

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JULY 19, 1899.

A military campaign big enough to require almost the entire regular force, plus four brigades of volunteers, is certainly big enough to receive the personal direction of the commanding general of the army. Send Miles to Manila.

That Manila Round Robin.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, which comes as clearly as any to representing correctly the administration's attitude on public questions, contained yesterday, in reference to the "round robin" of the war correspondents at Manila, this highly satisfactory paragraph: "The public may rest assured that the charges will be most thoroughly sifted. If the allegations of the newspaper correspondents are sustained, and General Otis is found to have misrepresented the situation or caused misrepresentations to be sent through the press, there is not the shadow of a doubt of his removal and the substitution of another commanding officer whose tact and discretion can be relied upon. If, however, a full investigation shows the charges of the correspondents to be without foundation, they will be excluded from the Philippines under military law."

Fair-minded citizens can ask for nothing more than this and they will not be satisfied with anything less. The sifting of the charges must, however, proceed openly and fairly. The public will not accept an inquiry patterned after the army beef inquiry, in which the testimony went one way and the verdict another. Nor will it permit the administration to dismiss the matter as of no consequence. The men whose names were signed to the joint protest at Manila have, at this time, the entire confidence of the newspaper fraternity. They were especially chosen for that work from among thousands of bright and trustworthy reporters; they have exhibited in the performance of that work a quality of endurance, courage and fidelity equal to any shown among our soldiers; and it will require strong evidence of the most unequivocal character to make the newspaper men of the country believe that these correspondents would enter knowingly into any plot, political or otherwise, to embarrass their government or misrepresent its responsible agents.

There is nothing inexplicable in the circumstances, so strongly emphasized at Washington, that a discrepancy exists between the information comprised in the newspaper men's "round robin" and that coming to the government through official sources. This can be accounted for without imputing intentional deceit either to the correspondents or to the government agents. It is possible to suppose a considerable variation in the appearance of things as observed in General Otis' headquarters and as seen at first hand along the firing line, in the outlying districts and among the soldiers and natives. But if Otis has the weight of official prestige on his side the war correspondents have on their side the advantage of a wider range of information and quicker perception of conditions. They were sent in a well-ventilated way, and Otis' army was not big enough for the work in hand. It is reported that for saying this some of them were at the time expelled from the island. Time, however, has established the accuracy of their prediction and shown the fallacy of the governor general's optimism. If Otis, when the whole nation stood ready to give him whatever he asked for, erred in so important a matter as the estimate of force needed to accomplish the required results, it is easy to imagine that he would not scruple to cover up that error by resort to an unwarranted censorship over news despatches. As for the assertion that if the cable was censored the mails were kept open, this is more easily said than proved. If true, no single correspondent could hope to effect by mail correspondence the result which followed swiftly the joint protest by cable. A protest, be it remembered, which represents every important newspaper interest and, in the constituency of papers involved, reflects every shade of public opinion in the United States.

While awaiting more light on this issue, we deem it opportune to call attention to the apparent insufficiency of the service performed in the inspection branch of the war department. The public remembers how at the beginning of the campaign in Cuba the force under the command of the inspector general was broken up through assignments to the line. Even the inspector general himself left his special field of labor to become a major general of the volunteers. Later, when General Breckinridge had resumed his regular position and was going to work under orders from the major general commanding to ascertain what there was in the embalmed beef charges, he was halted by the secretary of war, who seemed to regard the inspection bureau as something which should not inspect any further than suited his fancy. The result of this cross play of authority and purposes appears to have been the virtual elimination of genuine inspection work; and today, with the bulk of our regular army 8,000 miles from home, the war department has no independent expert source of information as to its doings and management. One of the most difficult things that President Lincoln had to arrange for during the Civil war was a trustworthy system of reports from impartial observers of military operations at the front. We ought ere this to have improved upon the standards of Lincoln's

time, at least in the inspection department.

It would be interesting to know whether the Cuban agitator Betancourt, who is trying to stir up mischief in Matanzas, is the Betancourt recently appointed by General Brooke civil governor of that province. The latter Betancourt was a highly respected officer in the insurrection, is a gentleman of widespread education and finished manners, and has been strongly indorsed for probity and common sense by eminent Americans. If he has turned pamphleteer and gone on the rhetorical war path against American rule something must be fundamentally wrong.

Carter Harrison.

