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The discharge of the Monaghan from custody should be followed by energetic action against the so-called detectives who effected their false arrest. This is necessary as an example.

Result of the Primaries.
The one great advantage about a popular form of government is that under it the people can always get what they think they want and change it when they find out that they don't want it.

Senator Quay isn't talking as much as the Van Valkenburgh outfit, but it is noticeable that he is slowly but surely curbing the necessary number of votes.

Nelson Dingley.
The career of public usefulness and distinction which came to an end on Friday night by the death of Hon. Nelson Dingley presents many points of interest and instruction.

Mr. Dingley's parents were poor. They tried farming without much success and then took to tavern-keeping, combining with it the management of a country store.

The remainder of Mr. Dingley's history is better known. A student of law soon inclined to journalism, he became, in 1856, when 21 years old, the proprietor and publisher of the Lewiston Journal, then published as a weekly.

The late chairman of the way and means committee of the house of representatives—the post which involves party leadership on the floor of the house and is, in power and influence, the third highest position in our government, being inferior to the speakership and the presidency only—was a strong partisan, who believed in Republicanism and in honorable loyalty to party organization and methods.

Nelson Dingley was not a natural politician; he was simply an ordinary man fitted by a clear conscience and a strong will to a plane of great eminence and usefulness.

Anti-expansionists and others who want to be on the contrary side are offered an opportunity to rush to the defense of mummy beef and General Egan.

The Biggest Ship Afloat.
At Belfast on Saturday the White Star line steamship Oceanic was launched, a fact notable for two reasons. In the first place this ship is now the largest craft afloat.

At a meeting held two years ago in the saloon of the United States mail steamship St. Paul the passengers then present, who represented every section of the United States and every political party, adopted unanimously a preamble and set of resolutions calling public attention to the fact that that noble ship, which has since done royal service for the country in a time of war, was American throughout and urging Americans to take steps to call into being more of such like vessels

will determine, through their representatives, what relations we shall sustain to the Philippines. Shall we hold the sovereignty in trust for their people, as we will do in Cuba, or shall we, with their consent, establish a protectorate over them, or govern them as we will the island of Porto Rico? All these important questions will properly come up for determination after the ratification of the treaty.

The launching at Elswick, Eng., Saturday of the American cruiser Albany served two purposes. It gave English public opinion an opportunity to show its good will, which was improved to the limit, and it drew attention to the necessity under which the United States, the leading manufacturing nation of the world, which builds warships for Russia and Japan, had to scour the markets of Europe for ships to add to its own navy.

A reduction in the rate of postage between Great Britain and Canada from 5 to 2 cents for letter postage went into effect Jan. 1 and already the postal receipts in Canada for this kind of correspondence have doubled. The people generally want cheaper postage and they celebrate each reduction in cost by writing more letters.

The burden of anti-expansionist trouble seems to be the thought of what might happen if this country was governed by a bloodthirsty despot instead of a wise, conservative chief magistrate who is prompted only by motives of humanity in dealing with a helpless race unable at present to control its own interests.

Hobson, too, is an expansionist. At Honolulu he recently said: "I believe that American citizenship will not be found unequal to any work that may fall to its lot. It will not even in the face of dangers and obstacles shirk any of the duties it owes in the uplifting of the human race."

It is scarcely to be expected that the Philippines can be made to readily understand the situation when alleged statesmen at home continue to wilfully or otherwise misconstrue the motives of the administration in working for the best interests of the down-trodden races of the east.

A five-year-old "boy preacher" has been silenced in New York. It has heretofore been demonstrated that success as a boy orator or preacher can seldom be obtained under the age of forty.

Aguinaldo has probably concluded to postpone his homing at Iloilo.

Special Correspondence of Associated Press.
San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 31.—The Porto Rican business men is of keen intelligence and of quick perceptions. His relations in the past have been largely with old established and reliable European concerns and today he is making comparisons between the "business" of the American pioneer with baggage and sample trunk, arriving daily landing upon the shores of his island home, and the business men of the continent whom he has known in the past.

The Porto Rican is hard to fool. Because his island is in a far away corner of the West Indies, the location of which has only lately become known to the majority of Americans not in schools, and because he has lived quietly at home and attended to the business of pleasures of a community of some eight hundred thousand people, he is none the less a pretty good judge of men and manners.

As the Porto Rican is quick to detect the roughness, the bad manners, the lack of courtesy, the deceptions and the guile of some of his recent visitors, so he is equally quick to perceive contrary qualities in others among them. On the first points he is perhaps over sensitive and may be said to fall in appreciation of the rough diamond. On the other hand there are qualities present in the Anglo-Saxon gentleman of breeding that are incomprehensible to the men of this capital as is the idea of cold and snow to the ignorant laborer of this tropical island.

In the beginning, the Porto Rican overestimated us, and part of the awkward he is now experiencing is a natural reaction. In the beginning the word American stood for all that was best in the way of government, civilization, advancement, education, manners and commerce. Our country and its institutions were looked up to by the masses in a way that is difficult to understand today.

tal awakening, which has been furthered and forced to the other extreme by the representatives of the United States who are now in evidence in Porto Rico.

The misbehavior of the American troops came first. It was disappointing to discover that the saviors of the country behaved with unmistakable wisdom. This was hardly in accordance with preconceived ideas. But the misdemeanors seemed to continue, and although we found many staunch defenders, men and women, too, who said that it was unfair to judge an army by the action of a few of its soldiers and much more unjust to judge a people by volunteer soldiers, recruited from the lower and worst classes; that soldiers were on a campaign were never known for their gentle manners, that things would soon be better, etc., talk of our undisciplined troops prevailed in the local papers and examples of their misdoings were printed and repeated by word of mouth.

Still, there was much truth in the many assertions. A gentleman of the acquaintance, a 20 years' resident of Porto Rico, a man of culture, education and much knowledge of our country and Europe, said that he had lived in Porto Rico during many troubled years and under many modes of administration; that he had always avoided politics, attended quietly to his profession of doctor, and that during all his residence here he had not seemed impossible, but that now it did. In the past his family had always been able to attend mass, to walk on the plaza on a Sunday evening and to sit out on their porch, which is on the second floor, without molestation of any kind from any one.

People here looked forward to a commercial revival and an influx of American vessels, but the army; these were rose colored dreams as to what American business would do for the island. For these dreams we are not responsible. They were unreasonably exaggerated by the islanders themselves and it is not our fault if we have not fulfilled their expectations.

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