

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 21, 1898.

The outcome of the Chicago street railway franchise fight shows that when the people have the mayor, the press and a determined public sentiment on their side the councilmanic boogymen cannot conquer. We need a mayor of that kind in Scranton.

The Debate on Expansion.

In beginning his great argument on Monday in support of the constitutionality of expansion Senator Orville H. Platt, of Connecticut, set forth his thesis in these words: "Expansion has been the law of our national growth, the great law of our national development. I propose to argue that the United States has shown a capacity for government in all trying times and under all trying conditions, and has shown that it is equal to any circumstance that may arise. I propose to contend that the United States is a nation, that as a nation it possesses every sovereign power not reserved to the constitution of the states or the people, that the right to acquire territory was not reserved, and is therefore an inherent sovereign right, and a right to which there is no limitation, and with respect to which there is no qualification; that in certain instances the right may be inferred from specific clauses in the constitution, but that it exists independently of those clauses, that in the right to acquire territory is found the right to govern it, and, as the right to acquire is a sovereign, inherent right, the right to govern is a sovereign right not limited to the constitution; and that these propositions are in accordance with the views of the framers of the constitution, the decisions of the Supreme court, and the legislation of congress."

The authorities cited by Mr. Platt in support of these several propositions were able and ample to convince any open mind; but by a single illustration he made clear the utter absurdity of the contention that the United States has a smaller legal scope of sovereignty and a narrower limit of power than any other independent and vigorous nation. He assumed the case of its becoming necessary, in the interest of commerce or otherwise, to acquire territory on the coast of Africa, and asked: "Where is the clause in the constitution, or where is the implied obligation in the constitution, to forbid such acquisition?" "Suppose," he said, "that the senator from Alabama (Mr. Morgan) passes his bill for the construction of the Nicaragua canal, as I may be may, and suppose that it should be found desirable for the United States to acquire a strip of 25,000 acres of land along the line of the canal and Nicaragua cedes it to us, can we not take it, and, if we take it, what clause in the constitution, direct or implied, says that we have got to organize it as a state and make the people there citizens of the United States?"

Generally conclusive was Mr. Platt's reply to that doubting Thomas of New England conservatism, Senator Hoar, who had asked whether in the Connecticut senator's opinion "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed?" "From some of them," was Mr. Platt's response; and then he added: "But we have adopted all sorts of qualifications for voting. We govern women. They are citizens, but we do not allow them to vote. Does anybody claim that that is a liberal application of the declaration that there must be no taxation without representation?" The history of colonization, in which we owe all that there is of civilization, and to which we are especially indebted for what we call America, is a continuous and unbroken history of the imposition of government by superior races upon inferior races, sometimes with but generally without the latter's consent. But in the discussion of the immediate question there is no place for this question of Senator Hoar. Nobody proposes to ram a hateful and odious government down the throats of the people of Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines. We are to teach these people democratic principles; to give them object lessons in civic virtue, honesty and equality before the law, and when they master this problem, if they then want us to get out we fancy we shall have sense enough to prefer a voluntary withdrawal to an ejection by force. The more likely supposition is that, as in Hawaii, they will retain us to remain.

It is one thing for public clamor in Spain to force the Sagasta ministry to resign office; but it will be another to find a cabinet which will produce better results out of such horrible raw material.

The Grip.

From all sections come reports of the prevalence in mild though irritating form of that curious disease known as the grip. Scranton has all of it that there is any demand for; but it seems to be at its height along the New England seaboard. In New Haven, Conn., for example, 400 pupils and fifty professors connected with Yale university are reported ill with it; the other cases in that city number several thousand, including thirty physicians. In New York city the number of cases is almost in proportion, though the deaths reported from it are happily few. In 1881 in New York there were 854 deaths directly ascribable to grip; to say nothing of the thousands of deaths which came from diseases having origin in grip; thus far this year the reported total is not in excess of sixty.