The action of Mayor Harrison of Chicago in declining with scorn to fraternize with the Altgeld wing of the Illinois Democracy on the occasion of its public reception to William J. Bryan, which is to take place tomorrow, may earn for him temporary unpopularity among the socialistic rabble for which Altgeld stands as an exponent, and it is quite certain to create a breach between himself and Colonel Bryan, who eagerly grasped the opportunity to be Altgeld's guest. But it will project Harrison more prominently than ever before the national public, and some day his reward may come. Like every other spasm of his kind founded on class prejudice and disunion, Bryanism will play out as an issue in American politics. One more licking will knock a big hole in its popularity among the Democratic masses and that licking, it may be said in passing, seems destined to be administered in a little more than one year from date. With Bryan eliminated, as in the course of a very few years he is bound to be by the Democracy of the west is likely to turn with outstretched arms to the handsome and spirited young Lochinvar of Cook county who in two campaigns has shown his political mastery of the second largest city on the continent and who represents, in personal following and in party principle, the durable features of the Democratic party.

Harrison is shrewd. He looks ahead.

It is safe to predict that after it hears from the country the administration will change its mind about ignoring the Manila "round robin."

Pushing It Too Far.

In his entertaining correspondence from New York in the Philadelphia Press, "Holland" represents some of the best friends of civil service reform in that city as having privately admitted that the extremists who are at the head of the Civil Service Reform league and who have lately been nagging like maniacs at the president because of his recent executive order making necessary exceptions and exemptions in the federal civil service have done more in the past four or five years to create a reactionary feeling against this reform than could have been accomplished in twice the time by all the professional politicians in the country. He adds: "This morning we have received an object lesson through the experience of a postmaster not far from New York, this postmaster having been himself one of the most conspicuous of civil service reformers and a member of his state civil service board. A few days ago, this postmaster learned that some one in the office was a thief. A watch was set, and on Friday afternoon, the thief was caught, with the stolen money on his person. It so happened that this employee had been unfactory to the postmaster for a long time. He tried to discharge him last winter, and found himself blocked by the civil service law. That effort to discharge this employe is on record and the postmaster points to it in vindication of his judgment and believes that it removes the reproach which otherwise would be upon him for this scandal.

"That is not the only thought that he has in connection with this experience. In a letter received from him this morning he says: 'It has gotten to be a fact that you can't remove an employe now unless you convict him of a crime or prove something very serious against him. The civil service system is now carried with altogether too high a hand by the Federal commission, and I want to say to you what is an open secret that the departments are all afraid of it. I find men who are ardent civil service reformers, who are getting a little cool toward a civil service that tends toward making life tenures in public positions. When examinations have provided fit men for appointment I don't believe in making it impossible to weed out those who, after practical trial, are found unfit by disposition or intellect or character for their places.'

"The first officer of this government to adopt civil service was General James, when postmaster in this city. He did that some years before the national civil service law was passed. He says that there has been and can be no improvement on the civil service system that Dorman B. Eaton favored and George William Curtis supported, and that system gave to the responsible heads of departments, or to officers like postmasters, the power of absolute removal, a power that Curtis himself said could not be seriously misused if the power of appointment depended upon the faithful observance of civil service qualifications, namely, merit and fitness, and General James is not the only one of true civil service reformers here who fear that the excessive zeal and the arbitrary methods displayed by civil service leagues and commissions may in the end do harm to the system by causing a reaction from the popular support that true civil service now has."

It cannot be denied by any fair-minded man, however much of a spoilsman he may be, that the gross abuses which characterized the so-called spoils system under which public employment was often held by the man with influence as a commodity in trade, subject to brokerage charges, rebates and all kinds of political jobbery, opened the door to just complaint. The intent behind honest advocates of civil service reform—namely, to raise the morals of the public service, secure higher character and efficiency and re-

move from politics the quarrels and scandals incident to patronage—commands public respect and deserves to succeed. But there is such a thing as jumping from one extreme to the other; and this jump is taken by those who would tie the hands of responsible officials by denying their right to exercise ordinary jurisdiction over the subordinates whose good or bad behavior makes or unmakes successful government.

This is the time of year when the average Scrantonian realizes how much more convenient and business-like it would be if he could pay his various taxes in one place and not have a chase about after the different collectors like Japheth in search of his father.

Last year only one passenger out of 2,267,270 carried by the railroads of the United States was killed as a result of railroad accidents. For each passenger so killed 60,242,670 passenger-miles were accomplished. It is safer to ride than to walk.

