

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 26, 1898.

The Tribune wishes every patron, friend, foe and neutral a merry Christmas and many returns thereof.

Concerning Prison Labor.

A commission appointed by the last legislature to consider the prison labor problem, comprising several close students of penitentiary subjects, was today announced.

The proposed law authorizes the manufacture of any article in the prisons that will be used in the state government buildings, county jails, work-houses, or the educational and charitable institutions that receive an annual appropriation from the state.

Among persons who believe that if the state takes proper care of the vicious and the unfortunate the law-abiding citizen can best take care of himself the theory that prisoners must be kept idle rather than put in competition with the highest wisdom.

According to the Walker commission the Nicaragua canal will cost in the neighborhood of \$125,000,000. If it should cost twice as much we would have to have it. Indispensable necessities outweigh considerations of economy.

Difficulties.

Admiral Sampson's opinion as to the unpreparedness of the majority of Cubans belonging to the poorer classes for republican government as Americans understand the term is corroborated.

One of the most efficient of the new officials at Santiago de Cuba is Major Barber, who was an assistant of M. J. Handy in the bureau of promotion and publicity during the World's Fair.

What is the smallest income on which a man may live in New York? was the question the Philadelphia Ledger's Gotham correspondent asked the other day.

Robert P. Porter says the customs collectors at the port of Santiago are ready twice as much as they used to be under Spanish control.

Under the Spanish penal code, when a person is arrested he is put in prison and may remain there seventy-two hours before anything is done with the case.

acquainted with the evidence against him. It may or may not be given in court. If held he is sent back to prison, and it is at the pleasure of the officials as to when he shall have a trial.

As showing peculiarities in the Spanish law which sharply distinguish it from Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence, the same writer adds: "In the Spanish code is a long list of 'extenuating circumstances'.

Thus the judge, under the Spanish code, is virtually omnipotent power in so far as he can in turn be ruled by influence or fear.

Attention is called to the exceedingly interesting resume on another page of the operations of the Pennsylvania Insurance department during the vigilance and effective commissioner of Colonel James H. Lambert.

The Military Method.

Military government is not generally supposed to be the form best adapted to a stable civilization; yet when honestly and intelligently administered it is not without strong advantages.

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cleaning a street the Spaniard begged for mercy, and was released with the understanding that he should set a good example to his neighbors.

A few such examples in some of our highly civilized American cities would supply food for thought.

In 1890 the population of the United States was 8,900,000, and we had a foreign commerce valued at \$162,000,000, inclusive of both imports and exports.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Admiral Sampson advances these interesting opinions: "The average Cuban is not capable of self-government.

The navy department has received reports from nearly all the war vessels which took active part either in the battles or the bombardments of the Spanish-American war.

Writes W. E. Curtis to the Chicago Record: "Lieutenant Hobson has telegraphed that the newspaper reports of his military performances have been very much exaggerated.

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are being based upon desired receipts of \$2,000,000 a year, which will make a minimum total of \$13,000,000.

In 1790 the population of the United States was a trifle under four million. At that time the foreign commerce of the country—imports and exports—had a total value of about fifty millions of dollars.

FOOLISH OBSTRUCTION.

From the Philadelphia Times. Never was the want of intelligent leadership more conspicuously shown by the military committee of the house in an example.

STRICT CONSTRUCTION.

From the Philadelphia Record. It is held that the provision of the federal constitution which forbids the United States or any state from assuming or paying any debt or obligation incurred by any state or municipality.

NOT DANGEROUS.

From the New York Sun. What drug of stupefaction, or what sudden stroke of hopeless hebetude, has paralyzed the perceptions and the understanding of the remaining leaders of the Democratic party in congress?

Realism Not Sustained. Hixon—What did you think of the play last night?

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