the Scranton Tribune

New York Offices 150 Nassau St., S. S. VREELAND, Fole Agent for Foreign Advertising. ANTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS HALL MATTER.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MAY 3, 1899.

With its honey-combed pavements and soft coal smoke, Scranton is rapidly becoming a locality that cannot be enjoyed as a residence city save in instances where hope springs eternal,

The Rule of Merit.

The re-election vesterday of County Superintendent Taylor by a vote so nearly unanimous as to amount to that was a result upon which the people of the county are to be congratulated. Mr. Taylor's aggressive and intelligent supervision of county educational interests has been of a character fully to justify his retention in office.

Equally acceptable to the people is the action of the Scranton board of control in re-electing City Superintendent Howell without opposition, Mr. Howell has demonstrated under trying circumstances that he is the man for the place. Under his direction the educa- Secretary Long's Answer to the Adtional interests of the city have been systematized and vitalized; worth and not pull has governed the employment and promotion of teachers and the entire trend of city school work has been forward and upward.

Good work is nowhere more deserving of appreciative reward than in connection with public instruction. The good teacher and the good supervisor of teachers are alike invaluable. When found they should be retained in spite of polities or factional clashing.

The continual rise in wages has left nothing before the calamity prophets but work.

Too Previous.

Having learned that Senator Quay and his friends were inclining favorably toward the candidacy of General Daniel McMurtrie Gregg for state treasurer, David Martin, the Philadelphia Press and other leaders and organs of the recent "insurgent" movement are trying by vociferous praise to mark General Gregg as their own. The attempt is not likely to succeed. Gregg is not the property of any faction. No man can own him. No man identify himself with men disloyal to in the despicable recent conspiracy against Senator Quay. Gregg is a soldler, a stalwart and a man of honor. Pettifoggers, pledge-breakers and political parasites belong to a category which he has no use for.

General Gregg would make an excelin the Republican party's ranks so far proper guarantees of ord venomed kind had better not attempt words, the minute that meeting came to pose as its sponsors. The next state to commit itself to a definite policy, convention will be controlled, not by it adopted almost exactly the line the enemies but by the friends of the wnich the president expressed, for inpolitical leader whom they have hound- stance, in his Boston speech, and which ed and maligned beyond precedent or he has been consistently following. provocation, and not even General "One would think from what some vention if used as pawns by insurgent plotters.

The first rays of the dawn of peace have a bewildering effect on the orbs of the anti-imperialist owls.

That Agreement Concerning China. The official announcement that England and Russia have signed an agree-

other imports is one of the most sigcome over the wires in many a day. It is important in its direct significance as bearing upon the most ominous international problem of the age and it is doubly important as tending to indicate that international arbitration or its equivalent-namely, the settlement of differences without recourse to war-is coming rapidly within the range of things not only possible but

practicable.

Unless all signs deceived, England and Russia were on the brink of war when this agreement was reached. By no other theory can we account for the unprecedented naval preparations which England was making on the one hand and for the equally extraordinary military activities of the St. Petersburg government on the other, proceeding quietly but steadily right in the face of the czar's pacific letter calling upon the great powers to disarm. There is reason to believe that neither England nor Russia wanted war; certainly the responsible rulers of into those who run them. A hard those countries worked night and day to prevent it. But the tension had become such as greatly to imperil their pacific intentions and the completion two members of that august body of an agreement virtually conceding to England all that England had any moral right to expect comes as almost the cuticle unbroken. No great harm, providential in its timeliness. Russia | 1 say, will be done so long as the great will keep this treaty, because the public makes the proper discount. You moral sentiment of Christendom is be-

disarmament will seem less satirical. British. Of the interested parties we and that is the highest standard I are not sure that the United States know of on all this footstool. You may is not, affer all, the chief gainer. We be sure that it has not the least idea have had no part and we will have of putting any shackles or fetters on no part in the forcible partition of any Filipino, not so much as a cotton China. That ancient empire, through twine string around his ankles. You its more intelligent officials, recognizes may be sure that it is more eager to in America a gentian friend. There stop bloodshed and secure peace than