The report that President McKinley intends to ask congress to make William R. Shafter a lieutenant general in fulfillment of his work at Santiago will require a stock of affidavits to gain credence among the people.

There is too much of the pistol shooting and throat cutting kind of affectation in the papers these days. If it keeps on, jealous lovers may have to be cooled in the ducking stool.

Timely Counsel on Subject of Labor

From the Philadelphia Times.

LABOR STRIKES multiply in two opposite conditions of business—when industry and trade are highly prosperous and when they are severely depressed. Human nature is the same in employers and employed, and the natural instinct of all is to get the best of the bargain. We have passed through a protracted season of severe industrial depression, illness was enforced on a very large proportion of willing workmen and only starvation wages were paid to many of those who could find employment. Labor was then superabundant and employers had the power to make the severest exactions in the reduction of wages. Today we are in a tidal wave of industrial prosperity with employment for all competent and willing workers at fair wages, and it is only natural that organized labor should demand a fair share in the increased prosperity of employers, and like employers, will want to make the best bargain possible.

The rights of employers and employed are clearly defined by the law, and the justice of the law is not questioned by any except those who precipitate themselves into lawless actions. Their rights may be tersely summarized as follows: 1. It is the absolute legal and moral right of the workman to demand increased wages and to decline employment unless his terms are accepted by his employer. Whether his claim is right or wrong, reasonable or unreasonable, it is entirely his own affair, and none have the right to question him. His labor is his property, and the law will protect him in disposing of it in such manner as he shall deem best in any legitimate employment. 2. When the workman declines employment with his employer because of a disagreement as to wages, his connections with his employer end, and every other man, high or low, black or white, has precisely the same right to accept or refuse employment that the striker has declined, and he is not to be hindered in the exercise of that inalienable privilege. 3. Whenever a labor strike is instituted to lawlessness by violent interference with other workmen, or with the business or property of a former employer, the strikers place themselves outside the pale of the law, but they forfeit the sympathy of all good citizens who regard the majesty of the law as essential to the safety of person and property and good order for all. 4. The closer employes are brought into relations with their employers, the less likely will be for all, and the chief danger of labor disturbances comes from the officious intermeddling of men who are compelled to precipitate labor troubles to insure for themselves a generous livelihood without working at all. There are few instances in which a strike and a manly conference, face to face, between employers and employed would not result in reasonable justice, and great industrial enterprises can be successful only when there is free intercourse and mutual trust between the workingmen and their employers. 5. As workmen in most instances are compelled to suffer the severest loss in periods of industrial depression, it is only reasonable that they should have liberal advance for labor on returning prosperity, such as we have today. Broad-minded and just employers would themselves propose a system of advance of wages where there has been severe reduction in adverse periods. Where they fail to do so, the employes themselves should present their complaint, and if an agreement cannot be reached, in a large majority of cases arbitration could be attained by such free conference between the only parties in interest. None can be compelled to arbitrate, but it is the common-sense solution of a doubtful dispute, and with rare exceptions would reach substantial justice to all.

The nation is now enjoying a season of unusual prosperity, and the workmen of the land are entitled to a generous share of it. There should be a liberal advance of wages in every instance where wages were reduced by the business and industrial depression of the last few years, and employers should be the first to recognize it and act upon it in the spirit of manly justice. If they shall fail to do so, the workmen have it in their power to command just compensation for their labor if they are careful to command the confidence of employers and of the public, and avoid lawlessness in their content as they would avoid pestilence in their homes.

GENERAL OTIS.

Philadelphia Press: "There is evidently increasing doubt in the public mind as to the experience and fitness of General Otis for the responsible work he has in hand."

Philadelphia Times: "There is no danger that the people will be discouraged at the failure of the first Philippine cam-

paign if they see any signs that the next campaign is to be in competent hands. If, however, the recent policy of fighting battles which win nothing and lose all, and that such a thing should there will be a political revolution in the United States by the side of which Aguinaldo's revolution in the Philippines will pale into insignificance."

London Times: "General Otis cannot conceal nor explain away the great fact that he has been using force to an end. He might just as well cease playing the ostrich and allow the correspondents to tell the public what they see."

BOUQUET OF ANECDOTES.

The Tenderfoot.

