

The Scranton Tribune

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The point raised by Colonel Waterhouse in an interview in another column relative to the duration in service of the so-called provisional guard is most important.

The Senatorial Situation. As the matter stands, Senator Quay is the regular Republican nominee for United States senator, hearing the endorsement of a clear majority of the Republican membership in the legislature but not having committed to his support by caucus resolution a majority of the whole membership of the legislature.

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are to be paid for under a well-defined system. Each penny taken will be accounted for, but no single port city will be permitted to enrich itself from port collections at the expense of other districts of income.

It may be necessary to go slowly in this matter; but the trend of progress must be in the direction of teaching the Cubans how to distinguish between local and federal rights.

An Acceptable Decision. The legislature has made a good beginning in deciding to adjourn in less than four months. In this time it ought to be able to give intelligent consideration to the necessary appropriation bills, put into effect the degree of economy which revenue conditions imperatively demand and enact a fair amount of advisable general legislation.

There is need of ballot reform along the lines recommended by Secretary Martin and Governor Hastings; there ought to be some kind of legislation designed to lessen the intolerable tax burdens growing out of the hogtishness of shark aldermen, constables and justices of the peace; provision should be made for the employment of convicts in ways that will least compete with free labor; a consolidation of tax receiverships in third-class cities is demanded by strong considerations of public economy and efficiency; and numerous measures affecting particular interests are ready for presentation, some of which will recommend themselves to public favor. The enactment of these measures will not, however, require prolonged time, for the mind of the people concerning them is already made up.

Heretofore a large part of the time of the legislature has been consumed by profligate and often scandalous partisan or factional maneuvering. This may be attempted during the present session but if so, it should be promptly suppressed. There will be efficient leadership in the present general assembly and the best thing the rank and file can do is to acquiesce in its suggestions. If this shall be done the legislature can adjourn on April 20, leaving behind it a fine record of good work and very few scandals.

The story from Havana that it was a Spanish judge, now a fugitive, who plotted the destruction of the Maine requires confirmation. But we ought now to be in pretty good condition to get at the bottom of that crime.

The New Capitol. Public opinion will very generally agree with Governor Hastings that the capitol building commission has not kept faith with the legislature which created it or with the people. We may hold what opinions we please as to the sufficiency of a \$550,000 building as the capitol of the second American commonwealth; these are strong arguments both for and against so modest a structure.

But the place for the settlement of these differences was in the last legislature before the bill was passed. There was where the matter of a price limit should have been discussed fully and decided. For the commission to assume by its subsequent course that the intent of the people was to build an elaborate capitol, of which the \$550,000 portion was to be merely the crude beginning, was to take a liberty exceeding its jurisdiction. Such an assumption invites the spirited criticism which the governor pronounces.

The present legislature should promptly take up this matter and decide what further is to be done. It is possible that public opinion would sanction a reasonable supplementary appropriation intended to put the new monument on capitol hill in something like presentable shape. But if such a measure is adopted it must be economical in amount and emphatic in its instructions of finality. The people of Pennsylvania will never submit to have foisted upon them a prolonged new capitol job.

There is evidently no key to the Philippine situation, but Admiral Dewey doubtless knows how to make one.

they must face the facts and help in the performance of the nation's manifest duty. The Wilkes-Barre Record Almanac for 1898 is one of the most complete of the inland publications. Greater care than ever seems to have been taken in compiling the current issue, which contains much valuable information concerning the city of Wilkes-Barre and the enterprising towns of Luzerne county. In addition to the usual matter of statistical nature the book for 1898 contains an interesting record of the war experience of the Ninth regiment, as well as a complete roll of members in the service, which will prove convenient for reference for years to come.

It sounds strange to read in a Havana dispatch that American soldiers have been punished in Cuba for carrying Cuban flags. This seems like discipline made ridiculous.

It is unkind in Spain to remind us that we gave Aguirre the chance to get away. But Spain's own past does not qualify her to say much about other people's mistakes.

General Gomez in a published letter complains that the heel of America is on Cuba's neck. The old gentleman is mistaken. He will live to regret such words.

It is time for astrologers, weather prophets and others who expect to predict all kinds of dire calamities for 1899 to get to work.

Perhaps the reason the president doesn't speak in behalf of the peace treaty is because the peace treaty speaks for itself.

Brother Roberts, of Utah, begins to realize that there are drawbacks even to a national reputation.

If there should be a deadlock in the general assembly, Governor Stone ought to make a good locksmith.

NOTES ON PORTO RICO. Correspondence of the Associated Press. San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 28.—In the matter of cleanliness this city is decidedly the best of any of our inland towns to San Juan, or, better yet, if one comes from the average West Indian port to San Juan, San Juan will at first seem clean in comparison with the streets of Porto Rico's capital are for the most part very well paved and are kept actually fairly clean. A comparison can be made to a shiny, steel floor on a very muddy wagon wheel. The city streets are for the most part clean, but the houses and the numerous interior courts and connecting alleyways are indescribably dirty. If you ask what should be done for the sanitation of the city you will very likely be answered "everything." There is no doubt but that the question needs very thorough handling and one can well say that everything must be done to make the city speak of her own in the past and of their own will the people will do nothing today.

