the Scranton Tribune

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The discharge of the Monaghans 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. In the long run we suppose this will apply to the Crawford county system, which on Saturday put in nomination for mayor a man who, it has been alleged, was largely instrumental in placing in office the present city administration. The Tribune will, of course, support the majurity choice of the party and it trusts that that choice will fulfil the high expectations of the people who made it. The remainder of the ticket is irreproachable.

Sepator Quay jen't talking as much as the Van Valkenberg outnit, but it is noticeable that he is slowly but surely Out of a panel of 40 men he can arbicorralling the necessary number of

Nelson Dingley.

The career of public usefulness and distinction which came to an end on Friday night by the death of Hon. Nel-Interest and instruction. It is a good career to put before the minds of young men. It will do them good to contem-

Mr. Dingely'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. As a boy Nelson Dingley helped them as much as he could and walked three miles, morning and night, to school. Maine was not a temperance state in the later '40's, nor was the country tavern a place usually characterized by total abstinence, but young Dingley believed in keeping intoxicants out of his own system as well as out of the systems of other people, and proved his faith by establishing, when only 16 years old, a section of the Cadets of Temperance, The following year he taught a country school and in 1851 entered college, from which he graduated in due course with

The remainder of Mr. Dingley's life story 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. Of it he made a powerful political factor; partly because of the ability shown by him in its conduct and partly because he was a clean, conscientious and sincere man, he was soon sent to represent his town in the Maine legislature, of which he was a leader and, some years afterward speaker. He then was elected and re-elected governor, declining a third term; and when William P. Frye, representing the Secand Maine district in congress, was made senator, My. Dingley was chosen by a phenomenal majority to succeed him, and was returned term after term until his death.

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 interior to the speakership and the presidency only-was a scrong partisan, who believed in Republicanism and in honorable loyalty to party organization and methods; in a purely political sense had little use for a Democrat or a kicker; he carried into his public ideals and opinions the firmness and much of the inflexibility of his Puritan ancestry; but he was invariably a courteous, considerate, high-toned Christian gentieman, who had, it is said, not a single personal enemy in Washington and though characterized by exceptional in- portant conclusion. dustry, was untouched by scandal or suspicion of any kind.

Nelson Dingley was not a natural genius; he was simply an ordinary man tifted by a clear conscience and a titude of deserting those whom we had strong will to a plane of great eminence and usefulness. The man is gone but not the lesson of his example. ---

Anti-expansionists and others who want to be on the contrary side are defense of muramy beef and General

The Biggest Ship Affoat.

At Belfast on Saturday the White Star line steamship Oceanic was launched, a fact notable for two rea-764 feet or nearly one-seventh of a mile long, 68 feet beam, 44 feet depth ment, with 40,000 horse-power engines and the finest interior equipment that no means to the credit of American enterprise. And this reminds us.

At a meeting held two years ago in

sailing under the American flag. The will determine, through their represenresolutions pledged those present "to tatives, what relations we shall susunite in urging our citizens to support | tain to the Philippines. Shall we hold by their patronage, and our congress the sovereignty in trust for their peoto aid by appropriate and liberal laws, ple, as we will do in Cuba, or shall the efforts of the American line to we, with their consent, establish a promaintain a place in the merchant ma- tectorate over them, or govern them rine of the world; and, by legislative as we will the Island of Porto Rico? All action, to extend still further encour- these important questions will properly agement to our merchants in their come up for determination after the efforts to recover our lost commercial supremacy in the carrying trade of the oceans, putting an end to our present dependence upon ships of foreign nations for the carriage of the productions of our own country," properly holding that "both National pride and National interest demand that the hundreds of millions of dollars yearly paid by the people of the United States to foreign ships for ocean freights shall navigated by our own citizens and flying our own colors."

There is absolutely no sufficient reaon why we should depend on England, Germany, France or any other foreign country for ocean transportation. We have the business to support American ships, we have good American ship yards to build them and we have some of the hardiest and shrewdest mariners affoat to sail them. The one lacking essential is a system of government subsidies adequate to put American capital into ship-building on terms capital. This lack the present congress is expected to supply.

