The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 5, 1898.

The wild poets and literary roustabouts who seek fame by making faces at The Tribune in the "has-been" Sunday papers, must not expect to receive much free advertising in the way of retort. Any journalistic corpse that desires to be resurrected and receive notice from the public through The Tribune columns must pay advertising rates, and also convince the management that it does not belong to the class termed objectionable.

The Cry of Imperialism.

The Baltimore American in a recent issue gives an analysis of the Philippine question that seems to sufficiently answer the unreasonable cry of the anti-imperialists, who are endeavoring to array the restless elements of mugwumpism and other malcontents against the government. "Now that the question is settled," says the American, "it is possible to analyze soberly this cry of imperialism and show its unreasonableness. It was claimed that possession of the Philippines would compel the United States to take part in European politics and would abrogate the Monroe doctrine. The Philippines are a group of islands about seven hundred miles from the coast of Asia. The European powers, aside from Spain, have no rights in them whatever, and have never claimed any, and can offer no excuse for claiming any hereafter, unless the United States, by its own acts, lays the foundation. They are as completely apart from European politics as Alaska. The anti-annexationists may with as much justice say that the possession of the Bahamas gives Great Britain the right or compels her to interfere in the politics of the United States. Islands in the ocean may be a potent defense against aggression, but they have not hitherto played an important part in the grasping policy of Europe. The Philippines in the hands of the United States are not likely to prove an exception.

The Monroe doctrine remains precisely as it was before the cession of these islands. That doctrine is substantially that the European powers shall not interfere in American affairs, and, as a corollary, the United States shall not interfere in European affairs. This country has not and does not propose to interfere in European affairs, not even in Asia, where it has as much right to go as any European power. Spain has ceded the Philippines, and no other European power has any right or interest in them, or, for that matter, in any other of the islands of the Pacific, save where it has already established its authority. The Monroe doctrine has nothing to do with the islands of the Pacific or with the continent of Asia, except so far as the latter is already occupied by the European powers. Neither Asia nor the Pacific islands were in contemplation when it was promulgated, and there has been no authoritative declaration of their inclusion so far as we are aware. If European powers construe the occupation of the Philippines as interference, that is their business. We are not responsible for false interpretation, but the United States is fully prepared to maintain her rights, a fact so universally known that the anti-annexationists need have no fears of a collision. It may also be noted that doctrines and policies relating to foreign affairs are good just as long as a government is able to maintain them.

It might be a good plan to enlist the services of Miss Jessie Schley in the interest of peace among the department officials.

The Regular Army.

Recent events that have placed the burden of governing vast colonial possessions of uncertain moral propensities upon the government of the United States make the increase of the American standing army a necessity that not even the most rabid anti-imperialist can dispute. Already a bill is under construction at the hands of the commander-in-chief, General Miles, fixing the standing army at 100,000 men. The mustering out of the volunteers whose terms of enlistment will expire in another year, will render it necessary that the army should be equipped and prepared for service in any clime at the end of twelve months, if not before. There is no question that if the recruiting officers selected the right neighborhoods and looked principally at the physical requirements, many thousands could be added to the fixed number and be made up of men who are anxious to become soldiers. In keeping up the small army in the past the recruiting officers have been able to exercise the utmost care in the selection of men, and the rules made it almost impossible for any save men of excellent education to enter the service.

Upon several occasions during the past few years recruiting stations for the United States army have been established in Scranton, but only a few men have been secured until the war with Spain began. Under the regulations in times of peace the volunteer was obliged to possess an education above that of the average workingman, as well as physical requirements, in order to be accepted. As there are few physical and intellectual giants in any locality who desire to enter the army, the recruits were few. The officers in charge stated at each visit that they could have secured hundreds of bright young men of good habits who were admirable specimens of manhood physically, but were obliged to reject the applicants on account of lack of education. It is to be hoped that these rules will be modified in future in order to give the honest toilers in the crowded industrial centers an opportunity to enter the service of the government if they wish to do so. There are thousands of men all over the country who cannot solve knotty questions in arithmetic and algebra, or perhaps even write with a Spencerian flourish, who would make good soldiers. Among the bravest troops in front of Santiago during the recent campaign were the negro regulars, who fought with an intelligence and valor that commanded the admiration of friend and foe, and it is doubtful if there were any college graduates among them. If the armies of America are in future, as in the past, composed of men who are fired by patriotism and the love of country, they will be invincible whether recruited from the college, workshop or farm.

Judge Gordon is out with another letter telling why he resigned. If Judge Gordon keeps on the public will soon be sorry that he did not stay on the bench.

The Future of Spain.

