## the Scranton Tribune

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### TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MARCH 29, 1899.

The encouragement furnished patriotism by the Scranton school board the other night will not be apt to stimulate a rush for glory on the part of those connected with school work in future.

### Time to Quit Haggling.

The ado of the Times over the \$17,500 street repair contract rests estensibly on the assertion that the work of resurfacing the streets and keeping them in subsequent good repair can be done for less money. Its accusation that The Tribune favors monopolies at the expense of the people is a characteristic

he uttered deliberately. The Tribune cares not a fig for the Barber Asphalt company or any other asphalt company and it would be heartily glad if the city could let a contract for street repairs to a responsible bidder for one-half the sum now But when the Times talks about other companies being ready to offer lower bids it talks simply for effeet. When the bidding was in order all the asphalt companies in creation had a chance to put in lower figures and they didn't do it. Then was when these mythical placent asphalt concerns should have stepped up to the captain's office and made themselves known.

Our position, briefly put, is that the time has arrived when the street must be repaired. Each driver suffers Inconvenience and peril under the existing not-hole conditions. The city itself in liable in damages and each day of dalax increases the mability as well as the costs of repairs when retairs once to be made. The city plant scheme, as we have shown, involves delay until a bond lesue can be toted upon and a loan footed; it involves a cost in excess of the bidnow; it involves jobbery, extravagance and endless waste and as a business proposition it therefore is pre-

Unless a lower responsible bid from capable private enterprise is forthcoming-and we have heard of none-the city should stop its foolishness and order the repairs to proceed. Councils have evidently taken this view and in taking it they undoubtedly reflect public opinion.

"Coin" Harvey's resignation from the office of trust at the National Democratic head pairters was doubtless caused by the absence of coln in suflicient quantities in the contribution

### The Genuine Merit System.

The new librarian of congress, Mr. Herbert Putnam, is, it appears, a be-Hever in civil service reform, but not brand. His idea is that the way to find out whether an applicant for a place has merit is, after reasonable examination of credentials and recommendations, to give the applicant a trial. He once said: "I would lay stress on the proposition laid down by business men generally, that there is no need of an examination to tell them who is the best man for a particular place; and still less need of an examination to tell them what men should be promoted. I think the librarian himself can tell better than any other person.

In anticipation of his assumption of control over the library at Washington the men now in charge have prepared tables giving the records of each person employed in the library. These will be submitted to Mr. Putnam and from them he will doubtless select a number for promotion and a number for dismissal. It is understood to be his intention to select for heads of the various departments men of special ability lu whose judgment, fidelity and executive capacity he has full confidence, affor which they must assume a large share of the responsibility for the workings of their particular departments. Mr. Putnam is to be a general manager aiming to secure good results and politics in the ordinary sense is to have so part or parcel in the library's af-

If the new librarian can secure freedom to work out these ideas of management without having necessary anpropriations held up by jealous senators who utilize this method of showing their pique over the fallure of their attempts to unload favorites on the library pay roll he will erect a monument to himself and to the genuine merit system more enduring than marble. His is evidently the common sense plan. It would be the way the library would be managed if it were a private institution conducted by intelligent directors. And there is need of just such a system in the public service. We trust that it can be officiently established and steadfastly maintained.

The inspectors of rifle practice in the Philippines acknowledge that the Penn- good soldlers in the rough. The nasylvania troops continue to do good tives in revolt are largely recruited

### Cuba and Annexation.

pose that this necessarily means ansecation. In the long run it probably fience, when given by a man of chardoes: for when Cuba is developed sug- acter and special skill, is entitled to Sciently to maintain a stable indepen- weight. dent government she will be developed aufliciently to realize that an indepenthet national existence would be more costly and not half as advantageous as of wormwood and gall. incorporation with the United States. But the recognition of this fact must natural education and evolution; we Winchester have been more effective

f rejuctant subjects.

vill be sugar makes annexation ulti- valley, nately inevitable, therefore American advocates of it need not fret with impatience, 'Cuba cannot sell her sugar o Europe because the European marcet is already supplied with bounty- tion of some of the Allegheny statesed beet sugar. Cuba's natural market is the United States; but if Cuba lects to go it alone she will have to run the risk of going up against the American protective tariff which Porto opprocity means the continual danger are delay, friction and uncertainty.

