

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

New York Office: 150 Nassau St., S. S. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 15, 1898.

Today being the last day for the registration of candidates for city offices under the Crawford county system, we shall soon know what margin of choice Republican voters of Scranton are to have in the selection of the next municipal ticket.

A High Labor for Humanity.

A great responsibility will be assumed by Major General Brooke when he shall begin the military governorship of Cuba. The public is little acquainted with his qualifications for the position, but it is fair to suppose that these are satisfactory, else he would not have been appointed.

Our task in Cuba has been greatly simplified by incidents growing out of the death of General Garcia. This may seem a strange statement to make, but we believe time will prove it. Just as Lincoln's assassination softened the asperities of American reconstruction by awakening the sympathies of the best citizenship and touching the chords of underlying humanity, so will the tragedy of Garcia's untimely demise show to both the Cubans and Americans the oneness of their aims and the superficiality of small frictions and prejudices.

With such strong but kindly and tactful men as Wood, Lee and Ludlow in direct command of the immediate work of pacification and reconstruction, men whom the intelligent people of Cuba know to be their friends, and with Spanish political influence eliminated, the task before us in Cuba is not going to be one-half as difficult as many Americans have feared.

Above all, it is fortunate for the United States, for Cuba and for the cause of humanity that the ultimate superintendence of this great work rests in the hands of a patient, kindly and honorable statesman, in whom confidence has not yet been misplaced.

The further the public looks into the Nicaragua canal question the firmer will become its conviction that the canal should be built, owned and cosseted by the United States government, without the aid or meddling of any other nation.

The Kicker at Work.

The kicker is already at the front in Porto Rico. During military rule the American authorities are continuing the taxation levied by Spain, which included a large number of charges now obsolete.

The Porto Ricans have been adding up the yearly expense to the island of the Spanish army of occupation and of the Spanish navy. They have incorporated the item of "general obligations," which are expenses incident to the former minister of colonies and the administration of his affairs.

The cold wave this time came without the aid of the weather bureau.

These items to expansion. The Nicaragua canal, a Pacific cable, steamship and postal subsidies and an increased navy would have been necessitated even though we had not been taught by our war with Spain that we need, also, a modernized army and thorough fortification of our outposts.

The pocket-book argument is not the highest form of argument, but even so, it works both ways.

The trustees of the Bowery Savings bank of New York city formally voted to reduce the rate of interest on deposits from 4 to 3 1/2 per cent.

The resignation of Secretary Bliss, which is in the president's hands for acceptance Jan. 1, will take from the cabinet a hard-working, loyal business man who has done his duty quietly and earned public respect.

According to recent reports, the residents of certain portions of Cuba, where the Spanish element is yet untamed, must wonder what the war was intended to accomplish.

Colonel Bryan, in his anxiety to let the public know all about his reason for joining and leaving the army, does not seem to realize that he is talking to empty benches.

Argument as to the constitutionality of expansion is simply talking for the fun of the thing. The law on this point has been made as clear as the sun at noon.

Cubans at Havana should be patient. The day of their release from Spain is not so remote that they cannot afford to keep cool meantime.

A child born on this day will be of the opinion that the man who throws salt on sidewalks and his neighbor's shoes can best be described in a thinking paper.

If the street commissioner desires to carry out his threat in regard to arresting people who do not clean the snow from sidewalks, he will be furnished a few names on application.

The man who knows how to write an attractive Christmas advertisement cuts as much ice as the careful stock buyer these days.

The public is always last to recognize the genius in man. In fact the public sometimes never catches on.

Proverbs with Variations. Truth crushed to earth is sure to be sprung up by the wicked.

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Table with 4 columns: STATE, Present Number of Electors, Number of Votes for President in 1896, Present Number of Electors, and Population of 1890. Lists states from Nevada to New York.

NEWS AND COMMENT

An "ex-officio holder and Democrat" writes to the Sun: "As a rule our government pays its officials and other employees well. Especially is this true of clerks, mechanics and laborers. But the salaries of some of the high officers of the government are plainly inadequate."

Justice Woodward, of the New York Supreme court, has a plan whereby public confidence in expert testimony can be restored. He says it is the retained expert of the corporation and the chronic experts of the plaintiff in negligence cases that have excited the greatest hostility and merited the severest condemnation.

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