San Juan city is built on the western end of a long and narrow island that runs almost due east and west across the northern side of the Puerto Rico. The northern side of this island is the highest, being sixty or seventy feet above sea level, and from this ridge the land slopes evenly to the south of the harbor of the island. The harbor is large and has an eastern and western entrance; the western entrance only can be used by ships, the eastern entrance is shallow. But there is a fair current of water through the harbor with each slight rise and fall of the tide. The prevailing winds are from the north.

new ones. However this may be, much has already been done toward getting ample and good water to this city, and this matter is of first importance to the city's health.

If the undesirable first floor negro is to stay in town he must first be taught how to live properly and how to do so. It is not sufficient to post instructions on tenement house doors; sewers must be built and until that time all washing of clothes should be done in separate public lavatories; there must be ample and good water; proper and hygienic living must be severely punished for each infraction of the rules; only thus can they be handled and effectively taught. It will be useless and farcical to attempt to force them to live properly without giving them the means so to do.

The situation can be summed up thus shortly: the city today is overcrowded, there is not sufficient water and what there is is bad, the soil is impregnated and poisoned with the accumulation of years and centuries and there are no sanitary arrangements such as sewers and drains. The question can be handled in the present state of affairs from the shoulders, in which case the population of the tenements will have to be thinned out. Or the matter can be temporarily. The cleaning of the city is now in the hands of the city council. Since the American occupation they have been attempting to get something done in the matter, but they clearly lack the ability to grasp and handle the question. They have no idea as to what a clean city, according to our American ideas, should be. Nor each man has ever been intimately acquainted with one. At a recent meeting of the council when this subject came up for discussion one of the members remarked: "Let us show the Americans that we can keep this city clean as well as they can." Inasmuch as we have before us the result of several centuries of effort in this direction, the remark appears ridiculous.

The matter of the sanitation of this city needs American handling. It calls for a North American to run it. It is a matter of public health, and it is the duty of the municipal authorities to allow the Porto Ricans to administer, within certain limitations, their own affairs. Well and good, but the matter of health, which affects every American resident in the capital, should be energetically administered by an American. It is manifest that a Porto Rican cannot do it as it should be done.

On the northern ridge of the city of San Juan is a line of old Spanish fortifications. There are walls many feet thick broken by embrasures for cannon and old sentry boxes. In picturesque proximity they stretch along above the breakers from Morro Castle on the western end to the old fortress of San Cristobal on the other. This part of San Juan is most attractive. It is exposed to the persistent trade winds and the ground is the highest in town. It is the best location in the city, but unfortunately it is now occupied by San Juan's worst and dirtiest inhabitants.

The old walls and the broad street between them lend themselves to an attractive scheme of city improvement. With grading and leveling there could be built here the most attractive drive in the West Indies. The old walls would hold it up from the sea. Morro Castle would mark one end, San Cristobal the other, there would be the cool trades to rattle the palms and to give shade, lights would make it bright at night, the waves would flash white over the rocks, and the sun would set in a color. If such an enterprise were started by the municipality or the state, private enterprise would follow, the tumble down barracks that now face the future driveway and this property would be improved and all would be in keeping.

THE TALE OF A JUJUBEE. Said the High Tote-a-Tote of the Googoolites. "It is very apparent to me that somewhere back in the forest black is a horrible jujubee."

"Indeed it is so," said the Worthy Jo-Jo, "For I saw the thing climbing a tree, and I learned a few things 't is important to know."

"When you hunt for a Jujubee: "As big as a horse and as spry as a cat, 'Tis a terrible thing to behold! With claws like a hawk and wings like a bat, 'T would cause all your blood to run cold."

"And then there's its tail! It's as long as a rail, With a sharp, shining spear on the end; Its head is as big as the head of a whale And its mouth to its ears doth extend. "Oh, this horrible, horrible jujubee!" said the High Tote-a-Tote in alarm, "We must hunt it and kill it, as you must see. Before it does any more harm!"

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- Georgetown, Hawley, Honesdale, Waymart, Elmhurst, Moscow, Miners Mills, Mill Creek, Lattin, Yatesville, Pittston, Duryea, Lackawanna, Taylor, Avoca, Moosic, Delaware, Manunka Chunk, Starbuck, Conklin, Great Bend, New Milford, Alford, Kingsley, Foster, Nicholson, Factoryville, La Plume, Glenburn, Clark's Summit, Chinchilla, Olyphant, Mayfield, Noy And, Scranton, Dinwiddie, Wimmers, Maplewood, Lake Ariel.

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