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SCRANTON, JANUARY 6, 1899.

If William McKinley can have his way there will be no "crushing" of rebels in either Cuba or the Philippines.

Roosevelt's First Message.

The first message of Governor Roosevelt is a document of widespread interest.

First of all he congratulates the public upon the remarkable success which attended American arms in the just war with Spain.

A large part of the message is devoted to the consideration of labor interests.

It is a great mistake for the army and navy to use different rifles, but it is a greater mistake for the army and navy to use different cartridges.

The production of gold in the United States alone last year was enough to give every American citizen one gold dollar.

The military plot which is becoming less dangerous in Paris.

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men who are eager to volunteer, it is a pity to employ men who can be ill spared.

It is evident that the new governor Miles in his fight against the management of the military department by politicians, for he says: "A very wise act of the late legislature has, for the first time, put the organization of the guard in this state on a proper footing.

We now have a major general who is in fact, and not merely in name, the head of the national guard.

The adjutant general is to work in conjunction with him; he is not an independent officer, still less a superior officer.

He can do no more than deliver the orders of the governor and act as his representative. The major general has the power, and he should be given every possible facility for the exercise of this power.

It is his duty to bring the guard up to the proper pitch of efficiency, he should be removed and another put in his place; but so long as he is in office he must be given a free hand.

In other words, he must be given full power, so that the responsibility can be settled upon him, and then he should be held responsible for the exercise of this power and responsibility.

In the matter of equipping the guard Colonel Roosevelt goes to the heart of the matter, saying: "The lamentable result of keeping the guard armed with archaic weapons, utterly unfit for modern warfare, was shown very conclusively in the late conflict with Spain.

It is an understatement of the case to say that a single first-class regiment, armed with the Krag-Jorgensen, is worth three regiments armed with a low-power, single-shot, black-powder piece like the Springfield.

The national guard should be armed with a small-calibre, high-power rifle, preferably that used by the regular army.

In any event the cartridge should be the same. The last point is of utmost importance. All the fighting forces of this country should use the same cartridge.

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should assume a more equitable portion of the cost.

Of all the theories as to the cause of the blowing up of the Maine the one mentioned, but not credited, by Town Topics is the most startling.

According to that paper's informant, "the perpetrator of this awful crime is a citizen of the United States. He was employed to bring about trouble between this country and Spain by persons interested in the commercial spoils of a war.

He went to Havana and arranged for the launching of a torpedo that was to strike a small vessel lying between the Maine and the Alfonso XII, and so give the Americans an irresistible pretext for the Spanish had attempted to blow up the Maine.

It unfortunately struck the American man-of-war." When will the country know the truth?

That interesting journal, Town Topics, has a way of stating truths which is refreshing.

For example: "Mr. Bryan's nomination in 1900 will mean the election of McKinley as certainly as it did in 1896. No genuine Democrat can for a moment sanction this predestined fiasco.

Mr. Bryan must be struck off the list of presidential possibilities now and forever. Then he may be left to talk himself to death."

The Chicago Record, in an earnest editorial, calls attention to the fact that the present century does not end until December 31, 1900.

The popular idea that the century will end next December is all wrong. The twentieth century will not begin until January 1, 1901, so people need not be in haste about becoming poetic over the last year of the nineteenth century.

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pledged, would die for him. He seems to have a strong feeling of patriotism that is in rare instances given to kings who sway by hereditary right, or to great military leaders, but seldom to men called "politicians" and almost never to those we proudly term "statesmen."

That silent, powerful feeling was manifested in the grand, heroic, and Tuesday night caucus. It was not for mere political preferment, nor for hope of reward, but for love and honor of something noble and will not be less more than enthusiasm and little less than holiness.

The legislature in the brand new chamber with its gilded red walls seems almost like an experiment, so new is everything. The room—the building, the speaker, and most of the members are spick span new.

There are new clothes and new ideas. It is, in fact, a new legislature. Notwithstanding the governor's lugubrious tale of four years' woe and somewhat dubious prognostications, it looks like a legislature which will do something noble and will not be less more than enthusiasm and little less than holiness.

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