Under existing law the district atterney has the right to make six times as many peremptory challenges in the prosecution of a criminal case as has the legal representative of the defense. trarily stand aside 24, while the defense can peremptority challenge only 4. This virtually puts into the hands of the district attorney the power, in a case involving political, religious or race prejudices, either to convict or to tie up a jury regardless of the law and son Dingley presents many points of the evidence. Senator McCarrell's bill righting this obvious injustice is clearly a move in the interest of fair play.

Senator Gray's View.

Good reading at this time is the peech of Senator Gray, of Delaware, saturday night at Wilmington to the fellow-citizens who gave a banquet in honor of his service as a member of the Paris peace commission. Senator Gray went on this mission a stouthearted anti-expansionist; the frame of mind in which he returns may best e described in his own words. Said

"We are now in a crisis of our national history, and your hearts and mine, as patriotic citizens of this great country, are full of anxiety as to a proper settlement of the momentous isues which have resulted from the war with Spain. The acquisition of territory by the United States was not one of the objects of the war, and we solunnly declared in the resolutions of ongress that our only object in denanding the relinquishment of the sovreignty of Cuba by Spain was not to hold it ourselves, except that we might pacify it and fit it for self government by its own people. But in this as in all else, 'Man propeses and God disposes.' I ardently desired that we might escape the necessity of taking the Philippine Islands, and assuming the burden that their taking will impose upon us, and I know that the president of the United States was equally anxious to the same end. But it became apparent that without our seeking, unexpected conditions had been created, and out of those conditions unquestionable duties had sprung. which could not be avoided or evaded by the United States,

"Commodore Dewcy had brought Aguinaldo back to Luzon, and by his leadership and the encouragement of the American fleet, the embers of the insurrection which had died out were rekindled into a flame, and the assistonce of the insurgent forces was giadly availed of by our commodere. It then came to the thought that in our settlement with Spain we could not honorably leave the inhabitants of those islands to the tender mercies of their Spanish oppressors. I know that that situation appealed to the heart of your president and that he believed he was representing American manhood and American character when he said, as finally he did, that whatever became of those islands and those people, it was not in our blood to hand them back to Spain. It was a feeling of this kind, I know, that animated the government whose long service in congress, all of Mr. McKinley in coming to this im-

"He said, and I know he felt, that whatever else might be the fate of these islands and of this people, he could not put our country in the atplaced in a new position of antagonism to their rulers. On the other hand, if American sentiment did not justify the return of those Islands to Spain, no more could it justify leaving them derelict in the Eastern ocean, the prey offered an opportunity to rush to the of the first occupant and of European rapacity. It was thought best by the president and his advisers to take the cession of their sovereignty from Spain and hold it in trust, to be administered in conformity to those high ideals and liberty-loving traditions which animate and glorify the history of our country. That I sought in Paris by all honsons. In the first place this ship is orable means to escape this responsinow the largest craft affoat. She is billty does not matter now. It came to a point at last that we must either leave the Islands to Spain, take them of hold and 17,040 tons gross measure- as we did, or break off negotiations and

come home without a treaty of peace." Further along in his speech the senhuman ingenuity can supply. In the ator-from Delaware said: "Without second place the Oceanic, although assuming for a moment any right to doing most of its business with Ameri- speak for the president, I think that I cans, will represent British capital and can assure you that he is committed to fly the British flag, a circumstance by no politics, calculated to discourage, much less strike down the liberty-loving people all over the world. I belong to a different political party, but I the saloon of the United States mail would be false to my sense of justice steamship St. Paul the passengers then and to that pride which I feel as an present, who represented every section American, if I did not declare my conof the United States and every politi- fidence in the patriotism and purity of cal party, adopted unanimously a pre- principles of William McKinley. He ambie and set of resolutions calling is no usurper of power, no stranger to public attention to the fact that that American Institutions. But the solunoble ship, which has since done royal tion of the problems which confront us service for the country in a time of is not with the president. When the war, was American throughout and treaty is ratified, no policy can be

ratification of the treaty." It is folly or crime to force their premature determination now,

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 be paid to our own vessels, built and 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. Fortunately the Albany is a good boat; in buying her we get our money's worth, which is more than can be said of all the purchases made last spring when we were arming for the war with Spain.

