

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 19, 1898.

The Times is assured that The Tribune is fully as willing as it is to let the court pass on the asphalt repair question. Our only object is to get the asphalt repaired and have it kept in repair at the lowest available figure. Too much dilly-dallying has all but destroyed the streets of Scranton.

The Personal Equation.

In selecting a nominee for mayor the Republicans of Scranton will do well to bear in mind that the chief executive of a city of 110,000 inhabitants, who in addition to performing the immediate work of his own office, is also virtually the head of the fire, police and highway departments, should be no small official unused to command. The city has grown since the police force comprised a mere handful of men and the firemen a baker's dozen. These servants of the people now aggregate a small army, who need above all things else a capable directing hand. This need was never more apparent than at the present time.

Fault is sometimes found with the work done by the police. The public sees things in a different light. It does not always know the reasons why. The individual material in the present police force is probably as good, taken on a fair average, as in any city in the country. With few exceptions the men are vigorous, brave and desirous of doing their duty. But when in the doing of this duty they are not consistently and firmly supported by the executive authority, when the arrest of some malefactor hanging to have a friend at court is as likely to bring censure as approval, when in a large percentage of cases the policeman rather than the prisoner is regarded as the proper subject for magisterial investigation, disheartenment and demoralization inevitably follow. This is a frailty of human nature.

A story is told of an incident happening soon after the enactment of the bicycle ordinance which illustrates this point. The police were instructed to enforce the ordinance thoroughly. One officer took his instructions literally, went after a scorcher who, it is claimed, had refused to observe the law, got into a tussle with him in the course of which the culprit's wheel was smashed, and had the final consolation of seeing his prisoner discharged without a reprimand, and of having soon afterward to defend himself in a suit for damages. It is not necessary to add that incidents of this nature do not make for efficiency in police discipline or for zeal in the apprehension of public offenders.

A man may be ever so honest in intent and ever so well versed in the theories of municipal government, yet if he have not the knack of handling authority so as to retain their confidence, respect and zealous loyalty, he will be a failure as the mayor of this big city. The head of the executive department must stand by the men under him until sufficient reasons appear for a contrary course. He must be an organizer, not a disorganizer. He must know how to get the best results out of existing conditions. This personal quality is something entirely apart from any question of party politics or public policy. It is wholly a matter of individuality. Republicans who wish to name for mayor a man whose election would bring quick betterment in the spirit of the corps of the police, fire and street commissioners departments, as well as lift the whole city government higher in public regard, should consider the personality of the candidates not less closely than phases of policy. For after all it is the man, rather than the party label or platform, that counts.

An Impossible Suggestion.

"On December 1," says Senator Montero Rios, president of the Spanish Peace commission, in a farewell statement to the Paris correspondent of the London Times, doubtless intended to influence European sympathy. "I proposed to the Americans to appoint a technical commission to examine the question of the Maine. We said America will appoint an American, an Englishman and a Frenchman, and we will appoint a Spaniard, an Englishman and a Frenchman, all specialists, and that the commission, of the two governments, appoint a German, and that these seven men bring in a verdict. If they declare Spain innocent, the president of the United States will address a message to the senate declaring Spanish honor intact and that Spain was falsely accused of having betrayed the laws of hospitality by blowing up a vessel at anchor in one of her ports. If Spain is declared guilty, a Spanish ship will go to America, salute the United States flag and Spain will pay the costs. This is the proposal we made on December 1. It could be and must have been telegraphed, for it could be put into two hundred words. On December 5, in his message to congress, the president made no allusion to our proposal, but described the blowing up of the Maine as a suspicious event. On December 6 the American commissioners declared they refused to discuss this question. This is what especially irritates us. We have great defects, hot tempers and cruelties even, but our national honor is dear to us. Yet at that hour the Americans wished to deal the rudest blow."

Assuming that Senator Rios is an honest man, and general report gives him this reputation, representing him as belonging to the class of liberal-minded Spaniards of whom Admiral Cervera is a well-known type, there are some things which he fails to consider. One of these is that the American government has never charged against Spain more than the facts in the case of the Maine justify and sustain. The facts are that the ship went into a professionally friendly harbor, was assigned to a designated buoy, observed while there all the proprieties of a friendly visit, and was destroyed by an explosion which an American court of inquiry, after due investigation, pronounced of external origin. It was never said that any Spaniard fired the torpedo or mine. There were unavoidable suspicions but no accusations for the sufficient reason that there was no evidence. The point was ample that Spanish sovereignty in Cuba was inadequate to prevent such an outrage upon international hospitality.