N. A. Jennings, author of "A Texas Ranger," spent four years during the early seventies in the Lone Star state in the mounted service, and then returned to his home in Philadelphia. But the spirit of adventure moving him, he returned to the west, and 1881 found him in Rico, Col., where he was engaged in a mining and petroleum business. He wore clothes that fitted him, and soon became known to the inhabitants as a tenderfoot.

One day he was sitting in the barroom of the only hotel in the place when the town marshal and the sheriff conferred with the other as to a bit of official business, during the course of which the sheriff asked the marshal for one of his revolvers.

"The marshal drew it from his holster and handed it over. It was a Colt, precisely such a weapon as Jennings had carried for years in Texas and in the use of which he was a famous expert. The sheriff held it up admiringly.

"Pretty big gun, ain't it?" he remarked, patronizingly, to Jennings.

"Yes, indeed," answered the former ranger, with childish innocence.

"Don't have such big guns as that in Philadelphia, eh?"

"No, indeed. It must weigh about ten pounds, and it's a pretty big gun, ain't it?"

"Yes, let's see it."

The tenderfoot proudly opened the weapon and extracted six large, murderous cartridges and handed it to Jennings, who took it in somewhat the same manner as a school boy in Rico would take a tin of shot.

"Ain't much used to guns?" suggested the sheriff, half pityingly.

Jennings fumbled the pistol awkwardly and handed it back, but foremost.

Now, one of the most prized tricks of the expert plainsman is to hand a pistol to a man in the usual way, but just before it passes from him, to shift it in his hands with an imperceptible movement, so that the man who reaches for it finds himself looking into its barrel. This is what Jennings did, and the sheriff turned white in spite of his knowledge that the pistol was unloaded. Then Jennings nonchalantly caught the revolver in his left hand, and held it like a pinwheel. Then he asked for another revolver, and soon had that spinning in his left hand. After this exhibition he returned the pistol and walked out on the porch.

Half an hour later a clean-shaven man sauntered up to Jennings' chair and said to him in a half-whisper:

"Say, stranger, where are you from?"

"From Philadelphia," answered Jennings.

"Philadelphia, thunder! Say, where are you from? I won't give you away!"

Funston Neither Alive Nor Dead.

That Brigadier-General Funston can be original even while in a semi-comatose condition is testified to by a member of the engineer corps just home from the Philippines.

"The most characteristic thing I ever knew Funston do," said the engineer, "was before the battle just outside Calocan. He had had no sleep for two days, and was in bad shape. He therefore rolled himself up in a blanket and went to sleep. Meantime, the division received orders to advance, but Funston could not be found. Many scouts had been killed, and he was considered as missing. At length, however, a soldier was caught of his red hair in the tangle, and later they found him shrouded in leaves. As this is the way bodies are prepared for burial in that part of the world, we not more and more surprised to find him still alive until at length, some one shouted:

"Colonel, are you dead or alive?"

"Neither," grunted the colonel, as he rolled over for another nap; 'I'm sleeping.'"

Gomez Explains Earth's Revolutions.

One of the brightest young Porto Ricans who figured in the late war is Senator Miguel Gomez, who here in this country is in the interest of the Porto Rican public school system. He was at one time on the staff of General Gomez in Cuba, and he tells many incidents concerning that country's fighting history.

"I was skimming one of the New York Sunday newspapers while I was in the general's headquarters in Cuba," said the senator, "and it was the first time I reached us for several months. I noticed an article on the newly discovered movements of the earth's surface. Now, you know the general disliked to have one do anything without being invited himself to take part. He liked to be consulted, and he asked questions—no matter how unimportant they might be, as in reading the article I stopped and asked:

"Now, generally, how do you account for the daily revolutions of the earth, anyhow?"

"That's easy to answer," he replied instantly, "so long as Haiti, Porto Rico and Cuba are parts of it."

—From the Saturday Evening Post.

Andrew White and Mark Twain.

A new story of Andrew J. White, ambassador to Berlin, and Mark Twain has just reached this city. The humorist's visit to the German language is well known. His diatribe against it is a classic. Now, Mr. White, while an excellent German scholar, speaks the language with a noticeable accent. The story relates on these points. It was at a reception, and Mr. White, partly in sport, confined his conversation with the author wholly to German.

"I am glad to see," interrupted the novelist, "that you appreciate German."

"I did until I read your above article upon the subject," returned the ambassador. "I am now thinking of returning to English."

"How grateful the Germans must be," was the reply.

Schley's Diplomatic Escape.

