

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be closed for publication by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 5, 1899.

What the president ought to do is to nominate William T. Sampson as vice admiral and dare the Schley faction to oppose confirmation.

In the War's Wake.

A MIND clear, keen and practical, with judgment mature and will-power matured, the whole governed by sound principles and ideals—this is the picture suggested to the mental vision of the man who studies carefully the first annual report of the Hon. Elihu Root as secretary of war.

On Saturday morning we printed in full the portion of his report relating to the broad question of army reorganization. It was a document of the first importance which went at once to the heart of the army problem and showed just what should be done.

An Important Question.

PROBABLY a large majority of our citizens are firmly of the opinion that positions of public responsibility should be occupied only with sufficient elasticity to meet continually changing conditions or contingencies but steadily progressing toward the ideal of an autonomy as we know it in the government of the various states.

We have heard it said it is a thankless task to occupy a seat in our councils and that those who find the most fault are generally the last to put their shoulders to the wheel and help another man to the city's legislative halls.

Senator Quay will now give an illustration of the fact that it is the voice that counts.

The Army Well Cared For.

IN HIS annual report Secretary Root refers in the following convincing fashion to a subject one in very animated controversy: "The food supplied to the army during the year has been of good quality and has been furnished promptly. Special attention has been paid to securing rations suited as far as possible to a tropical climate. Tests have been made of emergency rations affording a high degree of nourishment in small compass, and not easily spoiled, and a combination recently adopted seems to be giving satisfaction in the Philippines."

Table with 3 columns: Stations, Number, Rate per 1000. Rows include United States, Cuba, Porto Rico, and Philippines.

malarial country or quartered in and about cities infected with yellow fever, and especially adapted to the production of typhoid, this is an extraordinary result and reflects credit upon all the branches of the service engaged in clothing, feeding, and caring for the men."

The total deaths in the army of the Philippines for the ten months from the 1st of January, 1899, to the 1st of November, 1899—that is to say, for the entire period covered by the war with the insurgents—have been of those killed in battle and dying of wounds and other injuries 477; those dying of disease, 366—making a total of 843.

Whatever else congress may at this session fail to do, it should heed the request of the secretary of the navy for authority to buy good armor plate to be used in the completion of the new warships otherwise all ready to take their place in the American navy.

The Matter of Clothes.

NEW JERSEY is just now agitated over the question as to whether the judges shall wear gowns on the bench. A warm discussion of the subject is stirring up much sentiment in judicial and legal circles, the preponderance of opinion apparently being against the innovation, because it is asserted to be contrary to the democratic principles for which the state is characteristic.

The matter of clothes seems to be disturbing the minds of men as well as women this season. A Washington tailor has thought out an elaborate theory which gives an optimistic view of the age and which has called up some discussion. It relates to pockets. There are people who have decided that man's superiority over woman lies in the fact that he wears pockets in his clothes.

That the subject of men's dress is a disturbing one at present is suggested by the complaint which comes from the metropolis regarding the ignorance of actors concerning correct stage attire. They are said to be able to accurately follow out the fashion of a by-gone age, but to dress like a gentleman of today they cannot.

In contrast to all this agitation on masculine dress it is interesting to note that a man superintendent of schools out in Kansas City is devoting his attention to dress reform among the women. His method is contrary to that usually observed in this matter. The teachers under his jurisdiction found in the fashionable golf skirt a garment so convenient and serviceable for school that many adopted it.

In spite of the reports of suffering aboard her during her first voyage between Honolulu and Manila, the transport Manuana has just received an excellent certificate of character from naval officials. It is probable, however, that the volunteers who baled out the hold would prefer to return home on some other boat.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INSULAR GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page 1.)

loyal and eager for the benefits to be derived from the application of American ideas of government. There is no obstacle in the way of our providing for Porto Rico the best form of government we are capable of devising for people situated as are the inhabitants of that island.

The questions presented by the consideration of the measures which ought to be taken for the government of Porto Rico are: (1) What form of government shall be established, and what participation in that government shall the people of the island have? (2) What shall be the municipal law of the island, and how far shall the laws now regulate the rights and conduct of the people be changed to conform to the ideal existing among the people of the United States? (3) What economic relations shall be established between the island and the United States?

(1) In determining the question as to the form of government, and the participation of the people of the island therein, the most important fact to be considered is that the people have not yet been educated in the art of self-government, or any really honest government. In all their experience and in all their traditions, law and freedom have been ideas which were not associated with each other, but opposed to each other and it is impossible that a people with this history—only 10 per cent of whom can read or write—should ever have acquired any real understanding of the way to conduct a popular government.

The difficulty does not consist merely of a lack of familiarity with the methods and processes of government; it lies deeper than that in the fact that the Porto Ricans have never learned the fundamental and essential lesson of obedience to the decision of the majority. They have never learned that there can be no free government without a loyal, voluntary personal submission to the peaceful decisions reached through the processes of government.

Lesson Slowly Learned.

The attitude of the defeated party is one which is not only a hindrance to the evolution in the government of the West India islands and the Central American states in the same latitude. This attitude is a hindrance to the stage of political development, and before the people of Porto Rico can be fully entrusted with self-government they must have learned the lesson of obedience to the decision of the majority, which is slowly learned, because it is a matter not of intellectual apprehension, but of character and of acquired habits of thought.

Programme Suggested.