A reduction in the rate of postage between Great Britain and Canada from to 2 cents for letter postage went into effect Jan. 1 and already the postal of equality with competitive foreign 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. If congress would force the railroads to carry mail for the government as cheaply in proportion as they carry other articles for private shippers we could at once have penny letter postage.

The burden of anti-expansionist rouble 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 in-

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 Pilipines 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" ha been silenced in New York. It has heretofore been demonstrated that success as a boy orator or preacher can soldon be obtained under the age of

Aguinaldo has probably concluded to postpone his bontire at Hoilo

PORTO RICANS' WOES

ecial Correspondence of Associated

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 with baggage and sample trunk, are daily landing upon the shores of his island home, and the business men of have been placed and indefinite future the continent whom he has known in the past. The result of this keen scrutlny and comparison is not overwhelmingly favorable to the American pioneer, it has, in fact, brought into life the old Spanish word "buscones. "Buscar," to hunt, to seek, "buscones," hunters, seekers, adventurers, and some even say the term means cheats and

The Porto Rican is hard to fool. Be cause 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. The Americans who are today in evidence upon this island have been weighed and found wanting. Commercially we are making the same mistake here that we have already made in another Latin-American country and that has been to un derestimate the intelligence, the perception and the culture of the business men thereof.

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 is he equally quick to perceive contrary qualities in others among them. On the first points he is perhaps over sensitive and may be said to fail in appreciation of the rough liamond. On the other hand there are qualities present in the Anglo-Saxon gentlemen of breeding that are as incomprehensible to the men of this capital as is the idea of cold and snow to

In the beginning, the Porto Rican overestimated us, and part of the awakening he is now experiencing is a naization, advancement, education, man-ners and commerce. Our country and its institutions were looked up to by the masses in a way that is difficult to understand today. Americans fresh from the States were regarded as almost superior beings; when we landed here before the war the islanders invested rs with a glamor of the wonders in Wash ngton and New York that we had but recently gazed upon. Anything and everything American was considered to be pre-eminently the best of its kind. In the beginning our welcome was based upon these concepstars and Stripes would carry with it some magical influence from the great country up north, sufficient in itself to put an end to all that was unjust and wrong and to straighten out the and wrong and to straighten out the

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 saviours of the country behaved with unmistakable rowdyism. This was hardly in accordance with precenceived ideas. But the misdemeanors seemed to continue, and although we found many staunch defenders, men and women, too, who said that is was unfair to judge an army by the action of a few of its sol diers and much more unjust to judge a people by volunteer soldlers, recruited from the lower and worst classes that soldlers were on a campaign were never known for their gentle manners, that things would scon be better, etc. talk of our undisciplined troops prevailed in the local papers and example of their misdoings were printed and repeated by word of mouth. Some men realized that these actions were in truth no fair criterion of a people such men could perceive the self-respecting men in the army. In a way that was pathetic because of its ill concealed disar pointment a well known local paper argued for fair judgment and the refraining from hasty and unjust general criticism. The educated natives saw the matter in this light, but the majority did not; the majority judges the army and the country by the acts of a few and mal-reputation of our soldlers grew apace. swung back too far in the other direction-this is a country and language of exaggerated words- and the army got worse than it deserved.

Still, there was much truth in th many assertions. A gentlemen of th writer's acquaintance, a 30 years' res ident of Ponce and a man of culture education and much knowledge of our country and Europe, said that he had tived in Porto Rico during many troub led years and under many modes of ad ministration; that he had always avoid ed politics and attended quietly to hi profession of doctor, and that during all his residence here life had not seemed impossible, but that now it did In the past his family had always been able to attend mass, to walk on th 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. But now that his daughters could not even sit at their own windows without being subjected to insult, much less go on the streets Consequently his family were as pris oners within the walls of their home and it was his firm intention to remove himself and them to a country where such things did not prevail. The Porto Rican is no saint; far from it indeed, he has his full share of faults and vices, but the rowdyism of uncontrolled troops is particularly distasteful and offensive to a people who are at least gentle.

