

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 24, 1898.

It is pleasing to contemplate that the United States is responsible for the fact that there is more peace on earth this Christmas than a year ago.

The Bond Ordinance.

If the new bond ordinance is submitted to the people in the form as last amended by common council it is possible that some of the items of proposed expenditure may be approved. A good deal will depend upon the character of the men nominated by the two parties for mayor and controller.

The time for Spain to "move on," so far as this continent is concerned, is almost here.

Coming to the Point.

An exceedingly sensible suggestion is that of General O. O. Howard, that the president be empowered to recall to active service all retired army officers in time of war.

What is past is past. It cannot be recalled. The objective point of this inquiry should be to safeguard the future.

A military government for the benefit of the governed is evidently a novelty in Cuba, but the results at Santiago indicate that it will grow in native favor.

Advice from the Plains.

To men gifted with a sense of humor there is no crisis so serious as to lack some ray of the ludicrous. One great failing of the Latin race, one of the traits which is going greatly to complicate our work in constructing stable government in the islands taken from Spain, is the fact that the Latin cannot, as a rule, see the humor in things.

Mr. Pepper, a learned Cuban lawyer and a western cattleman were in Havana, discussing the political future of Cuba. We give the report of the conversation in the former's own words: "Like all others, the lawyer had his theory of the Latin race in the temperate zones and in the tropics. It was not a bad theory. He thought the Latin civilization was better adapted for the tropics than was that of the folks who start the missionary out into the heathen land, where they see trade and flank him with a jug of rum, and a Gatling gun. When it came to Cuba his views were tolerably clear. The Latin race must prevail, but its supremacy must be through the guidance of the United States. It is an exaltable race. The blood mounts to its head quickly. Then comes the period of calm, when it sees the folly of getting excited so easily. The United States must moderate these transports of anger or folly; cool its blood and not let it dash its head into a cactus fence too often. Then, with the American nation sitting on the safety valve, the Latin race may work out the future government of Cuba. The philosophy in which its opinions were clothed were more ornate than I have given, but the idea was the same. The western cattleman grasped it. When a pause in the talk finally came and he was appealed to for his opinion he gave it, with incisive deliberation. 'You Latins,' he said, 'want the United States to put keeping ice on your head every time you flush up. We can't do it. That would bother us and wouldn't do any real good. The way for you Latins to keep your blood cool is to put your feet in cold water.'"

It is not stated whether the Cuban saw the point; being a Latin, probably he didn't; but the fact remains that the cattleman, with his quick sense of humor, revealed the heart of the problem. The Latin character must be worked over and alloyed with some stiff Yankee element if it can be trusted absolutely to experiment with democratic government.

An American Lake. The warning is recalled by the announcement that the navy department has evolved and will soon begin to execute an elaborate plan to establish naval stations in Hawaii, the Ladrones and at Pago Pago, thus insuring an unbroken line of communication between San Francisco and Manila, and giving us in a certain sense command of the commerce of the North Pacific.

Complaint is expressed at the peculiar sub-division of authority in the police department which removes jurisdiction over burglaries and other serious crimes from the acting chief and hands it over to the embryo and inefficient detective bureau.

The navy department is quick to see the importance of such a condition of affairs. It knows, if some of our distinguished citizens don't, that the only way for a nation to grow in power, wealth and safety is to take intelligent advantage of its opportunities. It realizes the plight that Dewey would have been in had he lost the naval battle at Manila or been forced by other circumstances to seek a port of refuge. It is determined to profit by the lessons of recent history and to lay the foundations broad and deep for future American security and supremacy in the great eastern ocean.

The Regular Army.

It would appear from the attitude taken by the Democratic minority on the house committee on military affairs that a portion of the country either did not learn any lesson from the war with Spain or that the lesson has already been forgotten. In that war, thanks to our superior navy, we were successful in spite of the inferiority in numbers of our regular military equipment.

Every sensible man knows that war is always a possibility. The reputable merchant insures his merchandise against fire, not because he expects a fire or wants a fire but because he knows that a fire is a possibility which it is simple prudence continuously to guard against.

The proposition of the Democratic minority is that the regular army shall not be increased permanently beyond the limit of 20,000 men, or one regular soldier to every 2,000 civilians. This is about the relative strength of the present police force of Scranton, a force admittedly insufficient effectively to patrol even a compactly populated area.

