

The Scranton Tribune

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Colonel Roosevelt's prediction that if congress shall pass the naval personnel bill to equalize opportunities and rewards, our navy, already the best in the world so far as it goes, will become very much better, is readily credible, and congress, we dare say, will hardly fail to take the hint.

A Raid on the Taxpayers. Election contests are prolonged and vexatious at the best, or, at the worst, as the case may be. It seems to the ordinary observer strange that the whole modus operandi cannot be simmered down and tried in a week or two, like a case in court. The present contest that is dragging its slow length along in our court is a good example of prolonged trouble and expense without any probable benefit to anybody. It has already lasted a year and the contestants are not yet through with their side of the case and all the time the taxpayers are being mulcted to the tune of from fifty to one hundred dollars a day.

As if this were not enough, the contestants seem to have discovered a new mine to be worked for the benefit of commissioners, stenographers, constables and court officers. This branch of the investigation seems to contemplate a general opening up of all expenditures of money in the campaign. If both sides are allowed to go this and the committee-men, candidates, contributors and ward workers are examined and re-examined it is easy to see how a year can be occupied in this branch alone. It looks very much like a scheme in the interest of the little coterie who are steadily draining the county treasury. From present prospects there will be absolutely no benefit to anybody. The term will have expired before any decision is reached and the sole result will be a \$50,000 or \$60,000 hole in the county funds.

The court will earn the gratitude of the people if it will shorten instead of extend the apparently endless chain of what the parties interested are pleased to term an election contest, but which really seems to be a raid on the taxpayers.

Sagasta says he will now devote all his time and energy to promoting internal reform in Spain. It is a pity he is so late in learning this lesson.

How to Treat the Negro. Some opinions upon the race problem in the South are expressed by ex-Governor Bullock of Georgia in the course of a recent communication to the press which are worthy of consideration as representing a strong sentiment in that section. Although General Bullock was a slave-holder, a Confederate soldier and has been all his life a leader among the whites of the southern section, he has differed from many of his neighbors in that he has stoutly argued for fair play for the negro and for an honest acceptance of the results of the civil war. Yet he says:

"I have believed and have long since advocated a state suffrage based upon intelligence and property qualifications. While there may be those among us who would seek to limit the suffrage on a color line, no one who can read the Fifteenth amendment is fool enough to attempt such a proceeding. It can be safely accepted as a fact by our friends North that the intelligent, property-owning and tax-paying colored citizens of Georgia have no objection to a modification of the franchise of our state upon such a basis. Their interest in an intelligent franchise is greater than that of the white man, because a white man can care for himself even under adverse circumstances. The first effect of such modification of the franchise would be a lony toward white men who are not legally qualified. But the rivalry of candidates would soon enforce the law equally." In the meantime, General Bullock suggests that if congress has reason to believe that in any district in the South the member returned as elected to congress was not fairly chosen by a majority of the qualified voters, it declines to seat him and order a new election. "The result of such action," he persisted in by congress will," says he, "be a full, free and fair vote, and an active opposition canvass in each district. There can be no doubt that it is better for us, better for the country, that we stand unrepresented while we are bringing about such election systems in our districts as will command the confidence not only of congress but of the people at large." In conclusion General Bullock says: "Whenever it is understood that the negro is simply a citizen like the rest of us, and not the 'ward of the nation' or the 'pet of a party,' he will receive justice from the people among whom he lives. Sporadic cases of unjust, unwise and barbarous treatment of the negro cannot be denied, nor is it entirely confined to the South. But such instances are light compared with the total number of the negroes. There is no recorded history of any race having equalled the progress of the negro from slavery to the present day."

It must be confessed frankly that there is a good deal of solid common sense in these views. The theory of a suffrage restricted by educational or property qualifications has strong opposition but we believe that the best thought of the country is steadily drifting toward broader acceptance of it as the safest way out of a too liberal past extension of the suffrage over unfit inhabitants. The fact that these qualifications are to be set up in Hawaii, to protect the better elements from the numerically preponderating Oriental or foreign element, offers a reason why they may yet prove to be the only feasible way around the race problem as presented in our Southern states. It is a palliative merely; it touches only the political side of a problem that is both political, social and economic. But if it will remove the prevalent fear of negro domination and restore normal conditions so that the poor white and the poor negro can both work their way up in the social and intellectual scale without sacrifice of their energy in mutual conflict, it will go far to justify its more general adoption.

The sufficiency of the Dingley tariff bill as a revenue producer is amply attested by the treasury statement for November. In that month the customs receipts were \$15,375,200, which is \$5,000,000 more than the average monthly customs receipts in November under the Wilson bill, and larger even than under the McKinley bill. The Dingley bill is now meeting the average normal expenses of the government and rolling up a surplus of from \$15,000,000 to \$16,000,000 a year besides.