No mixed commission of neutrals could declare Spain innocent of insufficient care and precaution without convicting the American naval court of inquiry of making a false return. Could the government of the United States, in the light of its prior experience with Spanish injustice and evasive dealing, reasonably be expected to disavow its own agents by consenting to a re-opening of the case in the absence of any claim of new evidence? The world has seen since the blowing up of the Maine what kind of men command the American navy. It has seen their generous treatment of Cervera and his men; it has seen Dewey stop his firing on the vanquished Morro to establish a hospital for the care of the Spanish wounded. It can draw its own conclusions as to whether or no such men were to be trusted to report truthfully upon the cause of the Maine's destruction. There is no government on earth which would, under similar circumstances, have accepted the offer which the American peace commission on December 6, at Paris, declined to discuss.

A Political Opportunity.

The fact that the united action of the representatives of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Harrisburg can secure for their section the important honor of the speakership of the state house of representatives, with all that it implies in the way of fair treatment for local interests, makes timely the suggestion that steps be taken to secure such a center of action in favor of the candidacy of Hon. John R. Farr, which already seems to have attracted the influential favor of a number of the prominent party leaders.

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1.22 per cent, as compared with the same period in 1897, while American exports increased nearly 15 per cent. In the month of November our exports exceeded Great Britain's by \$5,000,000, or more than 4 per cent, which again calls for the remark that this is an American year.

The healthy optimism in the president's speeches touching our new problems is good for American patriotism. What can excel this as an antidote for Mugwumpery? "We are treading in an unexplored field, which will test our wisdom and statesmanship. The chief consideration is one of duty; our actions must be controlled by it. No settlement is admissible which will not preserve our honor and promote the best interests of all concerned. With a united country and the gathered wisdom of all the people, seeking only the right, inspired only by high purposes, moved only by duty and humanity, we cannot err. We may be baffled or deterred and often discouraged, but final success in a cause which is altogether unselfish and humanitarian can only be deferred, not prevented."

Germany is still friendly to America, but the hilarious tourist from this side who called Emperor William a "sheep's head" will be obliged to take his medicine in good old-fashioned doses. There are some things that even international friendship cannot excuse.

A commission to ascertain whether there ever was such a person as Maxim Gomez would not be out of order.

Carl Schurz' continued criticisms are satisfactory evidence that President McKinley is on the right track.

NEWS AND COMMENT

General Merritt says: "I found Admiral Dewey very much perturbed. He had been walking the deck sleeplessly night after night, and was sorely harassed by the difficulties of the situation. His first question was about the monitors, the presence of which he considered all important. After they arrived he told me that his mind was at ease, and he felt that he could more than hold his own against any force that might be brought against him. Dewey is a magnificent soul, self-contained and of never failing good judgment, and I need hardly say, is simply adored by his officers and men. When I left he might have come away with me and gone on to Washington, but he preferred to stick to his post. The Germans did not care to play with us, of course, you know I am simply a soldier and do not know very much about the ways of naval officers, but Admiral Dewey was very kind to let me see the German ship. He said he would not salute me, nor did Admiral von Diederich call on me. The British officers called, however, and did the Japanese. I did not mind it much, because I was very busy, but Admiral Dewey said it was an outrage and a grave breach of etiquette. He said to me that the Germans had worried him a great deal. When we captured the city of Manila the Germans did not salute our flag as it went up over the Spanish fortifications. I was left in a hurry for Hong Kong to notify his government of our movements. About two weeks later one of his captains called on me. 'You have a fine lot of soldiers here,' he said, 'but I see they are mostly all Germans. But they were Americans then.' It takes us about five years to make a good American citizen of a German and about three years to make a good soldier of him. I added, 'I did not return his call until the day I started for Paris. Then I was in a hurry and did not stay long.'"

General Miles is highly elated over the success of certain tests of the two new guns and a new carriage made a day or two ago at Fort Hancock. The Howell disappearing gun carriage," says he, "met all tests successfully and we were delighted with it. Both guns that we tested are of new design and have never been used in warfare. The first was the cutting cast-steel, high-power gun. This differs greatly from the wire-wound gun or built up gun. It fired five shots in all, one with a one-half charge, one with a three-quarters charge and the other three with full service charges. All were highly successful. The other gun was the Sims-Dudley 5-inch dynamite gun. This is a very destructive gun. It throws a projectile three miles. This was the first time it was ever fired. We threw three of the projectiles along the beach to witness the effects. They tore up the beach in a manner terrible to behold. The sound was so great that within a radius of 100 feet it would be dangerous to life. There is practically no recoil to the gun, and it will be one of the most deadly weapons ever used in warfare."

Prospects of the contemplated return of the American peace commission on Christmas day the New York Sun approvingly says: "They come back triumphant after a victory as notable in its way as Dewey's or Schurz's. They not only got what they went for, but they have also broken many of the cherished traditions of conventional European diplomacy. Some of the tools heretofore regarded as indispensable in the dealings of nations over important questions they have hung aside with manly contempt as antiquated, useless, and worthy of employment by serious men who know exactly what they want and are able to express their intentions in language both courteous and veracious. The whole business of international negotiation will be affected considerably by the success of the direct and simple method. There will be less intrigue and professional lying hereafter on the consciences of amiable gentlemen who have been accustomed to carry out their negotiations by means of a delicate diplomacy of the spirit and manoeuvres of a low-down horse trade."