generations of Chinese that aversion responsibility. You may be sure that which goes out to spoliatory, or that it will do everything it can to carry instluctive repugnance which the the blessings of our own civilization to robbed feel for the sons and daughters | these islands of the sea, and that its of the robbers. The American people highest ambition will be fulfilled if, can go into China for trade with a through its efforts, from oppression clean conscience. The ports of China will be keep open to us and, more than that, the hearts of the intelligent Chinese in the coming generations of China's reconstruction will be kept open, also. The characteristic ingenuity of the American people will speed-By solve the commercial problems of this new theater of international competition for business and, without firing a shot or hazarding a life on schemes of territorial conquest the American expansionists of the years to be will grow up into the same primacy in the waters and lands of the North Pacific that they have aiready acquired in the Western Atlantic and the Caribbean sea.

The action of the councils by more than a two-thirds vote in directing the mayor to execute a new contract with the Barber Asphalt company for the immediate repairing of the paved ment entered into last year will be sustained by the sober and responsible judgment of the people and will be fully vindicated by time.

ministration's Cotics.

A philosophic view of the Philippine problem is taken by the secretary of the navy. In a speech delivered at Eoston on Dewey day Mr. Long directed the attention of New England to the fact that no real difference in policy exists between the administration and its critics. The difference is mainly one of words.

"In the prosecution of the war," said he, "It is clear that as a military movement, as proved by its success, the thing to do was to strike at Spain in the Philippine islands, and that having onquered her there, we held the Philippines as a result of the war. Personally, I should have been very glad if, as I said once before, that elephant had never been put upon our hands, But at the end of the war the islands were in our hands. There was almost a unanimity of agreement-our beloved senator, Mr. Hoar, himself agreeingthat these islands should not be left in the hands of Spain. It is possible you may think otherwise, but I am clearly of the opinion that, going a step further, our government could not abandon these islands at once, which would have been to leave them and can boss him. Least of all would be all their property and interests in a state of chaos. Indeed, that seems to Republican organization or implicated be the final opinion of the recent meeting in Tremont Temple, in which so many of our respect citizens particlpated; for, in reading the report of that meeting. I am very much struck with the utter divergence between the tone of the speeches there and the tone of the resolutions adopted. These lent state treasurer and as a candidate resolutions expressly provide that bewould poll the party's united strength. fore even entering upon the basis of with some Democratic votes besides. recognition of the freedom and inde-His nomination would close the breach pendence of the islands, there shall be not much over 1,000,000,excluding Amerias that breach has been caused by tion of property. Also that the United last year of Spanish rule to keep up honest differences of opinion and judg- states shall encourage and assist in ment, and it would doubtless pave the the organization of government there, previously existed, it is probable that way to a certainly most desirable gen- and not until this organization is stable eral reconciliation. But if this result shall the United States recognize the is to be brought about, David Martin, independence of the Filipinos, and even the Philadelphia Press and men and then only gradually withdraw its miliorgans of their vindictive and en- tary and naval powers. In other

Gregg's high character and marked say that the president had gene out popularity could dominate a Quay con- of his way to begin an assault and invasion upon the Philippines. On the contrary, at the date to which I have Manila, where life and property were congregated and entitled to protection, Aguinaldo and his followers were making their assault, shooting down our soldiers, creating riot and disturbance, endangering life and property, actually lighting the torch and attempting to ment respecting their "spheres of in- burn the city. I can hardly believe fluence" in China and that under the that even the critics of the administraterms of their understanding the "open | tion approved of this at that time or door" is to swing inward for Ameri- that they approve of the Filipinos fircan imports on the same terms as any | ing on our flags of truce. And yet I can not help noticing that some of nificant pieces of news which have them have no word of sympathy for our soldiers and countrymen, who, in their line of duty, were exposed to those dangers in and about Manila. They have no word of praise for the gallant Funston, Yet when Horntius wen eternal fame by swimming the Tiber, he was escaping from the foe; when the young Kansan crossed the Rio Grande, it was to attack the enemy and in the very teeth of the enemy's fire. But if come atrocious slander is delight to them.'