Nor is the Democratic proposition of a volunteer army of occupation in the new dependencies any less objectionable. Of the volunteers now in service only a fraction would offer to enlist. This fraction would be made up of the younger, more adventurous, possibly more turbulent class; a class requiring in a new country rigid and effective discipline, both for its own sake and for the sake of the success of American military government.

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Between San Francisco and Manila, and giving us in a certain sense command of the commerce of the North Pacific. The completion of this plan will mean that in future our merchant and warships will not be at the mercy of foreigners but can find easy asylum in any part of the world's greatest ocean under conditions which will assure their protection and fair treatment.

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The sentence of court generally determines whether one has been guilty of stealing or is afflicted with the disease called kleptomania.

Our Shipping Loss Illustrated.

Table showing shipping statistics including imports for the month, exports for the month, and total carriage.

Thus we see that over 28 per cent. of the great apparent balance of trade is cancelled by an adverse balance of transportation; and that our apparent favorable balance of commerce is in considerable part paid already with specie.

In the wake of whiskey trusts, beer trusts, etc., comes the announcement that a big syndicate has cornered glass bottles. Scarcity and thereby the combine of topics is extending its tentacles towards the humble can that is utilized by the modest citizen who seeks relaxation in closer acquaintance with the "growler."

After experience in front of smokeless powder at Santiago, it is not likely that General Joe Wheeler will retreat before the variety used by objector Bailey.

A blizzard trust is evidently forming.

NEWS AND COMMENT

At the New England dinner in New York the other night Governor-elect Roosevelt, offered some timely thoughts upon the subject of expansion. Said he: "I have scant sympathy with that mock humanitarianism which is alien to the spirit of true religion, to the spirit of true civilization, which would prevent the great order-loving, liberty-loving nations from doing their duty in the earth's waste places because there is a need of some such surgery at the hour of this. That heaven that we, who were denied a part of that struggle (the greatest struggle for righteousness this world has known) of the time of our fathers have had the chance to see a struggle in which our nation is taking part in the world movement going on around us."

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must be given to the people of the Philippines, although they are not fit for it. We have got to show our practical common sense, and the fervent religious spirit characteristic of the majority of the Filipinos. If any one of those islands is not to be self-governed, then we can't govern it according to the principles of a New England town meeting, then we must find out the principles according to which we can govern it and apply those."

If we may believe the Bulletin, prosperity has struck Philadelphia like a blitz wave. That journal says: "In the past eight months it is estimated that the profits made in stocks and bonds in this country amounted to nearly two billions of dollars. Some idea of the great appreciation of value may be gathered from the statement that the advance in the issue of Pennsylvania railroad stock alone was over \$12,000,000."

An American woman who recently visited Spain writes: "On arriving in Madrid we expected to see some signs of depression and mourning as the result of the Spanish defeat, but the Spaniards people generally speaking seemed to be quite unconscious of the conflict that cost them so much. Faces of amusement are crowded; the people seem to be happy; they are well dressed; there are few beggars and one does not see a small surcharge on railway and amusement tickets on account of the war. It would be difficult to know from evidence here that it ever had taken place. The theaters are well attended, and at those places of amusement I observed no outward evidence that the people are groaning under a national misfortune."

A child born on this day will wish that he had stockings a yard long. The man who thinks his thoughts is more apt to be popular than the one who speaks them.

The individual who can be happy on prospects always makes the best candidate for mayor.

It takes more than a green Christmas to make a fat graveyard.

A Song of Christmas. At glad Christmas morn the maiden of Guam, Far away from the blizzards and snow, Sports in tropical bower 'neath the sheltering palm.

This primeval maid free from guile Will wish an old Santa, as they are revealed, And she—stockingless—hangs up a smile!

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HOLIDAY BOOKS. Booklets, Calendars, Cards, Diaries.

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At 15c Cut Glass and Silver Inkstands, Venetian Vases, Glove Boxes, Handkerchief Boxes, Necktie Cases, Etc., Etc.

At 25c Cigar Jars, Smoking Sets, Silver and Bronze Ink Wells, Metallic Puff Boxes, Celluloid Novelties, Bon Bonneire Boxes, Children's Silver Sets of Knife, Fork, Spoon and Mug in Boxes, and a great line of Medallions.

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Sunday Schools Supplied Cheaper Than Elsewhere.



TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxclus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Christmas Is Coming So Is Santa Claus. His little friends, and big ones too, will be happy in our shoes.

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