unexpected should happen.

General Butler, of the Cuban evacuation commission wants Havana cleaned. He says this is the biggest and most urgent problem connected with the pacification of the island. Its dirt at present is indescribable. It is a common sight to see dead bodies lying in the street. Sanitation is neglected utterly.

The membership of the Pennsylvania Audubon society is now more than 4,300; last year 11,000 letters came to the society letters were distributed. An effort will be made to have the next legislature recognize May 5 as bird day, to be given over to the public schools to instruction showing the value of birds and the sin of exterminating them wantonly.

Admiral Schley accounts by four reasons for Spain's poor showing in the recent war: "First, in believing soldiers could fight who had not been fed; second, in believing in vigilance when there had been no sleep; third, in believing that soldiers could be loyal when they had not been paid; and, fourth, in talking too much."

As showing the trend of business it is interesting to note that the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company has just ordered 1,000 steel coal cars and 50 new engines; the whole to represent an outlay exceeding \$1,000,000. Purchasing factories get such orders.

Our foreign mails last year weighed 12,628,765 pounds, 52,000 pounds of which went across the Atlantic. Nearly half of the trans-Atlantic mail went to England. The cost of this service was about 50 cents a pound.

The nomination of Governor Ashbridge for mayor of Philadelphia, now regarded as probable, will, it is said, make David H. Lane the most influential Republican in Philadelphia. Incidentally it will strengthen Quinn.

The number of insane in Pennsylvania institutions last year increased from 5,727 to 5,825. The increase is due to the history of the state. The total number has about doubled since 1883.

It has been decided by a Brooklyn court that a street car transfer is good whenever presented, regardless of the specified time limit.

The reason why the Rough Riders fared better than the other volunteer regiments was that they had a lieutenant colonel who has a habit of getting there wherever the obstacles placed in his way. When the regiment reached Tampa there was no one there to show them the place. Roosevelt simply found the camp and all went well. When they were ordered to Santiago, Roosevelt took possession of the transport and held it against all comers, and the regiment reached Santiago. When they were sent to the front and got under fire, they were the only ones to stand firm, and all on their own responsibility. Their colonel thought the right thing to do was to go ahead, and they went the way he led, and all went well. He had invested his own money in the necessary vegetables, pressed the officers' horses into service to carry the food to the front, and he had the most successful result to the end of the chapter. Unfortunately there was but one Roosevelt, and as he says, he was only a lieutenant colonel.

JUVENILE CANDOR. From the Utica Press.

The small boy is always a hero, and why? He is always with his adult companions in admiration for the man of Manila bay. This characteristic is well illustrated by a story of a mission Sunday school teacher who was giving a lesson on his first appearance in her class. The teacher had put him through a half hour or more of instruction in the rudimentary principles of the study, and she had information on that point, and to test him was reviewing her work with him. "Now," said she, "tell me again who made the world and all that is in it?" "God did," replied the boy, with commendable promptitude. "God can do everything, can't he?" she asked again. The boy hesitated a moment. "I don't believe he can lick Dewey," he answered at last, and his teacher sat silent between her religion and her patriotism.

WESTERN ADVICE. From the Denver Times.

Everything points to the fact that the vacuum of today which masters the study of electricity is the one whose views will be in demand in the future. At best the modern man is out of date after from fifteen to twenty years of service in any one line of business. He finds it impossible to keep step with the great advancement of the age, and after that number of years of service he is cast out and let some younger man with younger ideas take up the thread as he leaves it. In this age of electricity everything is electric, even to the movement of the individual, and the young man of today who proposes to fit himself for the future could do no worse than giving sure promise of success than electricity and its application to the future of the world.

OUR BUSY ADMIRAL. From the Times-Herald.

Possibly when the war is over Admiral Dewey may be induced to give the world a history of his Asiatic campaign or a description of the Philippine Islands as they are today. In reply to an offer of \$5,000 from a magazine editor for an article on the Philippines the admiral replied that this was a very characteristic reply: "Thank you, but I am too busy."

THE ONLY WAY. From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The only way to abolish the race issue that is proposed by Booker T. Washington is to outgrow it. That is a slow process, but the only effectual one.

Advertisement for BEIDLEMAN, THE BOOKMAN, Great Holiday Book Store, Music by Lawrence, Souvenirs for Ladies, etc.

GOLDSMITH'S G. B. BAZAAR.

Dress Patterns For Holiday Gifts

Or for Immediate Wear. Now Is Your Time to Buy These

We have just placed on sale some of this season's most desirable productions, comprising many different styles and colorings, at much less than cost of production. The manufacturer is the loser and you are the gainer.

Your Choice the Pattern, \$2.34.

See Window.

Advertisement for HILL & CONNELL'S Furniture, Easy Shoes, Always Busy, 1898 Fall Exhibit, 1898.

Advertisement for Hill & Connell, Excelsior Diaries For 1899, Christmas Gifts, etc.

Advertisement for THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO., Reynolds Bros.

Advertisement for HUNT & CONNELL CO., Dupont's Powder, High Explosives, etc.