Dr. John B. Crosby, of the New York board of health, contributes to the Sun this bit of technical information: "In-

fluenza is an infectious and contagious disease, due to the influenza bacillus. In cases of influenza or grip this organism is present in all the secretions of the nose, throat and bronchial tubes. The disease is transmitted from person to person through the taking in of these organisms, either from direct contact or after the secretions have been dried and pulverized and inhaled in the form of dust. The disease cannot be produced by any other cause than the influenza bacillus. There are many catarrhal affections of the respiratory tract which are improperly called grip, and the distinction between these and true grip is extremely difficult, and often impossible in the milder forms. Grip, however, is a much more serious affection, produces much greater depression and is followed by much more serious convalescence. The disease extends rapidly and affects large numbers of people, because of the lack of definite diagnosis and any attempt at isolation of patient, or disinfection of discharges. An attack of grip produces temporarily insusceptibility, as is the case in most infectious and contagious diseases, so that when an epidemic has passed through a city or over a country there is comparative freedom from the disease for a certain period until the insusceptibility is lost. Then, when infection is again introduced the disease takes again an epidemic form."

It is economy, when experiencing the advance symptoms of grip, such as an aching of the head, muscles and bones and a rapid alternation of fever and chills, to send at once for an experienced physician. If he knows his business he can regulate the bodily secretions, control the fever and open the way for a quick exit of the disease. Otherwise, pneumonia, bronchitis, consumption or other serious complications are possible. Meanwhile, as a matter of hygiene, keep dry, warm and clear, eat moderately, avoid alcohol, be regular in physical habits and don't worry.

The French minister of war reasserts that there is a secret dossier bearing on the Dreyfus case, a divulgence of which might endanger the safety of the state. This, he adds, will not be submitted to the court of cassation without assurances that its contents will be carefully guarded. In simpler words, the French military conspiracy dares not show its hand. A state whose safety rests on secret evidence, forgery, perjury and star chamber trials had better not be safe at all. It had better not be.

Contrasts.

An interesting contrast between American and Spanish methods of law enforcement is afforded by current events in Santiago and Havana. In the latter city, where there is a Spanish soldier for nearly every resident civilian, murders are of daily occurrence, the presence of American warships is necessary in the fetid harbor and among all the clashing between armed Cubans and armed Spaniards there is no record of the arrest by Spanish orders of Spanish instigators of trouble. The men shot, wounded or incarcerated as a consequence of these streets feuds are Cubans almost without exception.

In Santiago, on the contrary, the law knows absolutely no distinction as between races or classes or persons. We quote from a Santiago dispatch: "General Wood issued a decree yesterday prohibiting the carrying of weapons of any kind in the city under penalty of confiscation of the weapons and five to twenty days' imprisonment at the pleasure of the commander of the department. Three Americans resisted the attempt of the police to enforce the order this morning. Forty shots were exchanged, but no one was hurt. General Wood put the Americans in jail and complimented the police. He ordered them to kill any one who resisted in the future whether Cuban or American." These policemen whom General Wood complimented were native Cubans. The men with whom they had clashed were General Wood's fellow countrymen. But the one class in this instance represented law while the other stood for lawlessness and between these two extremes honest Americanism draws no lines of demarcation.

It will be desirable for the people inhabiting our new dependencies to realize that where the American flag goes up it inaugurates the principle of absolute equality before the law. This is a condition which they have no immediate means of comprehending because it involves an altogether novel experience. All classes, at the outset, will resent the idea; but they will grow into liking it and ultimately into loving it. It is this inculcation of the saving grace of American democracy which will build in these benighted regions the structure of a new and durable civilization that will constitute in the years to be the crowning glory of American history.

We gladly give space this morning to an instructive letter from Professor Willis L. Moore, chief of the weather bureau, setting us right in matters of fact concerning the severe storm of Nov. 27 in which the steamship "Portland," among others, went down off the New England coast. This letter establishes that the bureau forecast this storm accurately and sufficiently in advance to afford ample warning to mariners; and the natural inference is that to lack of confidence in the warning may be ascribed much of the destruction to life and property occasioned by that great blow. It is needless to add that we are heartily glad the bureau is guiltless of the charge erroneously made against it in The Tribune of Dec. 2. May it never become less efficient.

The report is denied on authority that the peace commissioners are to receive \$100,000 apiece. Their pay is estimated at \$150 a day, or about \$20,000 each; and we doubt if any clean-minded American will begrudge them the money.

General Shafter explains that his recently reported assertion to the effect that the Cubans are no more fit for self-government than hell is fit for a powder factory was made during a private conversation and that its pub-

lication was unauthorized. He is welcome to all the benefit of the explanation.

The czar of Russia intends to visit Siberia next spring and study the condition of convicts with a view to bettering their condition wherever possible. This is a favorable indication that the czar may have been in earnest in his recent efforts for the peace of the world.