Not long ago an enthusiastic creature, quite old enough to know better, approached Admiral Schley with sweet words of praise. "Oh, Admiral, I'm so proud of you! Shall I embrace you as the ladies all over the country have been embracing Holman?"

"You are quite right, senator." "And it is very far." "On the contrary, it is a very little way." "A thousand thanks for your kindness, senator." "There is nothing for which to offer them, senator." "In the little girl sick, senator?" "She is a little girl, senator?" "What is the matter with her?" "She has the smallpox, senator." "Ah, good day, senator."

PERSONALITIES.

Jerome Hall Raymond, the new president of the University of West Virginia, was a newboy in early life.

Former President Dwight, of Yale, is to contribute to E. N. Dingley's life of his father a chapter of recollections.

Major General Otis is only two years younger than General Wheeler, who is the oldest officer of that rank in the service.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton believes that in love affairs women should have the conventional right of proposing as well as men.

Addison Cammack, the Wall street bear, knows the highest and lowest prices of listed stock has reached in every month for ten years past.

Alfred de Rothschild has every pint of water used in his London house brought to town every day in cans from his wells at Trint, in Hertfordshire.

Joel Chandler Harris has a horror of the theatre. He has never in his life been known to enter the doors of one except to hear a reading by James Whitcomb Riley.

Thomas A. Edison's handwriting bears a close resemblance to that of Edgar Allan Poe, a fact which is the despair of those who seek to "read character" by one's chirography.

Joseph H. Douglass, grandson of Frederick Douglass, is winning a reputation as a violinist, inheriting his love of the instrument from his famous grandfather, who gave him an Amati violin which cost \$2,000.

President Kruger, like other men, has his weakness. It is for green carpet slippers, which he dons the minute he crosses his own threshold. In regard to laundry expenses he is said to be extremely economical.

In appreciation of Miss Helen Gould's generosity in furnishing coats for American soldiers in Cuba, the corporals of the Sixth Ohio regiment have united to buy a golden military canteen, suitably inscribed, and present it to Miss Gould.

The late President H. B. Plant, of the Plant system, is reported to have bequeathed to General Maximo Gomez, \$50,000; to General Fitzhugh Lee, \$20,000; to Mr. Sprague, \$10,000, and various sums to other prominent persons in Havana.

The oldest surviving ex-senator of the United States is James Ware Bradbury, of Maine, who has just celebrated his 97th birthday. His practice of law extended over a period of 72 years. For a part of his senatorial term the late Vice President Hannibal Hamlin was his colleague.

General William F. Draper, American ambassador to Italy, was the guest of honor at the annual outing of the Millard Mass. board of trade the other day. He said in his speech that during the recent war the sympathy of the Italian people was almost unanimously with this country.

A. B. Slawson, who has charge of the Congressional Library's reading room, where 60 newspapers are kept on file, is probably the greatest authority on American newspapers. He knows the history of nearly every one, and can, at a glance, tell from which any loose clipping he may want to classify has been taken.

Bret Harte, who is living comfortably in bachelor quarters in the West End of London, is an industrious and extremely painstaking writer. He never writes a story unless he has an order for it. He does not submit his manuscripts for inspection, but he has a habit of handing several years ago of dictating his stories to a typewriter, but he always employs one special operator.

A woman's glory is her hair, and that of Mercedes Lopez, a Mexican, is said to be unique. Mercedes' height is 5 feet and her hair, which is said to be the longest in the world, trails on the ground four feet eight inches. It is so thick that she can wrap it around herself till she is completely hidden by it. Mercedes is the only woman who has sold, but come in here and buy a lawn mower that will cut like a razor and runs as easy as a bicycle. The labor saved will simply repay you for the small outlay.

Don't borrow your neighbor's lawn mower which you find isn't sharp, and then say sharp things about it which makes you who said, but come in here and buy a lawn mower that will cut like a razor and runs as easy as a bicycle. The labor saved will simply repay you for the small outlay.

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Fastens papers in a jiffy, feeds itself and improved in every respect. Prices lower than ever. We are still selling the Planitary Pencil Sharpener. The only sharpening device which never breaks the lead. On trial in your office for 10 days free of charge. We have numerous other novelties in office supplies, together with a large line of Blank Books and Typewriter's Supplies.

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in plain and cord effects—"colors absolutely fast," which we are closing out below cost.

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THE LONG GREEN lawn around the house, or the little patch of grass in the dooryard, require constant attention to look beautiful.

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