Annexation, on the other hand, means amediate and permanent possession of all advantages incident to free entry nto American markets and it would put the planters of Cuba at once on Easy street. Where business interests point so unerringly to annexation racial differences, which will naturally disappear as free schools and American immigration invade Cuba, must eventually give way. The dream of the Cuban independents for a Latin republic is an emotional fancy but the necessity of the Cuban business man for free trade relations with the United States is a practical and compelling reality. When the dream and the reality come into direct antagonism the dream will dis-

According to recent reports Aguinaldo has placed a limit upon the drubbing that he will stand at the hands of the United States troops before acknowledging defeat, and it is believed that the limit has almost been reached

### An Expert Opinion.

In an article written for Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for April Major General Wesley Merritt, the first American governor general of the Philippines, offers a number of expert opinions bearing on the future of our flag in that archipelago which have especial | This added to the #2 622,250 population interest and timeliness in view of the in 1890 would indicate a population of fighting now in progress on the island of Luzon. General Merritt wrote before the last aggressive movement by General Otis had been begun, but his observations are not weakened by it, He thinks that for a time 30,000 troops, or about the number now subject to Otis' orders, will be needed in the Philippines, but is confident that as soon as garrisons are well-established on the principal islands and rudimentary local government established native troops to the number of 20,000 can be enlisted in place of an equal number of Americans so that on a normal basis 19,000 American troops of occupation will suffice. Of course the native troops would have to be commanded by American officers and used chiefly for interior police work in small detachments. The question of the effects of the

South Sca tropical climate upon American soldiers fresh from our temperate or wintry zones he regards as important but not necessarily alarming, add-"My own observation in the Philippines was, that so long as our men took care of themselves and followed the instructions given them in regard to clothing, food and exposure to the neonday sun or the night air, they were remarkably healthy. We had very little sickness. There are no epidemic fevers-such as yellow fever-in Manila, and the climate is cooler than that of Hong Kong or the adjacent portions of China. Personally, I had not a day's sickness and everybody I knew who took care of himself got along very well. Such is conspicuously the case with Admiral Dowey, and on his fleet; sick men there are almost as scarce as killed or wounded. Of course, in the navy they have the advantage of living indoors and carrying their houses with them The army is necessarily more exposed. For two weeks General Greene and his brigade were in the trenches up to their middles in water the greater part of the time-that is, while on picket duty, But to offset these hardships, our troops in the Philippines were well supplied. I heard no complaint of the commissary supplies; and, moreover, by means of the bamboo which grows in great profusion in that country, the men made themselves cots, raised above the ground-an important precaution insisted upon by the doctors-and in that way escaped much discomfort and sickness. After the fall of Manila, when the reaction had set in there was rather a lower average of health-perhaps the men became less careful of themselves. Yet while I was in Manila-up to September-there was very little sickness-not a greater percentage than would be found among the same. number of men anywhere."

Manila, in General Merritt's opinion, is a desirable residence city. Its water supply is execulent and it has a great many modern conveniences which are agreeable surprises to the average American visiting it for the first time. The natives, he thinks, were misled into believing that the Americans were cowards. They are a race that require to be impressed by force, after which they are tractable. In their way they are industrious and conrageous and are from the ignorant middle and lewer classes; the better educated natives he thinks are favorable to American con-The recent remark of Postmaster trol because they recognize the unfit-General Smith that the greatest need ness of their own people for unaided of Cuba is a recognition of the fact that and unrestrained self-government. "In stable government has been pledged by brief," says General Metritt, "from the United States and will be estab. what experience and knowledge I have, lished and maintained under any and I am inclined to be as optimistic as ever all circumstances has led many to sup- regarding our flag in the Philippines. As opinion founded on personal expe-

> Mr. Croker's Jeffersonian dinner has already been given an advance flavor

Severe as it may seem, it is probable come to the Cuban people by process of that William Leach, of Ararat, and his

should not want a forcible annexation than a dozen trials by jury in placing were not organized as a military state, a check upon the operations of a cer-The fact that Cuba'schief crop is and | tain class of criminals that infest this

> It is reported that they are catching fish in the vicinity of Pittsburg that have legs. This may explain the acmen at Harrisburg.