An Economic Task. The most hopeful indication which has appeared in Cuba since congress declared that Spain should get out is found in the memorial which the merchants of Santiago have presented to Robert P. Porter, the president's special commissioner to arrange a temporary system of tariff regulations. This memorial recognized frankly the fact that the reconstruction of Cuba is first of all an economic problem with political destiny far in the background; and it suggested numerous ways and means whereby the wasted commerce of the island could be restored.

Among these it asks that no internal taxation be levied on sugar estates, that machinery be admitted duty free and that Cuban sugar be given free access to the markets of the United States; that live stock, barbed wire and farming implements be admitted free; that export duties be abolished; that the mining industry be exempted from internal taxation and mining machinery as well as raw materials be opened to loan money on real estate security at low rates of interest, that the duty on essential imports not produced in the island be as low as possible consistent with revenue needs; that the dollar head tax on immigration be abolished, that intoxicants be taxed and that tonnage dues be restricted to cargoes actually brought into Cuban harbors. In regard to agriculture the temporary exemption from taxation of rural estates, the distribution of waste lands among the Cubans who are desirous of cultivating them, and the granting of special facilities to corporations desirous of constructing railroads and other means of inter-provincial communication are recommended. It also advised that out of the customs revenues the insurgent army be paid off and disbanded.

As things go in this world it is asking a good deal of the United States to ask it to go through all the trouble, worry and turmoil of Cuban reconstruction only to hand Cuba over, at the conclusion of our task, to an independent Cuban government. Yet this is what we are pledged to do and we cannot honorably hesitate. There is this consolation in the premises; Cuba's destiny is so closely intertwined with our own and her commercial dependence upon us is so obvious that annexation is the inevitable finality. Thus we can feel that what we shall do now in Cuba will be done both from humanitarian purposes and with an eye to the fact that the benefits of that work are bound in course of time to be reciprocal and reversionary.

General Garcia says the representative Cubans will welcome American military control pending the establishment of a stable government, but he would like to suggest that the United States send only well-disciplined and law-abiding troops, so that the natives may not receive false impressions. The suggestion is certainly to the point. Episodes like that at San Luis, in Santiago province, where a rifle regiment of United States immigrants got into a fracas with the Cuban police force which was acting under direct orders from General Wood and shot some of its members fatally, will make it doubly faster in Cuba than our best diplomacy and statesmanship can make it. The American who goes to Cuba in his country's uniform should be a true representative of American chivalry, patience and humanity or he should be sent home instantly.

It is, of course, regrettable that ex-Minister Hannis Taylor is not satisfied with the terms of peace. It would be pleasant to have everybody satisfied, including Professor Norton, Andrew Carnegie and Senator Hoar. But since differences of opinion are inevitable in this imperfect world the American people as a whole will strive to get along as best they may under the weight of Hannis Taylor's displeasure, thanking heaven their burden is not heavier.

Gratifying educational progress is indicated in the recent report of the secretary of the interior. One-fifth of our entire population now attends school. The per capita cost of public instruction, which was \$1.75 in 1871, is now \$2.62. In a quarter of a century the enrollment of pupils in our public schools has very nearly doubled. Our teachers number 413,243 and our pupils 14,622,492. This is our real grand army that challenges the world.

The Red Cross society proposes to establish a regular hospital system throughout Cuba. The Red Cross society is setting an example of energetic devotion to humanity which our administrative officials in Cuba will do well to follow.

The representatives of the republics of the Western Hemisphere who participated in the Pan American congress, in 1889, voluntarily offered to formally pledge their respective nations to the payment of postal subsidies to American steamships if direct lines were established, but the offer was never accepted. Such an offer is

unprecedented in history, where an aggregation of independent nations specifically announced a preference for and willingness to subsidize the ships of one, and it the greatest of those nations. That such a magnanimous offer should have been rejected, or permitted to pass unheeded, only shows the extent and danger of our indifference to our maritime development. This indifference must not continue.

The Boston Herald, the great organ of New England conservatism, has deserted Professor Norton, Andrew Carnegie, Senator Hoar and the Mugwump fraternity in general and has landed squarely in the camp of the expansionists. It "believes it now sees advantages to be met by the policy of expansion," among them that it will "vastly extend our trade, help to purify our civil service and immeasurably broaden our politics." The kickers of today will all be saying this a few years hence.

Our army officers are not going to have a picnic in Havana. It is said you cannot rent an unfurnished house of moderate size for less than \$1,000 a year, while the cost of living at the inferior hotels is virtually prohibitive to any but a rich man. It may be necessary for our military authorities to take a hand in the regulation of real estate speculation in Cuba.