The cheery philosophy in Secretary Long's nature shows forth in these words: "I am one of those who believe in freedom of speech. There are occasions when those in official posttions are expected to be reserved. But among the people I think criticism of those in power is often useful and good, even if not wholly warrantedas well as praise. I have no doubt that it is all right for those who do not like the way things are run to pitch name now and then or an exaggerated term does no real harm. It is very much like a debate in congress, where seem to flay each other and then shake hands when they meet outside and find certainly may be sure of one thing, hind it; and after its execution talk of that the administration is just as hu-

and darkness they shall come out into the light of the new world and be set upon the way to the enjoyment of the same liberties, the same education, the same government, the same large, generous happy life which is now the heritage of every American citizen in whatever part of the great American union he lives."

If talk like this does not make the anti-imperialists ashamed of themseives, then their case is hopeless.

In Sunday journalism, especially in the inland cities, the newspaper scapegoat seems to be one of the necessary features of the printing establishment. The newspaper scapegoat is generally an inoffensive individual who, whether guilty or not, has to take the drubbings that are administered, or the looks of annihilation that are given by those who have been assailed in print. Scranton has furnished some amusing instances of the trials of the scapegoat who suffers for the sins of others, but he is continually getting in front of the enemy's guns and probably will do so to the end of the chapter. As in the case of the publisher of a hot-stuff paper who fell before the onslaught of an indignant councilman the other day, the individual who seeks to punish an offender invariably selects the wrong man. The writer who brews the venom and dips his pen in gall, as smiles of ghoulish glee illumine his countenance with Satanic lustre, keeps in the background, while the scapegoat, lingering about the firing line, takes the consequences of the satire of his associates. The troubles of the scapegoat should be a warning to the ambitious who desire to be editors and make things smoke where the proper fuel is scarce.

The Sons of the Revolution at Detroit the other day became enthusiastic and cabled congratulations to Adimral Dewey. On account of heavy tolls Dewey will be justified in answering by slow freight.

And now a syndicate has been organized to control the American peanut crop. Red lemonade is about all that remains for the trust of the fu-

Recent events prove that General Luna is not so much so as his name

Cuba's Big Need Is Public Schools.

E. J. Gibson, in Philadelphia Press.

NE of the greatest needs of Cuba is a public school system. Over 76 per cent, of the population can neither read nor write. The latest Spanish statistics on this subject give the percentage of the 528,998 colored people who could read or write as 11.7, and of the 1.102.689 whites as 35.1. But the best estimates make the popucans and as there was no effort in the the few so-called public schools that the percentage of illiteracy at the close of the war was much greater than ever before. Outside of the cities not 5 per cent, of the population can read or write. To expect such a population to maintain a republican form of government is preposterous.

General Wood, the military governor f Santiago province, was quick to recognize the great necessity for public schools, and he appointed a commission to make a thorough investigation of the subject. In their report the commissioners state that a general system of public instruction was not undertaken Cuba does not pay a cent today for until 1842, or 228 years after the Spanish established themselves on the Island. referred, around that great city of But even then not much more was done than to issue decrees to which little attention was paid. Captain General Concha, in 1850-9, was the first governor who really took any great interest in this matter. He made it obligatory on the town councils to provide for the support of the schools, and he established a normal school at Guanaoca, under the direction of the church. But that normal school, inefficient as inated, but to reading, writing and the it was, closed in 1868. In December, 1880, a decree was issued providing for gratuitous primary instruction to those those who wish to attend them. And whom the parish priests certified were the schools will be free, and no fees this rudimentary instruction was ever matters is far ahead of anything ever made free and that was more in name known under Spanish rule, and the than in fact. The teachers in all cases good work has only begun. were Spaniards, and as the schools were under the direction of the priests. were the first concern of the instructors. Christian doctrine and the elethings taught in the primary schools.