The announcement that "Coin" Harvey is not working on commission in his efforts to raise a Democratic campaign fund will be pleasing to his friends. Judging from appearances, if Harvey depended on commissions in this case his calamities would soon be real.

Calamity organs should make note of the announcement that pig iron and steel rails are on the rise. They are an unfailing barometer of trade.

Agulnalds would doubtless be persuaded that his stocking is not big enough to hold that purse of \$20,000,000 this Christmas.

General Merritt gained a knowledge of the Philippines in about three weeks that is at least remarkable.

Hobson is in danger of overdoing the kissing business.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Rev. Dr. H. K. Carroll, editor of the Independent, and the special commissioner to Porto Rico a few months ago by President McKinley to ascertain the conditions prevalent on that island, has brought back some views. He says he has no direct knowledge of the condition of the Philippines, but that the inference made in the report of the Hawaiian commissioner that the Porto Ricans are incapable of self-government after this country has established a suitable form of government, is incorrect, and he considers a presumption that the Hawaiian commissioner to take, especially in view of the fact that they have presumably no knowledge of the conditions of the Porto Ricans. The commissioner to Porto Rico considers the natives quite as capable in every particular to govern themselves as the inhabitants of Hawaii. He says that the Porto Ricans are not savages nor barbarous as some people think. He confesses that there is much illiteracy in the island, but says he believes that by the adoption of the customs and institutions of the United States the island would soon overcome the difficulty, and that eventually the Porto Ricans would evidence a capacity to govern themselves equal to that of either the Cubans or the Hawaiians. The aspirations of the Porto Ricans, he says, are not indicative of their reaching a useful and creditable state of citizenship. They are anxious for the introduction of American customs and institutions, as well as the adoption of the English language in place of the Spanish as their tongue. They are different from the Cubans, he says, in that they are a people who believe that there is practically no system of registry in the island, and that estates and properties are handed down by common consent from father to son, and that without litigation is evidence of their peaceable character and their recognition of right over wrong.

It is an ungracious task to throw cold water on unfounded enthusiasm but that is what the New York Sun does in the article which follows. "Some ill-informed newspaper reporters have started a story that Russia is preparing to offer in this market an issue of bonds. The only ground for the story is that certain banks in this city have been asked by unknown persons whether such an issue could successfully be made. From this to the actual offer of the bonds to the public is a long step, the taking of which is extremely improbable. That Russia desires to borrow money from our citizens is, indeed, quite likely; but it is also very probable that she has authorized inquiries to be made as to the disposition of our capitalists to lend it. She needs to borrow both for military expenses and for the completion of the immensely costly and yet unremunerative trans-Siberian railroad, which she is constructing. She cannot sell any large amount of bonds in either London, Paris or Berlin, and, therefore, she naturally turns inquiring eyes to this financial center. But, as the Arab proverb says: 'The questioner is one and the answerer is another.' The outstanding Russian 4 per cent can be bought in London at par, and an issue of them in this country, at less than 5 per cent, would not tempt our citizens, who are unfamiliar with investments in foreign government loans and would require strong inducements before they would risk their money to them. To make a Russian loan saleable at all, it would have not only to bear 5 per cent interest, but to be payable, perhaps, in gold. The New York Sun means the establishment here of a Russian financial agency at great expense. Then, too, if the loan were made in Russian currency, our people would not understand it. They would stipulate for payment in dollars and cents, which Russia would hardly consent to. Altogether the talk of Russian bonds in this country seems to be a phantom, not worth treating seriously."

President McKinley's welcome at Augusta, Ga., the birth-place of General Joe Wheeler, was the most cordial and enthusiastic of all received by him in the south. The cheering awaiting him numbered 15,000 persons and it could not curb his enthusiasm. The president, among other things, said: "What a wonderful country we have! With what pride the contemplation of its history fills us all! When Washington was here, we had a little over three millions of people; we have nearly 75,000,000 today. We have added vast territory to our territory. We are today the largest manufacturing and the largest agricultural nation of the world. Our commerce floats on every sea and only the day before yesterday I saw that a thousand tons of ship's plates had been landed in Glasgow, Scotland, and, what is even more significant, it was carried upon a ship bearing the American flag. My fellow citizens, I congratulate you upon the prosperity of the country. I congratulate you upon the progress it has made in the last third of a century. But I congratulate you even more because, as a people, we are now more and more devoted to national purpose and more imbued with the true national spirit than we have been since the formation of the Federal Union. There are no more frontiers now. We stand united in front of a foreign foe. We will stand united until every triumph of that war has been realized."