Senor Sagasta has been quoted as acknowledging that Spain has been relieved of a great burden by the loss of the Philippines and the acquisition of the twenty million dollar balm offered by the United States, but he has a feeling that is anything like friendship for the nations of Europe which he thinks should have interfered and prevented the forced sale of the islands. He proposes at the proper time to get even with his false friends on the other side and hopes also that America may receive punishment. The inhabitants of the Philippines are expected to inflict the latter. As an evidence that the premier is really in earnest and is on the right track he states: "We shall work energetically to reconquer our position by means of good administration, which is the basis of wealth. Internal reform will be the base of my programme and of the programme of every party leader true to Spain."

This is certainly the most hopeful indication that Spain is not irretrievably lost. In this field there is great work in store for Sagasta and his successors. If it is possible for the ministers of the kingdom to teach the nation to be honest and give the people an economical government there are no doubt brighter days in store for Spain.

An official report of the Shafter-Scovel one-round affair is now in order.

The Last Ditch.

Of the many illusions by which the silverite demagogues seek to delude their followers, the most egregious is that in which they allege that the resources of this country are pledged to redeem paper money and depreciated currency of every variety hitherto invented. The "resources of this country" are not hypothecated for any such purpose, nor is it possible to do so under any conceivable conditions. The "resources of this country" is a very vague and indefinite term. But reduced to its simplest proportions, we take it to mean the general wealth of the country, that is to say its accumulated wealth, capable of being capitalized at a longer or shorter notice. If this is what the demagogues mean by the "resources of the country," then it is plain that in order to insure the stability of a depreciating paper or silver currency a resort must be had in the ultimate issue to confiscation. The "resources of the country," with the exception of government lands, are in the possession of private individuals, who are no more bound to pledge their goods and chattels in redemption of a depreciated currency than they are to give them away for nothing. Taxation in all civilized countries is a first charge on private resources for national defense and the security of life and property. There is a limit to the amount of money to be raised in this manner, even in such unconscionably taxed and pauperized countries as Italy, Spain and Turkey, or even in such rich countries as Great Britan and Germany, where, as in London, municipal taxation sometimes exceeds half the annual rental value of real estate. No government ever yet undertook to pledge the resources of the country to maintain a depreciated currency at par. The thing is almost unthinkable and certainly unworkable. It runs counter to the great law of self-preservation. All the government can do for this purpose is to borrow money to maintain its reserve of gold to meet its paper and demonetized currency at their face value, a value which was paid for it. It is true that the money collected to pay the interest on these bonds is raised by taxation, yet only the interest and so much of the principle is represented by the amount of the depreciation. If there was no depreciation there would be no occasion for borrowing. Money does not evaporate out of our treasury. Every cent of it is held to strict account. We must not, of course, confound the operations of the treasury as the national banker, with the expenditure of the government. This is the only country in which the government acts as the national treasurer. It is an experiment, and a very successful one as it has turned out so far.

There is a limit and a very narrow one, to the plenary powers of government meeting a depreciated currency with national bonds in exchange for gold. It reached that limit during President Cleveland's administration. Such a method of sustaining a depreciated currency is unjust and inquitous. It is a tax on thrift and industry. Outside of this country history affords only one such parallel. When the Bank of England closed its doors in 1789, William Pitt pledged the government to sustain the credit of that institution. Mark you, he did not pledge the "resources of the country." He had no power to do so, if he even thought of such an impossible thing. The panic was allayed; the bank opened its doors, never in all human probability to close them again in such a contingency. Kings have pledged their crown jewels to raise money; Frederick the Great converted his plate into thalers, but the resources of the country could not be touched in opposition to the will of the people for such a purpose, or for any purpose. National resources and national credit are to a certain extent convertible terms. When the national credit becomes depreciated, the national resources remain, but they are not immediately available. Credit is the soul of commerce and prosperity. We are eternally extolling our inexhaustible national resources. We are justified in doing so. We began practically to reconstitute our national existence after the civil war with all our resources intact, but fearfully disorganized and demoralized. It was a time which tried men's souls, as even the war had not done. It is with a country as with an individual. The one must live on from day to day as the other, with foresight and circumspection. Fifty cents worth of silver does not make a dollar, never has and never will make a dollar. A government stamp on paper does not make money. No amount of sophistry or cant will get over these facts. They are as indelibly written in our natural laws as that two sides of a triangle are greater than the third. The "resources of this country" are not pledged to any such monumental folly in abetting a government to ruin the credit and good faith of the people with their neighbors all over the earth. Even the meteorological or astrological impostors refrain from pledging the resources of the sun to bring us warm weather in December.

Richard Croker and other heavy stockholders in the Democratic syndicate have decided that Representative Bailey, of Texas, shall no longer lead the minority in the house. Croker has recently been securing support in the west to the scheme to place Mr. Bailey on the shelf, and as the latter will not be apt to yield without a struggle, lively times are ahead in the Democratic wing of congress.