The Next Census. The statisticians are already guessing at the population of the United Rican and Hawaiian sugar growers. States to be shown in the next census. being citizens of the United States, will Some claim a growth in the past ten avoid. To survive this discrimination years of 27 per cent., or enough to give he planters of Cuba must have either an 80,000,000 total exclusive of the popuiberal reciprocity or annexation. Re- lation of the new dependencies, about 10,000,000 more. But the probabilities do of a change in tariffs and involves the not seem to favor any such increase, necessity of giving as well as taking. In nine states which have taken cenin which each side is liable to haggle suses half way between the decennnial for special advantages and thus gener. | federal censuses the showing is as fol-

lows:		
Popula	tion.	
States. 180.	1805 I	nerense.
Massachusetts 2,238,943	2,495,347	254,492
Rhode Island 345.506		201, 2552
New Jersey1,444,000	1,672,942	
Michigan 2,093,880	2,311,454	147,565
Wisconsin1,686,880	1,931,505	245,025
Iowa	2,058,069	146,173
Minnesoti:1,301,826	1,574,910	271,521
Konsus	1,334,668	*92,428
Oregon 313,767	362,762	48,990
*Loss.		

Analyzing this table the Philadelphia Press points out that Minnesota and Wisconsin are the only Western states which made large gains between 1890 and 1895. The first state gains about 20 per cent, and the latter about 15 per cent. Michigan's census was taken in 1891, but its gain is only 7 per cent., and Iowa's is about the same, Kansas loses and Oregon gains about 11 per is in New Jersey and Massachusetts, The former state increased about 15 per cent, between 1890 and 1895 and the latter state over 11 per cent, in the same time. Rhode Island also showed an increase of 11 per cent, in its population. The average growth in these nine states in the five years from 1890 to 1895 was about 10 per cent. If it is the same between 1895 and 1900, the average per cent, of growth over the United States proper would be 20 per cent, for the decade between 1890 and 1900, or an increase of about 12,500,000. about 75,000,000.

In the Jeffersonian banquet controversy there seems to have been a studled effort to relieve Hon, Arthur Sewall of all responsibility.

These birthday dinners are enough to make the ghost of Jefferson dyspeptic.

### TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 2.31 a. m., for Wedne

day, March 29, 1899. (2)

A child born on this day will rejoice that there are only eleven Spaniards on the Scranton school board. Many persons spend so much time look-

og after future joys that they miss all f the fun of the present. The crop of April fools promises to be musually large this year.

It does not look as though the depart-ure of March would be of the kind rerobably all anti-expansionists.

## Yankee Aptitude tor Large Tasks.

From the New York Sun. TP HE London Spectator remarked friendly discussion of the new responsibilities of government brought to us by the war with Spain, that "the Americans have an idea, an idea derived from the melancholy experience of their great cities, that they have not the men they can trust to govern well." Thereupon it proceeded o suggest kindly that we "underrate" ur "capacity for fitting the supply to the need." "The Americans," however, have no such "idea" as the London trusted to "govern well." They have carried along this republic from feeble beginning until in a single century it has become one of the foremost powers of the world. They took scattered colonies, with diverse interests and opposing jealousies, and welded them into a great nation. They began with a territorial area of less than a million square miles and in the course of a few generations extended it to nearly four million square miles. Over all this territory they carried rapidly the reign of law and civilized order, built up out of it great states, and never flinched or failed because of the magnitude and difout seemed to risk the existence of Its destruction, the very region where was ingrown most deeply in the soial and political life, is far advanced n wealth and civilization beyond the highest standards of the old days of

As question after question of govrnment, problem after problem, has ome up, the Americans have met it passed, or more than twenty per quarely and settled it wisely. Chroughout the American domain there is the machinery of orderly government, and it has grown and is growing more efficient with the passage of time. Cities rivalling in their magnitude urban communities of Europe many centuries old have sprung nto existence, and they have been administered with like efficiency; even f there have been defects inseparable from such unexampled rapidity of growth, no other progress made in government has been so notable as in their features they are superior to any others in the world, as the London engineering functionary lately sent to study them has reported to his om-

The Americans have just had a war. It was a war in which they lost no hips, no flage, no guns, no prisoners, and not even a skirmish, yet they by

as was their enemy. They rushed into the conflict, though they had only a little army almost wholly scattered at many frontier posts far from each other and from the seacoast and the 3,774; Belgium, 2,211; Greece, 1,641; Lithua-mat of hostilities. When the war beseat of hostilities. When the war began foreign and domestic critics looked on their navy as inferior, yet in three months they had swept the enemy's navy from the sea, without losing a ship and almost without tors Their army was increased suddenly more than tenfold, yet in one hundred days, before it could be moulded into the shape deemed requisite for anything like military efficiency, as it is estimated abroad, it had conquered the enemy completely tropical regions, to which three military expeditions had to be sent over distances varying from one thousand to seven thousand miles. Every one of those expeditions landed successfully and speedily accomplished its purpose. Simply as a matter of administration the war, therefore, was a conclusive demonstration of the ability and aptitude of the Americans for government.