General Shafter says instead of our officers calling each other names they ought to be patting each other on the back. This would be a very convenient escape for officers who don't deserve to be included in the general felicitations.

As a result of the recent destructive storm there is to be an increase in the rates of marine insurance. The abnormal is expensive.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaachus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 4:04 a. m., for Saturday, December 4, 1898.

It will be apparent to a child born on this day that Chilkoot pass confronts numerous ambitious candidates hereabouts. Many a man of destiny has been unfortunate in slipping a cog early in the game. Unless Uncle Sam annexes the island of Yap all will have been in vain.

A guilty conscience often makes man hate everybody.

Many men would be happier if they could outrun their thoughts.

Father Time of the 1888 brand is on his last legs.

Ajaachus' Advice. When silence is mistaken for wisdom it is better to break it gently.

SOME NEW BOOKS

In "Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant," (Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co.) Bernard Shaw has decided to appeal from Philip to Philip. In other words, recognizing that the mass of people who go to the theater and make possible the profitable production of plays do not respectably care to be enlightened or instructed unduly but want above all else to be entertained, Mr. Shaw has decided (and wisely) to offer his interesting studies of modern society in book form; that nobody need pay his money who does not want the kind of pampering which Mr. Shaw would not deign to give. They include "Arms and the Man," produced with success by Richard Mansfield, "The Man of Destiny," "Candida" and "You Never Can Tell," and very interesting plays that are, too, evincing keen insight into human character and motive, witty appreciation of dramatic values and notable cleverness. The plays "The Philanderer" and "Mrs. Warren's Profession" are frankly problem plays, the attempt being to convict many existing social conditions of both stupidity and injustice. They are essentially plays to be read rather than acted.

The author of the "Co-operative Commonwealth," Lawrence Gronlund, in his latest work, "The New Economy," issued by Stone & Co. offers what he calls a peaceable solution of the social problem—namely, obligatory industrial arbitration, the more effective organization of labor, state productive work for the unemployed, state control of municipal enterprises, state management of the liquor traffic and of mines, a national telegraph and express system, national banks restricted to deposits, other national banks of loans, national control of fares and freight rates and a national department of agriculture which shall be a kind of wholesale clearing house and exchange for all the farmers in the country. His programme is so realistic in its scientific or collectivist sense but it is interesting and well argued.

"The Money Captain," by Will Payne (Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co.) is a tale of Chicago business speculation and politics. The money captain is the head of the big syndicate who buys up newspapers, boodles councilmen at pleasure and generally runs things with a high hand. There is an element of heroism in his refusal to be bought and this story is a narrative of his fight with the "duke of gas." In the end the editor wins, marries happily and has a magnificent writing his adversary's obituary. The story is sketched in strong colors, but is narrated with force and makes good reading.

A strong but saddening story is Maxwell Gray's "The House of Hidden Treasures" (New York: The Appletons). It is a story of a hidden treasure and a study of the upbuilding of character and the uplift of society through individual selflessness, told as only this powerful motif of human motive can tell it, and the ultimate effect, of course, is wholesome; but still it is a story which somewhat depresses one during the time of personal. Yet it is worth reading and worth studying, for it is undoubtedly one of the great novels of the year.

The young Hollander who writes under the pseudonym of Maarten Maartens, in "Her Memory" (D. Appleton & Co.) has drawn with singular delicacy a picture of the subtle effect a newspaper character primarily good. A young Englishman of wealth and leisure loses his beloved wife. For a time grief stands him. But after a time her memory comes to be his guiding star and by step and unobtrusively he rises from idleness to what he becomes one of the foremost statesmen of his time. How this is accomplished; the successive though unobtrusive steps of his advancement are portrayed with consummate skill and the literary workmanship of the book from first to last is most admirable.

The liberation of woman is the theme of an interesting novel, "A Champion in the Seventies," by Edith A. Barnett, the American edition of which is issued by H. S. Stone & Co. It is a story of the battle of modernity against conservatism in society's adjustment of woman's place and work, and it shows that a good deal is to be said on both sides. The "new woman" may go to extremes and be foolish in many ways, but at all events she is a sign of social progress and a step toward progress in any direction it is always necessary for some venturesome person to enact the role of pioneer.

Harold Frederic's latest novel, "Gloria Mundi," which ran as a serial in the Cos-

opolitan, is now produced in book form by H. S. Stone & Co., the publishers of "Theron Ware." It will prove a disappointment, in theme, incident and development, to those who have read the almost study of English aristocracy, brilliant and dull by turn and not overly clear in purpose. It is interesting, of course, for Frederic could not be otherwise; but it has not the sustained and cumulative interest of "Theron Ware" nor does it touch upon problems which in America are of special or vital concern.