General Wood says that there has not been a murder at Santiago since he became responsible for the government of the city. It is a pity that General Wood or some other military governor could not be spared a few months and placed in charge of certain portions of Northeastern Pennsylvania where law and order appear to have been slumbering for years past.

"In all the discussion about Congressman Roberts, of Utah," says an exchange, "the latter is not saying a word." Certainly not. A man with three wives does not need to do much talking.

A few people still imagine that the yellow journals of Manila are the mouthpieces of the Filipinos.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Captain Whitney, of the staff of General Miles, who made the military reconnaissance of Porto Rico and furnished the material upon which the plan of campaign was based, owes his life to a young woman attendant in a photograph gallery at Ponce. Whitney had spent a month in Porto Rico in various disguises, principally as a sailor from a British merchantman, and wore a shabby seaman's dress. He kept his notes and memoranda carefully sewed under the collar on the back of his shirt. One day as he was making preparations to leave for the United States he went into a photograph gallery at San Juan to buy such views as he could find of the harbor and fortifications and various places along the coast. Watching her opportunity, a young Porto Rican girl who was employed in the place, whispered to him that the Spaniards were looking for an American spy who was disguised as a sailor, and hinted that he had better not be seen on the street. Whitney thanked her for the information, but assured her that they could not be looking for him because he was an Englishman. He made good use of the warning, however, and concealed himself until dark, when he rowed out to an English ship in the harbor and persuaded the sailors to stow him away. The first thing Captain Whitney did when he returned to Porto Rico with General Miles was, says W. E. Curtis, who tells this story, to call upon his unknown friend in the photograph gallery. She did not recognize him at first with a shaven face and a gilt-edged uniform, but recalled the incident as soon as it was mentioned, and said that she was confident he was the man the authorities were looking for and had given him the warning because her sympathies were with the Americans.

Spain's war loss is thus estimated:
Twenty-one warships.
Two armies defeated and captured.
Cuba, 42,655 square miles and 1,600,000 inhabitants.
Porto Rico, 3,550 square miles and 800,000 inhabitants.
The Philippines, 114,326 square miles and 8,000,000 inhabitants.
The Sulu Islands, 950 square miles and 75,000 inhabitants.
Stray islands in other groups.

The territory taken under the terms of peace means a loss to Spain, in round numbers, as follows

Cuba	$200,000,000
Philippines	450,000,000
Porto Rico	150,000,000
Cost of war	125,000,000
Loss of commerce	20,000,000
Thirty ships lost	20,000,000
Total	$1,075,000,000

In round numbers the loss to the United States is thus summed up:

Maine	$2,500,000
Cost of war	200,000,000
Indemnity to Spain	20,000,000
Total	$222,500,000

Lives Lost by United States—About 253 men killed and about 1,524 wounded. About 2,000 men died in camp. These figures do not include the 266 sailors lost on the Maine or the men who have died of fever after being mustered out.

Lives Lost by Spain—About 2,000 killed and 8,000 wounded.

The probabilities are that the foregoing estimate underrates the war loss of the United States if we take into account disturbance of business, probable cost of pensions, etc., nevertheless the balance is on the right side.

Not all Spaniards are vindictive. At Guayama, in Porto Rico, is a fine old cathedral, the second finest in the island; and its padre is a benevolent old Spaniard greatly beloved by his flock. Trumbutt White, corresponding for the Chicago Record, narrates this incident concerning the venerable priest. On Sunday morning at high mass came a peculiar thing. At the end of the service, for a recessional, the organist far up in the loft touched his keys and through this old Catholic church in an obscure village in Porto Rico there sounded "The Star-Spangled Banner." The variations improvised were beautiful. The melody itself was kept a little in the background, obscured a bit by the florid music that accompanied it, but it was there beyond a doubt. Perhaps the Spanish worshippers did not recognize the unfamiliar strains for what they were. The Americans did. All over the church there were American soldiers and officers who had been present as worshippers or spectators. When the identity of the music came to them there were heads uplifted and brightening eyes and glances of recognition that meant a great deal. I hunted up the old padre and asked him about it. "Yes," he said, "it was intentional. I asked the organist in the morning if he knew the American national hymn. He said that he did, so I asked him to play it as a recessional. I thought it would please the Americans." It did please them, and the old priest could not have done a more generous thing or one that would have been better appreciated.