From all the iron centers come reports of a great boom in American iron. During November the furnace capacity was increased, and the coke and anthracite plants at work are turning out more pig iron than they have ever done before in this or any other country. The 25,528 gross tons capacity of American furnaces on December 1 is a new world's record. Furnace stocks have been further depleted, and outside of the steel works producing their own iron, there is not enough pig iron to last three weeks. The furnace stocks sold and unsold, amounting to over \$6,000,000 on July 1, have been gradually cut down, and on December 1 there was less than \$5,000,000. This is usually a dull season in the iron trade, but the mid-month market reports to the Iron Age show heavy buying and a consequent rise in prices. Everybody is looking forward to a still greater boom in 1899, both in the domestic and foreign trade.

Things are not all as well in Cuba. A Havana dispatch to the Sun notes this day's sum of revolutionary gun. General Rafael de Cardenas entered Guanabacoa today with 100 cavalry and 500 infantry. He will occupy the town until the Americans take possession of the language both sides persons welcomed the Cubans. Twenty-two triumphal arches had been erected in the streets, bearing inscriptions in honor of the American general and his people. The American residents, especially Mr. Hyatt and his family, who have lived in Guanabacoa for many years, were cheered, and a banner was given in honor of the Americans. Senator Lopez, president of the Spanish club, presided. He made a speech in the course of which he said that the Spanish residents wished to unite with the Cubans in accepting the

new government of the United States. His words were received with the greatest enthusiasm by the representative Cuban present.

Some curious pension figures are noted. For instance, Virginia, which did not furnish any soldiers to the Union army, has 3,250 names now on the pension roll, growing out of alleged service in the Union army. Texas furnished 1,565 soldiers to the Union army and has 8,115 names now on the pension rolls. South Carolina has 4,167 names on the pension roll, though it did not furnish a soldier to the Union army. Mississippi furnished 565 men and now has 1,025 names on the pension roll. Georgia, which did not furnish any soldiers to the Union army, has 4,000 names on the pension roll, and Florida has 3,228 and Arkansas has 10,250. This odd condition of affairs no doubt is partly explained by the removals of Union veterans and their families into these states.

The international skating races for Europe will take place as usual this year at Davos, Switzerland, which has an altitude of 4,300 feet above sea level. January 11 and 12 are the dates set for this contest, which usually attracts to its lists representatives of all civilized nations, and spectators, too, from all over the world. In addition to the straight-away races there will also be a contest for the championship for artistic skating.

Nine thousand Spanish soldiers from Cuba are literally dying from hunger in the streets of Madrid. The government is owing \$6,000,000 pesetas, \$1,200,000 in back pay to the Cuban army, and it cannot find the money to liquidate its obligations.

Harvard university is to have its much needed infirmary at once. By the gift of \$25,000 from James Stillman, of New York City, to cover the cost of land and a building the infirmary, which has been under discussion for several years, is assured.

A WAR STORY.

Varied are the experiences these ladies have who go about among the soldiers, and strange are the tales they hear. It is from Miss Florence Day, who has been visiting in her devotion to the Camp Walworth work, that I have a remarkable story told me by a certain rough rider, whose name may as well go unmentioned. This man, it seems, had been deputy marshal of Cripple Creek, and for months before the war he had been hot on the trail of a noted desperado, wanted for horse-stealing and for murder. More than once the marshal and his men had nearly run the outlaw to earth, only to lose him at the last. And all this made talk throughout the region, so that bets were made freely on the result, and the marshal's pride was finally so far aroused that he vowed he would never drop pursuit until he had put a halter round the fellow's neck.

Then, suddenly, the war broke out, and things of less moment were forgotten. A captain of the rough riders, who knew the marshal's unflinching courage and his skill as a horseman, wrote him an urgent invitation to join his troop, and the invitation was promptly accepted.

So it came, a few weeks later, that this ex-cow boy, ex-miner and ex-hunter of criminals found himself in Tampa in Uncle Sam's uniform. And one of the first men he met was the desperado, so long sought for in vain, only now he was in soldier's clothes, a rough rider, too, with the rest of them.

"Well," said the hunted man, coolly, as their eyes met, "you've got me at last. And do you mean to let me go?" "Why, you have. You came for me, didn't you? I lay down."

"I didn't come for you," said the marshal. "I'm here to see that you get your share, same as you are. I don't know you, except as a soldier."

The man stared at him, doubtful. "You mean you're not my enemy any more?"

"No, sir; I haven't got any enemies now but Spaulders."

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