The Schenectady Locomotive works has received its first order for locomotives for an English railway. The order is for the construction of ten mogul freight engines for the Midland railway. The machines will be built after the American pattern, with cylinders 18 inches in diameter by 24 inches stroke. They will be fitted with all modern appliances, and will be very large and heavy. Twelve-seven engines have recently been shipped to the Nippon railway of Japan from the same shops. There are large orders on hand for several American railways, and 2,000 men are working day and night.

A feature which, for unique effectiveness, promises to attract all eyes, has been seen at great fairs is to be introduced at the coming centennial exposition of Ohio. The idea, which originated in the fertile brain of J. E. Connelley, president of the Toledo centennial commission, is to have a building devoted entirely to pleurocentric subjects, built in the shape of a huge fish and baby from foundation to backbone.

fish exhibits in the tanks, lectures on fish in the body of the fish building and fish dinners served exclusively in the restaurant.

WEATHER FORECASTING.

Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have noticed the following statement in your editorial columns of the 24 instant, relative to the loss of the Portland during the severe storm of November 27, 1898: "Had the meteorological bureau given timely warning of the impending hurricane, it is impossible to conceive how all those ships, big and small, could have been innocently caught in it. There seems to have been no such warning, or no anticipation of a tempest from the point from which it sprung." An occurrence like this, which had its origin in the east, while our meteorologists have their heads turned towards the west, is not very creditable to their scientific pretensions. It is quite evident that a majority of the coasting ships which were caught at sea in such lamentable numbers would not have ventured out were it not for their dependence on the accuracy and foresight of the weather prophets. But this storm proves conclusively that for once the students of it were caught napping. I feel sure that the writer of the above was not in possession of the facts in the case. The first winter hurricane to blow toward over the Great Lakes, and on Saturday morning, the 26th, its dangerous character was realized. It was on the morning of the 26th when weather conditions on the New England coast were serene, that urgent warnings of the coming severe storm, coupled with a forecast for the 26th when weather conditions on the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Esport, Maine, The danger element was flying in the air. England was nearly twenty-four hours before the storm's fury was felt. Hundreds of vessels obeyed the warnings and escaped wrecking. About one week later another severe storm moved up the Ohio valley and New England coast. For several days after its onset the reports in the weather bureau of Mexico it was carefully watched by the weather bureau, and when it became evident that it would be dangerous to shipping along the coast, the coast guard cutters were issued well in its advance. Our records show that this storm was more violent than the one that caused the loss of the Portland, but this disaster was fresh in the minds of vessel masters and vessel owners, causing them to pay greater heed to the danger signals. As a result there was but little destruction of life and property.

Severe storms of the character of those referred to are more easily forecast than the less marked conditions that cause slight changes in temperature and light rains and snows. It is a fact that no decided cold wave or destructive storm has passed across the country during the past four years without commerce and shipping being warned well in advance. No West Indian hurricane in the past few years has moved up our Atlantic coast without danger signals being displayed twenty-four hours, or more, in advance. As a result of the accuracy of the weather bureau would leave wrecked age amounting to over three millions of dollars, in addition to much loss of life. Forecasts of the weather bureau are an exact science. Deductions are empirically made, depending for their value on the extent of territory covered by the meteorological reports, the accuracy of the observations and the skill of the forecaster. As the forecasts are but the expressions of human judgment it is possible that a destructive storm may catch our lakes and seaboard without adequate warning being given, but records show that such has not been the case for several years.

I have written thus fully because, having given so much space to your editorial of the 24 instant, I feel certain that you desire complete and accurate information. Very respectfully,
W. L. Moore,
Chief of Weather Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.

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- Ladies' Two-Clasp Kid Gloves, black undressed, \$1.00.
- Ladies' Two-Clasp Kid Gloves, black and colored embroidered—reels, modes, tans, browns and blacks, \$1.50.
- Ladies' Kid Gloves, jewel, 4-hook, all shades, fancy embroidered backs, \$1.95.
- Ladies' Mocco Mittens and Gloves, fancy embroidered, \$1.00.
- Children's Mocco Mittens, 49 and 89 cents.
- Foster Hook Kid Gloves, in all colors, William brand, \$1.00.
- Fowler brand, \$1.50.
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Illustration of a person in a boat with a rubber tree.

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