The president of the Pacific Cable company, Mr. Baylies, thus explains why the United States needs a cable station in the Caroline islands: "In laying a cable across the Pacific the route is from San Francisco to Honolulu, thence to Guam, of the Ladrone group, and from the latter to Manila. So far all is under the American flag, Honolulu, Guam and Manila being ours. The difficulty comes in the stretch between Honolulu and Guam. Here is a distance of 3,340 knots. Of the cables at present in existence the longest is the one recently laid down from Brest, France, to Cape Cod. Its length is 3,187 knots. It is so heavy that experts have expressed grave doubts as to whether it can be raised and repaired if a break occurs in deep water. It contains 600 pounds of copper and 40 pounds of gutta percha to the knot. If the weight of this cable, measuring 3,187 knots, imperils its safety, as experts believe, a cable for the longer distance of 3,674 knots, from Honolulu to Guam, would be out of the question. It would of necessity have to be heavier than the French cable, and in view of past experience it is held that it would be absolutely impossible to lay and maintain it. It is therefore apparent that there must be a landing for the cable between Honolulu and Guam, so as to shorten the sections. This landing, to carry out the purpose of communication under exclusive American control, can be on no other than territory owned by the United States."

It is probable that the year 1900, if not an earlier one, will see the last of canal boating in Pennsylvania, as a means of transportation. The next legislature is to be petitioned to authorize the abandonment of that portion of the Pennsylvania canal from Duncan's island to Newton Hamilton, which was destroyed by the floods of 1889 and has never been rebuilt. This, the Harrisburg Commonwealth assures us, is probably the beginning of the end. The abandonment of this section of the once great waterway will only leave the main line, which extends from Columbia to Nanticoke, and the spur up the west branch of the Susquehanna to Loyalsock creek, which is six miles below Williamsport, as the remnant of the great public works which were begun July 4, 1826, and completed December 2, 1834. These works included 600 miles of waterway and 120 of railway; the canal from Columbia to Pittsburg, in which the old Portage railroad over the Allegheny mountains played so important a part; the canal from Sunbury to Lock Haven, the one from Duncan's Island to Nanticoke and the railroad from Columbia to Philadelphia. These works were considered the triumph of Governor George Wolfe's administration and until 1857 played an important part in the development of the section of country through which they passed.

As a matter of fact Spain got better terms of peace from the United States than she has been accustomed to. A correspondent of the Sun recalls that after her twelve years' war under Philip against England, Germany and Holland, though maintaining Philip's right to the throne, she was obliged to cede Naples, Sardinia, Parma, Milan and all the Netherlands to Austria, Sicily and Savoy, without any money consideration. Under the same treaty (Utrecht) she also ceded to England Gibraltar and Minorca also without cash consideration. When she was compelled to cede San Domingo to France as the penalty for joining in an alliance against her, she neither asked nor received a sum of money for it. When Olivenza was ceded by Portugal to Spain, in 1801, Spain paid nothing back in money or otherwise. In 1802 when Spain ceded Trinidad to England, Parma to the Cisalpines, and Louisiana to France, neither of them, from sympathy or in mercy for their conquered foe, paid back any money or assumed any debts whatever.

If the civilization of a people is indicated by the extent to which they utilize the mails Pennsylvania will need, as the saying goes, to get a move on. According to the records of the postoffice department of all the states Massachusetts stands first, with an expenditure of $2.30 per capita in the use of the mails; New York second, expending $2.27; District of Columbia third, $2.16; Colorado fourth, $1.93; Connecticut fifth, $1.80, and Pennsylvania only sixth, with an expenditure of $1.75. The states ranking lowest are South Carolina, 25 cents per capita; Mississippi, 34 cents; Alabama, 35 cents; Arkansas, 37 cents; North Carolina, 41 cents.

Speaking of the liberality of the terms of peace, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat points out that in past acquisitions of territory we have paid to France, Spain, Mexico and Russia a total of $52,700,000, an average of $21 a square mile, or a fraction more than 3 cents an acre. To give Spain $20,000,000 for the Philippines would be $87 a square mile, or about 13 cents an acre.

Not one of the thirteen prominent new plays by American authors produced in this country this season has been a distinct financial success, while a number of successes have been scored in the reproduction of plays by English and French authors. Vas ist los mit de Yankee playwright?

LOSS AND GAIN.

From the New York Sun.

In the eyes of foreign observers and of future historians, our recent contest with Spain will be memorable not only for its brevity, but also for the exceptional importance of its results. To find a parallel for both the quantity of territory and the volume of population transferred from one sovereignty to another, we should have to go back to the most successful campaigns of the great Napoleon and to the peace of Paris, which ended the Seven Years War. Spain has lost possessions equivalent in area to about five-sixths of her own European territory, while we have acquired a superficies exceeding that of the Italian peninsula and the island of Sicily combined. What Spain has lost in the course of a few months, is a population larger than that of the two European kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands, which, under their former name of the United Provinces, the Spanish sovereigns Philip II and Philip III fought so long and desperately to retain. We, on our part, have added to our population about 9,000,000 human beings, or considerably more than the kingdom of Prussia contained at the beginning of the present century.

NAVAL RESERVE PERMANENT.

From the Baltimore American.

All the reports from the chiefs of the navy department speak strongly in favor of the maintenance of a naval reserve. This branch of the service proved its value during the war with Spain, and should be made a permanent feature of the naval force of the country.

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