

The Scranton Tribune

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INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 23, 1898.

The Democratic members of congress have decided not to oppose a ratification of the Paris peace treaty. They evidently do not desire to provoke the consequences that will make the ratification of a peace treaty with their constituents necessary.

The Only Fair View.

We have already called attention to the strong argument which secretary of the commonwealth David Martin made in his annual report for a simplification of the ballot in Pennsylvania. His condemnation was especially directed against the present facility with which political parties claiming a separate column on the ballot set up state tickets limited in fact to one county or section, thus imposing upon the taxpayers in other counties who are in no wise interested, but on other and perhaps broader grounds Mr. Martin is opposed to the blanket ballot and in the next legislature, as a senator from Philadelphia, will move for its amendment. He says:

"The blanket form of ballot now in use is also objectionable because it tends to confuse the voter who does not desire to mark in the circle and vote a straight party ticket. Under the present law permitting all sorts of nomination by nomination papers it frequently happens that a column appears upon the ballot containing but one name, no nominations being made for the other offices to be filled. It may be that a great many citizens desire to vote for this one candidate, but for all the others of their respective parties and attempt to do so by marking in the circle at the top of each of the two columns, with the result that their ballots are thrown out and their purpose defeated. The voter should be furnished with such form of ballot as affords him the fullest opportunity for the exercise of his right of suffrage and if for any reason he desires to vote for one or more candidates who are not of his own political party, he should be permitted to do so without incurring the risk of having his entire ballot thrown out."

It is something of a novelty to have expressions like these come from one who is professedly a practical politician, possibly as practical in his adaptation of means to ends as any politician in the United States. Nevertheless it is an evidence of Mr. Martin's capacity for leadership that he sees the futility of transparent think-alouding in the resolution of elections and recognizes that the time has arrived when there must be every semblance of fairness. The present ballot is not fair, among other things for the reason that it tries to take undue advantage of the timid voter by scaring him into straight party voting. It would be much cheaper as well as easier to have party tickets which will attract straight voting.

General Shafter seems to be one of the living proofs that it is better for army commanders to have foresight than hindsight.

Disbandment of the Cuban Junta.

The formal dissolution of the Cuban revolutionary junta, which is officially announced by its sagacious chief, Tomas Estrada Palma, makes it opportune to say a word in commendation of the energy, perseverance and skill with which this famous organization has conducted its finally triumphant campaign against Spain.

From the American point of view the word "junta" is invested with a suspicious significance, and the Cuban body of this name has suffered in public opinion from this instinctive American repugnance to the idea of mystery and secrecy in campaign management. Yet it is necessary to bear in mind that only by stealth and artifice and shrewd diplomacy could a successful contest against Spain be carried on by these men. The father of the present junta, Jose Marti, who yielded up his life in one of the first skirmishes of the recent revolution, was a man of intense patriotism, almost fanatical in his devotion to the ideal of a liberated Cuba. Reviewing his work dispassionately, we may feel inclined to think that he was more of a dreamer than a man with a practical, constructive grasp on affairs. As with all patriots from Kosciuszko and Kossuth down, he lived in a sphere peopled by ideal creations of the imagination and underestimated the difficulties of real life. Yet it is not for Americans to think the less of him for this. What such brave dreamers dream there are other men to make into realities.

Marti saw that if Cuba was ever to be rid of Spain it must be by force of a revolutionary movement planned and sustained chiefly from the outside. He therefore set to work to organize into local clubs the Cuban exiles in this country, central and South America, and in Europe. Wherever ten or a dozen Cubans or Cuban sympathizers could be found, they were persuaded to form themselves into an association, elect officers and pledge the continuous payment of a designated sum into the treasury of the revolutionary movement. At one time there were more than 150 of these clubs, all tributary to the "junta" or revolutionary delegation in New York. In addition, Marti enlisted in the cause wealthy individual Cubans, some of whom paid into the junta's hands sums as large as a quarter of a million dollars. Every contribution, great or small, was publicly acknowledged in a weekly paper printed in the Spanish language, and every club had a vote in the election of the delegates who supervised the expenditure of this money.