the new responsibilities of government the new responsibilities of government imposed on them by the conquests of the war has demonstrated not less strikingly that they can be trusted "to govern well." In Cuba, in Porto Rico, and in the Philippines men of distinguished fitness for the duties have been found and selected, without a single instance of failure or with the the girl and Carr met then committee the missinguished fitness for the duties have been found and selected, without a single instance of failure or with the the girl and Carr met then committee the missinguished fitness for the duties have been found and selected, without a single instance of failure or with the the girl and Carr met then comout a single instance of failure or shortcoming. Neither partisan cavil at home nor friendly or unfriendly criticism abroad can fine excuse for ensure. It was a new experience for Americans, but what other nation would have done better? England has and Dewey never again tried to cut him resounded with the well-carned praises of General Kitchener for his Omdurcent. The most surprising gain made man campaign; he has been elevated to the peerage as a reward for his generalship, and has received a handome bounty, but General Otis, at Manila, with troops largely untrained to war and sent thither on the spur of the moment, has conducted a campaign not less successful and against a better armed enemy. It is true, however, that Kitchener is a novice in war as compared with the veteran Otis, who has seen more of actual and fierce fighting than any general officer in all Europe.

> The greatest naval achievement of this generation, one of the greatest in the history of navies, was Admiral Dewey's capture of Manila and his destruction of the fleet of Admiral Montojo, That great event occurred only about ten months ago, or on May 1898, and by the time its first anniversary comes round the peaceful establishment of American government throughout the Philippines is likely to have been completed. That it will be in the hands of men who can be trusted to "govern well" is doubted nowhere in the world. At any rate, it is not doubted by any Americans, A few Americans may profess to feel distrustful, but it is a mere pretence. The trouble with them is not that they are afraid that we shall do ill, but that they foresee that we are sure to do so well that they will have nothing to justify the captious criticism upon which they depend for political profit. If there is any "underrating of their own capacity" on the part of the Americans, it must be among those professional critics. They have not been able to keep up their stock in trade. Certainly nowhere else is there any distrust as to the matter among Americans. They have had long training in the business of government, and they are not appalled by its difficulties, Without being boastful of themselves, they are calmly confident of their ability to handle the job in workmanlike fashion.

### NEWS AND COMMENT.

The preliminary report of the income account of railways in the United States for the year ended June 39, 1898, reported recently, in the course of a to the Interstate Commerce com includes the returns of 720 lines, with an aggregate mileage of 181,333 miles, The receipts of the year were: Passenger service, \$333,857.82; freight service, \$571,855,487; other earnings from operation, \$90.765.111; gross earnings, \$1,228,522,389; operating expenses, \$811,241.455; income from operation, \$427.251,922. The increase of gross earnings over the previous year was \$165,161,583. Operating expenses in-creased \$58,716,991 and income \$57,716,913. Gross carnings per mile increased \$708; operating expenses, \$368; income, \$340. These are the largest figures reported paper attributes to them. Nothing in their past history has tended to create any such notion. If anything has been demonstrated beyond the possibility of cavil it is that "the Americans" can bonds, taxes, &co), \$358,189,202, leaving a surplus from operations of the year of \$42,604,900. The corresponding item for the previous year showed a deficit from operations of \$1.412,250. Statistician Adams adds: "The amount of dividends Adams ands: The amount of dividends stated does not include those declared upon the stock of lines operated under lease. This report is confined to operating roads. The emount of dividends declared for operating roads exceeds the amount of dividends declared for the operating years by \$8.83.257. This fact. previous year by \$6,829,337. This fact, aken in connection with the increases urplus, suggests in another way the reival of prosperity for American rail-

Some curious statistics are furnished from Washington which illustrate how much of the work of congress is done in rooted and destroyed slavery, though it had been ingrafted in their social and political system, so that to term two houses of the last congress, 1.457, less than 8 per cent., became law. he whole; and now, a generation after house was more conservative in its leg islation than the senate, though the latter is commonly supposed to spend so much more than in debate. There were 12,008 mercen introduced in the house, an investigated in for each member. Of these car, the control of these car, the control of these were passed by the house and 946 were concurred in by the senate, all but four receiving executive approval. 5.855 ware ntroduced in the senate, an average of 5 to each senator, and 1,173 of these were but the house concurred in only 517 of but the nouse concurred in only sit of them or less than half of the measurer sent to it by the senate. Of course ; vast proportion of all these rejected pro-positions are of merely private concern but they all help to consume time, and the record of congress is to be judged not only by what it does but by what it does not do. —Philadelphia Times.