"Some of New York's Four Hundred," by Adella Octavia Clouston, was first published anonymously by the American Humane Education society after the manuscript of it had gone to the bottom of the Hudson river in the terrible railroad accident of Oct. 21, 1897. In this form more than 10,000 copies were distributed. A second edition is now in print revealing the author's name. The story was the first prize by George T. Angell for a dissection in fiction of the cruelties of fashion. It lays bare to how large a degree our social conventions are founded on gross disregard of humane impulses and is powerfully written.

In "John Littlejohn of J." by George Morgan (published by the Lippincotts) we have a moving story of the Revolution, centering about the winter of discontent that followed the capture of Fort Mifflin. Washington's perplexities and trials, the treachery of Lee and the battle of Monmouth which inaugurated the brighter part of our national triumph, are in a good tale well told. The same firm issues "In the Shadow of the Three," by Bianche Loftus Tottenham, a stirring tale of Italian love, intrigue and adventure.

"The Rainbow's End" (Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co.) is the title chosen by Adelphi for the most interesting volume narrating incidents of travel and facts concerning Alaska. The book makes few pretensions to style, but it is a valuable collection of new information about our great northwestern possession.

"A Slave to Duty" and "Other Women" (published by Stone & Co.) comprises six well-constructed short stories of feminine trials and joys by that interesting writer, Felix Timanet. In different ways, many of them are well polished but none the less readable, are the seven stories by Charles Belmont Davis which the same firm offers under the title of "The Household of Society." These are really bits of strong reporting pitched in the dramatic key.

The late Charles A. Dana's "Recollections of the Civil War," to be published shortly by D. Appleton & Co., forms one of the most remarkable volumes of historical and personal reminiscences which have been given to the public. Mr. Dana was not only practically a member of the cabinet and in the confidence of Washington, but he was also the chosen representative of the war department with General Grant and other military commanders. Unless the history of the Civil War is familiar with all the inner workings of the vast machinery which was set in operation by the war, the importance of the events which he witnessed, and the influence of the war, Mr. Dana's own narrative is therefore by many letters from Grant, Stanton, Sherman and others.

NEWS AND COMMENT.

In the opinion of Correspondent McCutcheon the currency problem will be a knotty one in our management of the Philippines. Says he: "It would be a costly experiment to substitute for the Mexican dollar a dollar such as is used in America, which is kept at an artificial value by relation to gold. If American dollars were introduced as much as Mexican dollars, were the native would want as many of them for his wages as he had for his money. If Americans get three Mexican dollars a week now, he would want three American dollars under the new system, for no argument would be needed to convince him that pieces of Mexican silver were worth only half the amount in American silver. An American dollar would never buy twice the amount of stuff that a Mexican dollar does, no matter who says that it is worth twice as much. It takes a broader intelligence than the Filipino possesses to comprehend that one piece of silver is worth twice as much as another of the same size."

If it were not for the omniscient agitator things in Luzon would be quite lovely, according to advice from there. "The natives," says an American writer, "are doing peacefully, and it is doubtful whether pictures of more complete contentment and all happiness can be found anywhere in the world than in the little thatched huts and banana groves, with waving palms and banana trees. It is only when agitators like Aguinaldo and his ambitious retinue of adventurers tell them that they ought to be discontented and unhappy that they realize that the Americans are going to oppress them. The attitude of the natives toward the Americans is always very varied, except when the influence of the agitators has been felt."

For the eight months ending with October last our excess of exports over imports of merchandise reached the enormous sum in round numbers of \$69,000,000. In part payment of this we received \$30,000,000 in gold and drew upon the remainder to about the sum of \$39,000,000 for freights, traveling expenses of American citizens and interest on our securities held abroad and such matters. This would leave apparently something like \$55,000,000 cash balance held on deposit in the banks abroad in favor of American bankers and capitalists. Again we remark that this has been an American year.

One feature of the houses in Manila which is rather hard to get accustomed to, writes a correspondent of the "Chicago Record," is the presence of the great number of boards which crawl around the ceilings and walls of the rooms at night. They are harmless, but the thought that they may occasionally lose their grip and drop down in one's face is not calculated to make them welcome members of the household. There are many superstitions about, but they keep exclusively in the dark corners of the house and yard and otherwise behave themselves well.

A heavy and continued demand exists for cornmeal in South Africa, according to United States Consul General Stone, at Cape Town, who has made a special report to the state department on the subject of American trade in that section of the world. The corn is quoted at \$3.52 per bushel in Cape Town and \$4.11 in Johannesburg, and the supplies do not satisfy the demands. The cornmeal is quoted at \$1.12 per one hundred and ninety-six pounds, and large importations have recently arrived from America.

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