Whatever may be true of the internal conditions in Cuba at the present time

the fact cannot be denied that no people have ever given more in proportion to their means or suffered more in personal hardship and in the yielding of private interests and in the life itself than these thousands of Cuban exiles scattered throughout this hemisphere and in Europe. Millions upon millions of property belonging to these exiled families were confiscated, burned or sacked in consequence of the revolution, nevertheless they did not falter. Out of every large family some member, often many, fell in fighting, by disease or in prison, yet the fight went on. Not even the awful slaughter of the reconcentrados dissuaded these sworn opponents of Spanish tyranny from continuing a battle which they continually proclaimed should be until victory or death. They withstood espionage, prosecution and persecution in this country; they dared the perils of the sea in filibuster expeditions and they underwent all the hardships of a seemingly hopeless struggle in the jungles, spinning bribes, refusing compromises and yielding not an inch. Marti fell; Maceo fell; Ruis Rivera was captured and sentenced to death; Arancibia was betrayed and shot; a thousand tragedies shadowed the somber record of this remarkable uprising, but the quest of liberation was not abandoned. Such perseverance is entitled to the world's respect, whatever the short comings attendant upon it.

Part of the incentive which kept this fight up-hated of Spain—is now to cease with the withdrawal of the Spanish flag. Can there be found among these men sufficient practical sagacity, prudence, self control and constructive energy to uphold a stable independent state? Time alone can give a definite answer. But let us, in all fairness, regardless of the future, give them now the credit which is justly their due.

Of course it would be better if the people of Cuba would express their joy until the last armed Spaniard had departed from their island. But we must make allowances for human nature, even in Cuba.

For Reference Purposes.

The New York Sun explains in few words the existing facts with reference to the Nicaragua canal when it says: "The time limit for the completion of the canal under the concessions from Nicaragua and Costa Rica held by the Maritime Canal company expires on the 9th of next October. Financially as far as that corporation is concerned, and physically as far as the task itself is concerned, the work cannot be completed during the life of the present concession. A new contract or concession, known as the Eyre-Cragin concession, was obtained from Nicaragua by another party of promoters, of whom the Hon. William R. Grace is the principal, on Oct. 31, 1898, one day before the former government of Nicaragua dissolved or was merged into the probably short-lived federation with Honduras and Salvador known as the United States of Central America. The Eyre-Cragin or Grace concession grants in perpetuity the exclusive right to construct and operate an interoceanic canal through the territory of Nicaragua after the 10th of next October, or sooner than that if the holders of this concession shall meanwhile acquire the residue of the rights of the Maritime Canal company under the old concession. This new association has no contract with Costa Rica, whose territory touches part of the route of the proposed canal.

"The Maritime Canal company wants to dispose of the controlling interest of its stock to the United States, practically turning over the canal to the government under the present concession and receiving compensation for past investments and services to the amount of about \$1,000,000. According to the plan proposed by the advocates of the Morgan bill, now before the senate, the United States government would proceed to build the canal as the controlling power in the Maritime Canal company, and to exercise the rights of that company hereafter during the ninety-nine years and renewal period of another ninety-nine years covered by the old concession; provided, we suppose, that the government succeeded in showing that the concession does not expire next year, or in procuring an extension beyond the time limit now fixed at the 9th of next October. Mr. Grace and his friends want the government to guarantee \$50,000,000 of bonds for the construction of the canal, taking in exchange a second mortgage on the property, one-quarter of the stock of the company they propose to organize, and the right to appoint five out of fifteen directors, the control remaining in private hands.

"Brushing aside speculative schemes and private attempts to profit by the intention of this nation to put a canal through the isthmus of Nicaragua, the alternative course for the government would be to let the old Cardenas-Monocal contract, owned by the Maritime Canal company, lapse by its own limitation, to treat the so-called Eyre-Cragin contract as null, and to proceed to direct negotiations with the Central American governments, based on the treaty of 1858 with Nicaragua, for the construction of the canal without any intervening corporation. That treaty of 1858 is yet valid. It is the foundation of the Cardenas-Monocal concession, as of the so-called Eyre-Cragin concession; and it does not lapse with the time limit of any concession whatsoever to private parties. This treaty of 1858, negotiated with Nicaragua by President Johnson, and ratified by both governments, grants to the United States the right of transit through the oceans by any route which may hereafter be constructed; it devolves upon the United States the duty of protecting the route of communication and guaranteeing its neutrality; and it permits the United States to protect the lives and property of American citizens along the canal by armed force, in case of unforeseen or imminent danger, even without the consent of Nicaragua."