school inspection of any kind. The commission in its report to Genforcement or application. The resources of the country were diverted to other ends, and the result was a mere shadow of an educational establishment, totally public school in the American meaning exists or has existed in Cuba. So far as is known, there is not a single building nor a foot of land in this province owned by the people for school purposes, and not a single dollar of endowment for any educational institu-tion." That was the result of nearly four centuries of Spanish rule. In 1878 mane and just as eager to do right as the governor general of the island in The victory is American as well as any man or woman in Massachusetts, a public document, referring to the colored population, declared that "the sacred duty of teaching the ignorant has been neglected for ages in regard to this unfortunate race.'

General Wood has made it his duty to establish public schools as rapidly as possible, and there are today, notwithstanding the lack of revenues and will not be felt toward us by the fu use you are, because it has to bear the the disordered state of things, more Orange council was informed by an

schools in operation in this province than ever before in the history of the island. What has been done elsewhere on the island is not easy to tell, as Governor General Brooke told me in Havana that he had not yet had time to take up the matter, and had no general report bearing on the subject. It is a significant fact that a person can stand in one place in the suburbs of this city and see twenty or thirty wellbuilt block houses or "forts," many of them constructed of stone, and other fortifications costing millions of dellars and yet look in vain for a single school The same thing is true, in ; more or less degree, of every city and town in the island. The Spanish programme was that of expending enormous millions of dollars forced from the people to keen them in virtual slavery, but not a single dollar for a school

Tomas Estrada Palma, in writing in 1895 about the terrible wrongs inflicted on Cuba by the Spanish government "Does the government favor us more in the matter of education? will suffice to state that only \$182,000 are assigned to public instruction in our splendid budget. It may be noted that the University of Havana is a source of pecuniary profit to the state. On the other hand, this institution is without laboratories, instruments, and even without water to carry on experiments. All the countries of America, excepting Belivia, all of them, including Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Guadaloupe, where the colored race predominates, spend a great deal more than the Cuban government for the education of the people. On the other hand, only Chile spends as much as Cuba for the support of an army. In view of this, it is easily explained why 76 per cent, of such an intelligent and wideawake people as that of Cuba cannot read and write. The most necessary instruction among us, the most technical and industrial, does not ex-The careers and professions most needed by modern civilization are not cultivated in Cuba. In order to Lecome a topographer, a scientific agriculturist, an electrician, an industrial or mechanical engineer, a railroad or mining engineer, the Cuban has to so to a foreign country. The state in Cuba does not support a single public library,"

Spainish statistics are of dougtful utility, owing to their lack of accuracy. But they are always certain to make the best showing possible. In view of that fact it is interesting to relate that the official Spanish reports show of public and private schools in 1897 one for each 1,517 of population, while the official reports made to Great Brittain in 1893 show one school for every 1,800 persons. The Spanish report for 1895 gave one public school for ever 1,800 of the inhabitants, with the explanation that 461 of the 919 public schools were "incomplete"-that is, little of anything was taught in them excepting "Christian doctrine and .ements of sacred history," The same official Spanish report gave the attendance at all schools on the 'sland as one for each twenty-five inhabitants. Even the school books ... 1, written and published in Spain, were full of gross blunders, even misiaformation being taught about the ,eography of Cuba. There were at beginning of the insurrection in he island in 1895 only 449 "complete" public schools, even taking the Spanish view of "complete." The Spaniards and Cubans, who were able to do : sent their children to private schools or abroad to be educated, or employed competent tutors