People here looked forward to a commercial revival and an Influx of American capital to follow the army; there 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 The capital will doubless come by means of loan and trust companies and the business revival is retarded by the existing tariffs. But the islanders ex pected so much and today see so lit tle that his heart fails him and he cries: "My unhapy country, what is thy future?" He has seen a number of Americans, all auxious to exploit his for all he is worth, and this instead of He has been offered ms dreams. varied assortment of cheap goods by loud speaking drummers, who hav come down declaring they would show the "dagos" how to hustle, Because of existing tariffs and uncertainity cor cerning the money question the Ports Rican has bought sparingly, and the drummer has gone home, declaring that 'pioneers of American commerce" who, the Island was no good. Beer, whiskey and tobacco sellers have been the mosfortunate; some orders for these goods contracts entered into. But the seekers abound, looking for chances. They have found it difficult to obtain advantages from the government and they have found Porto Ricans anxious to sell poor farms for good prices, Many have gone back to the states in disgust, others are holding on, always waiting for some indefinite opportun-

> This is how the Porto Rican sec us, and he is a good judge of men and manners. This is the outcome of his exaggerated hopes and he is prone to whimper like a child. First impressions are lasting, shattered idols are slow in re-establishing themselves. The Porto Rican had no right to the idol. but he set it up and today it is crumbling. To the Porto Rican the result of the last three months is doubt Doubt as to what future does really He before this country, doubt as what the Americans can and will do There is regret that we did not land to find him fighting the Spanfard that they then might have th same claim to independence as has Cuba. Rose colored hopes gave us a ringing welcome in the beginning, sor owful doubt has stepped in and today we get only the welcome of our courtesy and good manners.

NEWS AND COMMENT.

The attention of Senator Morgan and Nicaraguan canal enthusiasts is called by W. E. Curtis to a canal in Egypt which for a period of more than 4,000 years has never ceased to fulfill its purpose. It was built by the govern-ment under the direction of Joseph, the brother of Benjamin, who was the son of Rachel and Jacob, who was the son the ignorant laborer of this tropical of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham who was the chosen of the Lord. It is known as the Bahr Joussuf, and not only waters the entire province of Fayoum, endowing it with fertility and supporting a large population all these centuries, bu ening he is now experiencing is a na-tural reaction. In the beginning the lit leaves the Nile at Alsut and runs at word American stood for all that was most parallel with it for 250 miles, until it best in the way of government, civil- gains at eminence as compared with the ization, advancement, education, man-river bed which enables it to turn westward through a narrow pass seventeen feet above the mean level of the river and a district which is otherwise shut off from the fertilizing floods upon which ill Egypt depends. Ancient writers, such as Herodotus, Strabo and Pliny, as well as the monkish legends, declare that the enstruction of this canal not only fur nished a channel of navigation and irrigation to an entire province, but moder ated the climate so as to make it habit able for human beings,

General Leopard Wood, the militar commander at Santiago, who arrived is welcome was based upon these concep-tions. It was thought that the pass-ing of Spain and the acceptance of the He was quickly ushered into the blue war, was American throughout and treaty is ratified, no policy can be urging Americans to take steps to call adopted without the sanction of confairy's wand. From this unreal mental manner, and insisted on his joining the many as 230 occupants.

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here of the evening. Congratulations were rained upon him by men in high of-ficial life. It is suggested by a number of prominent men that congress vote General Wood a medal of henor for his distinguished services to the country. It is said that the president may recommend that congress take such action.

A census of San Juan, Porto Rice, has been made. The population is given as 15,215, with 1,656 houses. Of the occupants 5,000 are males and 7,215 are fe-males. Some two-story buildings had as 434 Lackawanna Avenue

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The first three lots are in lengths ranging from four yards to twelve and fifteen yards each, and we unhesitatingly say that, so far as silk values are concerned, this is an opportunity rarely to be met with.

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