This concise summary of the existing conditions will be worth keeping in mind during the progress of the pending debate in congress.

Frank Knaack, the American citizen, who was in danger of a long sentence for making insulting references to the

Emperor of Germany, has been acquitted, as it was shown that the man was in a high state of exhilaration at the time and not responsible for his actions. Evidence also demonstrated that he called the Emperor a block-head instead of a sheephead, as was first alleged. This doubtless had much to do in bringing to a peaceful close what might have been a painful incident, for Knaack at least.

The fact has been disclosed that the contribution of \$5,000 which formed the first response to the president's popular appeal of one year ago for funds for the relief of suffering and starving Cubans came from the chief executive himself. It was the largest single contribution received, the other responses not coming up to his expectations. William McKinley has no money except his salary; but if every American would give to the cause of humanity a tenth part of his income this world would soon become appreciably better.

Ex-Senator Edmunds, perhaps our foremost constitutional lawyer, confirms the opinion that congress cannot lawfully expel a polygamist member, the validity of whose election is not questioned on other grounds. It might, perhaps, for the sake of morals, be wished that this were otherwise; but since congress cannot set up a censorship upon the domestic relations of the gentleman from Utah, the next step to take is to try to improve the consciences of that individual's constituents.

We fancy there will be general satisfaction over the news that Secretary Long has no present intention of resigning. Rightly or wrongly—and we think rightly—public opinion has reached the conclusion that the gentleman from Illinois is just about the shrewdest, fairest and most efficient member of the present cabinet, the other members, of course, excepted. His retirement would be regarded as a real public misfortune.

Officials in charge of the Keely motor stock company allege that they have Keely's secret. As Keely's secret appears to have consisted in the ability to persuade people of means to invest their cash in something out of sight, the future of the stock company will determine whether anyone has fallen heir to Keely's trick.

Hobson's recent exploit at Chicago has aroused adverse comment all over the country. All seemed to be willing that Hobson should enjoy the glory for the sinking of the Merrimac, but the bravely exhibited in kissing 163 Chicago girls at one session is something that has caused even the naval officers to become jealous.

The man who was good enough to be sent as our ambassador to Russia will be plenty good enough for the secretaryship of the interior.

Hall Caine does not find Americans so gushing as he expected. Hall forgets that the United States has at last cut its eye teeth.

Mr. Carnegie, it is announced, will support Bryan for president in 1900. On an anti-monopoly platform?

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 4:35 a. m., for Friday, December 23, 1898.

A child born on this day will account for the surplus of idle cash by the fact that people who are able to borrow money do not borrow.

Newspaper writers who are electing railroad presidents promiscuously on paper, would do well to study the time tables in some instances and find out who runs the lines.

Visions of the cotton-bating Santa Claus now appear before the small boy who has attended Sunday school regularly for the past month.

Base ball enthusiasts are awaiting with pleasant anticipations the first appearance of Jack Neat.

Blanco has arrived in Spain all right, but nothing has been heard from the bones of Columbus.

Smart boy—Papa, why is the Russian loan like the Manx man? Papa—I am unable to answer. S. B.—Because it cannot be floated.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The offence of being successful has its penalties as well in the south as in the north, judging from a circumstance narrated in the Chicago Record by W. E. Curtis. He says: "S. M. Inmann, the foremost and most progressive man in the south and the largest cotton factor in the world, who handles about one-third of the entire exports of that staple, has been taxed out of town. His residence, which is the finest in Atlanta, is closed. He did not appear before the president's reception, and we were told that he had gone to New York to live. In explanation it was said that Mr. Inmann objects to the taxes which have been imposed upon his property and the ingratitude which has been shown by the citizens of the place for his efforts to promote their welfare and prosperity. When the recent proposition was on the verge of collapse from financial difficulties Mr. Inmann stepped forward and placed \$50,000 in cash in the hands of treasurer with the understanding that he would be reimbursed to the extent of \$45,000 by public subscription, the remaining \$5,000 being his contribution to the relief fund. For some reason or another the understanding was not fulfilled, and the entire loss fell upon his shoulders. It is also said that when the effect car service of Atlanta was denounced as inadequate and a disgrace to the community Mr. Inmann stepped forward, reorganized the company, changed the motive power from mules to electricity, and with his great business ability placed the company upon its feet and extended the tracks into the suburbs, where a line could not be self-sustaining for years. As long as he lost money he was eulogized as a public benefactor, but the moment his investment began to pay and he received some returns for his public-spiritedness every-body pitched upon him and he had to fight the common council, the county commissioners and even the state legislature to prevent the confiscation of his property. This made him so disgusted that he removed his residence to New York, although he still retains his business office in Atlanta."