The infamous course of Spain toward Cuba may be gathered from the fact that for the seventeen years of peace preceding the outbreak in 1895, the uban revenue averaged \$33,400,000 annually, Less than one-half of 1 per ent, of that sum was set aside for public instruction. Precisely three times as much was paid out of the sland treasury to maintain the Roman Catholic church as was paid for the purpose of public instruction. Nearly eventy times as much was paid out of the treasury for military and naval purposes, and expenses incident there to, as was paid out for public instruction. But all that has been reversed. military and naval purposes, and it does not pay a cent to maintain an established church. It has more public schools than ever before in its his tory, and as soon as General Brooke takes up the subject and sufficient creased. Moreover, the teachers will be competent to instruct, and the in-struction will not be largely confined to sectarian religion, as that will be elimother necessary branches of a primar education, with advanced schools for unable to pay; but nothing higher than will be charged. Cuba today in such

A country demanding to be allowed supposed interests of the church to govern itself when it is without a single public school house, or a single bank, savings or otherwise, in which ments of sacred history were the chief money can be placed at interest, without one public library, with no public But there were few of these schools charitable institutions worthy of menand the attendance was ridiculously tion; devoid of public roads worthy of small. This led to the issuance of a the name; with only about 10 per cent invented against the good conduct or decree in 1880, making it compulsory of the land at present under cultiva-humanity of our army, it is a source of for all children, between the ages of 6 tion; with interest rates varying from and 9 years, to attend school. But like 10 to 18 per cent.; with many of its other wise decrees, it was never en- cities devoid of pavements, and all of forced. No schoolhouses were ever them, excepting Havana, without sew built on the island and there was no ers, and few there; with a city of 40, 000 inhabitants-Puerto Principe-without a hotel: to say nothing of the fact that over 76 per cent, of the popu eral Wood says: "The indifference, lation can neither read nor write, seems caprice, neglect and rapacity of the to be folly almost beyond conception governing authorities left the admir- But that demand comes only from the able promises of the law without en- men who want the offices to continue for their own benefit the iniquitous government which Spain for conturies inflicted on the island. The eagerness with which the people are studying the inadequate in extent, and highly in- English language, even the boot blacks efficient in operation, so far at least as on the streets learning it from such of the primary and secondary schools were their number as can read, and the raperned. No such thing as a free id adoption of American buriness metheds, and the auxiety shown to become Americans speak well for the future.

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS.

Rochester Post-Express. Commenting on the fact that a commiee of the common council of Orange, ., has gone to Chambersburg, Pa., 'inspect' a municipal electric light pla there with the view of establishing on at home, the Electrical Review says "It is hoped that the committee wi have a good time but it is to be feare that they will be led astray by the ol fallacy of municipal ownership. One of the reasons why town councils are misle-into extravagant and dangerous experi ments in this direction." it adds. that it is so easy to deceive them a

gincer that a plant could be built to su ply their 394 full arcs at \$38 a year ca The present price is \$85." To expose absurdity of this engineer's figures, the Electrical Review calls attention to the fact that in Detroit, where municipal electric lighting is carried on under the most favorable conditions, the lighting commissioners themselves admit that each light costs \$8.50, which excludes taxes and includes only a 5 per cent. deprecia tion. If a depreciation of 6 per cent, were allowed, a depreciation recognized by the best authorities as none too high, each light would cost nearly \$100. In order to get the low figures meationed by the commissioners, they say: "The results, such as they are, have been secured only by the practice of the strictest economy and the rigid exclusion of all those ele ments apt to intrude into the adminis tration of public municipal affairs and which operate only to confound business principles and political expediency in perplexing entanglement." In not one in a hundred cities in the United States is this entanglement avoided or ever likely

REXFORD'S.

May 3, 1899.

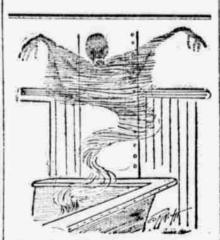
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