The total estimated population of the city of Chicago at the last enumeration made of its inhabitants was 1,850,000, and the total number of residents of American birth and American parentage was only 488,600. There were at the same government has been so notable as in time 490,000 Germans and German-Amerithat of those cities. They are still cans in Chicago—or 2,000 more. Of these, improving steadily, and in certain of 207,000 were born in German, 261,000 were born in the United States of German parentage, and 22,000 were born in the United States, with one parent German and the other American. This, says the New York Sun, would not, as has been sometimes said, make Chicago a German city, but it illustrates the large element of German population in that city more forcibly than anything else. These are the late Chicago figures for the represen-

142; Sweden, 111.150; Poland, 95,-853; Bohemia, 89,280; Norway, 45,690; England, 44,225; Russia, 28,857; Canada, 31,507; Italy, 23,051; Scotland, 22,842; France, 21,-800; Denmark, 21,751; Holland, 19,148; Hun-

and the exports, \$1,00.621,581, making th excess of exports of specie \$1.49.173.231, of an aggregate excess of specie and mer chandles exports of \$2.432.714.759. The fig ures showing the value of imported mer-chandles are based on the cost of goods abroad, but, adding the cost of transortation would make their real valu \$3,102,250,129, a same which about equal the value of the merchandise exported The earnings of foreign capital invested in the United States have recently been estimated at \$8,00,000 per annum, and the expenditures abroad by American the expenditures abroad by American citizens at £3,000,000 per annum. There is spent £3,000,000 per annum for liquida-tion of the principal of our foreign in-debtedness, showing the cause of our excess of specie exportations.

Says the Norwich, N. Y., Sun; It has The experience of the Americans in he new responsibilities of government a playmate of Admirat George Dewey with the the girl and Carr met them coming up the street. This made Carr very angry. The two boys came face to face. A fight ensued, and after the struggle Carr had his victory and the girl won. Mr. Carr says that he walked home with the girl after that whenever he chose to

We have made Dewey an admiral and given him a present of a sword, but all that, says the Utica Herald, seems small when compared with what England had done for her great naval heroes. There are only two perpetual pensions in exist ence in England, the holder of one being Lord Rodney and the other the earl of Nelson. Lord Rodney's pension amounts to 210,000 per annam, and is for naval ser-vice rendered by his celebrated ancestor, Admiral Rodney while Lord Nelson's pension amounts to 225,000, and is to continue us long as there is any bearer of the title of Earl Nelson, only ceasing when the pecrage, by reason of the fail-ure of male heirs, becomes extinct. It may be added that the Nelson family is very prolific of male heirs.

### AN EASTER BONNET.

Where liller hid the Latin text. And smilax wreathed the attar And every head was gravely bent O'er sacred realm and peatter, And all the front was pink and white With reses strewn upon it, to saw a little maid in gray Who were an Easter bonne

He walked behind her from the church And viewed her girlish graces,
And breathed the vague, delicious seent
Of dainty bows and laces.
A prayer-book was in her hand— She kept her glances on it.
Till came a gust of feelie wind
And whisked away her bennet.

Her eyes were full of April tears Her searlet lips were smiling: The sunny curls about her brow Were made for man's beguiling. Her face was like a dewy rose He paused to maze upon it.

And found that he had lost his heart,

As she had lost her bonner.

But now a spray of orange flowers Is wreathed about the Latin; The little moid is all in white-A dream of lace and sutin.

And, as he takes her slender hand, And slips the ring upon I -Minna Irving, in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for April.

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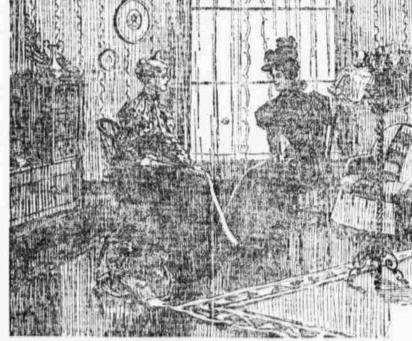
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