The commercial argument for expansion so far as the Philippines are concerned is well stated by Chief Engineer John D. Ford, the best engineer of the Pacific station, when, in his recently published book, "An American Cruise in the East," he says, referring to the Philippines: "These people need steamships of from one hundred to five hundred tons to trade among the islands; they need steamships of from three thousand to five thousand tons to trade with the United States and other parts of the world; they need railroads, locomotives and cars for internal traffic; they need thin dress goods, all sorts of thin white goods, insertions and laces, black and white prints of thin cotton, thin woven and knit goods, fancy and staple hardware, tinware, groceries, canned goods and flours, steam engines, pumps, sugar mills, agricultural implements, furniture, books and stationery, and our public school system. They will pay for these with sugar, tobacco, hemp, camphor, rice (which are produced in great quantities), coal, gold, and many varieties of beautiful woods. Why should our people not have this trade?"

William Dudley Fouke, of Richmond, Ind., thus breaks some of the bubble arguments of the anti-expansionists who argue that the United States has no warrant in law or history to acquire new territory: "Thomas Jefferson thought at first that we had no right to acquire the territory included in the Louisiana purchase, but he was educated by events. He did not possess that immediate and transferable knowledge of absolute truth which is the precious inheritance of the modern age. He did not even ask whether the citizens of New Orleans approved of the cession by Napoleon. It was a good thing, he thought, for America to acquire that territory, and so he bought it. When we purchased Florida from Spain, did we inquire whether the Seminoles approved of the transfer? Texas and the California tract were acquired in the same way, and we willingly return this vast domain to Mexico. Would we consign Florida to Spain or Louisiana to France? And when, in opposition to the same kind of sentiment which animates the present opposition to expansion, Alaska was purchased (Watrusia they called it in those days) 'history' and 'principles' and all sorts of things were brought forward against the policy of making our banner to the North Pole; but who now thinks that Mr. Seward made a mistake? Our own history vindicates our efforts toward expansion."

Cigars and cigarettes are everywhere in Porto Rico. They are phenomenally cheap. Cigarettes are sold for about 3 cents. The ordinary cigar can be bought three for a cent, better ones at a cent apiece, and a 2-cent cigar is a luxury smoked only by merchants, bankers and tourists; the more expensive brands are to be had only in large towns.

SLANDERING OUR EXPORTS. From the New York Sun. The proposed inspection of our ports of Germany sent to this country, provided for in Senator Mason's resolution, would be salutary if it brought to their senses the German public men and newspapers. They are still endeavoring to hamper our trade with the empire by misrepresentation and unjust legislation. No one is wronged when a merchant, but honestly means to seek, to safeguard the business interests of his people. But attacks upon foreign commerce are ruinous when they stop to deliberate misrepresentation of the goods which foreign merchants offer for sale. The United States is entitled to fair play in its commercial relations. We have no grievance if we ask to meet the competition of our markets, but misrepresentation has no part in fair business rivalry, and if it becomes a national or a party policy it is likely to prove a boomerang.

CARNEGIE ON CARNEGIE.

From the New York Sun. A few years ago a little pamphlet called "A Look Ahead" was in circulation. It had been written for the magazine in which it first appeared, and subsequently, we believe, it was included in a book. Here are two sentences from "A Look Ahead" which are still interesting: "The American people are favorable to the extension of national boundaries. No evil but great good has come from every succeeding addition to their Union. The author of 'A Look Ahead' was and is Mr. Andrew Carnegie. He is scared when he looks ahead now, but the American people are not. They are still favorable to the extension of their national boundaries and they have not forgotten that great good has come from each addition to their territory. As Mr. Carnegie said, 'They are used to territorial expansion.'"

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