I think that some such provision should be made for future government as the following: That we should first declare definitely, by statute, what general laws of the United States are to be extended to Porto Ricans, such as, for instance, the postal laws, the banking laws, the customs, navigation and internal revenue laws with such modifications as may be deemed advisable, the laws against counterfeiting, the anti-trust laws, etc., and provide for federal courts to execute these laws just as they are executed in the various states and territories of the Union; that there should be a judicial system, similar to that of the island, with the same kind of jurisdiction which is exercised by the circuit and district courts of the United States, and that jurisdiction to review the determinations should be vested in the Supreme court of the United States, or in a designated circuit court of appeals and the Supreme court of the United States.

That there should be a form of local insular government provided which shall have control over the rights, property, and obligations of the people of the island, substantially covering the field covered by the government of our respective states, and subject to limitations prescribed by congress of the same character as the constitutional limitations, generally imposed upon our state legislatures. That the framework of this government should be substantially as follows: A governor, to be appointed by the president of the United States with the advice and consent of the senate; the chief officers of state customary under our system, such as secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer and auditor or comptroller, superintendent of public works, and superintendent of education, to be appointed in like manner; and a legislative council, composed of the chief officers of state, and a minority selected from the people of the island by the president; that all acts of the council should be subject to the veto power of the governor and to be passed over the veto by a two-thirds vote, and no law should take effect until it has been passed without disapproval for thirty days after presentation to congress or to the president of the United States; if passed when congress is not in session, that there should be a Supreme court of the island, composed of judges appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the senate and having appellate jurisdiction only; trial courts in separate districts, having general original jurisdiction, and judges and officers to be appointed by the governor, and a petty court in each municipality; that the several municipalities now existing in the island should be re-organized and their boundaries as the council shall determine, shall be governed by mayors and municipal councils, to be elected by the people of the municipalities, each municipality to be free from control in the exercise of the powers of local government, except as it shall be controlled by statute, and except as its officers shall be liable to removal by the governor in case of failure to faithfully perform their duties, and with power in the governor in case of such failure to order a new election and to fill vacancies in the meantime.

Precedent in Territorial Legislation.

Such a system as this is not without precedent in our own experience, for

the provision of a governor and council was frequently adopted in our early territorial legislation. It would give to the people of the island participation in the government, and would afford them an opportunity both to acquire and to demonstrate capacity for the conduct of government.

The question whether there might not now be provision made for a legislative elected by the people of the island is not free from doubt, but in view of their present inexperience I think that it would be better to postpone such a provision until the people can have had an opportunity for exercise in municipal government and until the first "formative" period of adapting the laws and procedure of the island to the new conditions shall have passed under the direction of a council composed of Porto Ricans selected for their known capacity and wisdom and Americans from the state competent and experienced in dealing with legislative and administrative problems. The constitution of such a legislature should be contemplated as a step to be taken in the near future.

I think the basis of suffrage should be that all who can read and write, or who hold property up to a specified amount, may vote and be eligible. With a sufficient system of free primary education, the entire people should acquire the suffrage on this basis fully and as they are capable of using it under ordinary conditions.

For the successful working of such a scheme, or of any scheme of government for the island, it will be necessary that some cardinal rule shall be adopted and rigidly followed regarding appointment to office. Wherever a Porto Rican is selected for an office, he should be selected, and the aim should be to include in the civil service of the island as many of Americans from the United States as are necessary for the introduction of the methods of administration in which Americans have been trained and Porto Ricans have not.

Wherever it is necessary to employ Americans, except in the chief offices, a system of the highest examination should be provided, under which requests from the governor of Porto Rico for suitable persons to be appointed may be filed.

Education Needed.

A necessary element to the success of this, or any scheme of government in Porto Rico is the complete establishment of a system of education which will afford the opportunity for every child of school age in the island to acquire the rudiments of education. The cost of this should be defrayed from the insular treasury, if its revenues are sufficient, and if not it should be regarded as a duty of highest obligation resting upon the United States, and the expense should be borne by the United States.

Education Needed.

It is essential attention to the very valuable discussion of this subject contained in the report of Brigadier General George W. Davis, military governor of the island, submitted herewith. (2) The question of the economic treatment of the island underlies all the others. If the people are prosperous and have an abundance of the necessities of life, they will with justice be easily governed, and will with gladness accept of a high degree of self-government. If they are left in hunger and hopeless poverty, they will be discontented, intractable, and mutinous. The principal difficulty now in the island of Porto Rico is the transfer of the island from Spain to the United States has not resulted in an increase of prosperity, but in the reverse. The industry of the island is almost entirely agricultural. The people live upon the products of their own soil and upon the articles for which they exchange their surplus products abroad. Their production is in the main of coffee, sugar and tobacco. The prosperity of the island depends upon their success in selling these products abroad. Their production is in the main of coffee, sugar and tobacco. The prosperity of the island depends upon their success in selling these products abroad.

No Market for Products.

Even before the hurricane of August 8, 1899, two crops of tobacco lay in the warehouses of Porto Rico, which the owners were unable to sell at prices equal to the cost of production. The sugar shared the prevailing depression in that commodity, arising from the competition of bounty-fed beet sugar. Their coffee was practically unsalable in the United States and had no market here. It is plain that it is essential to the prosperity of the island that she should receive substantially the same treatment at our hands as she received from Spain while a Spanish colony, and that markets of the United States should be opened to her as were the markets of Spain and Cuba before the transfer of allegiance. Congress has the legal right to regulate the customs duties between the United States and Porto Rico as it pleases; but the highest considerations of justice and good faith demand that we should not disappoint the confident expectation of sharing in our prosperity with which the people of Porto Rico so gladly transferred their allegiance to the United States, and that we should treat the interests of this people as our own; and I wish most strongly to urge that the customs duties between Porto Rico and the United States be removed.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER.

"Tis a far, far cry from the Minute Men And times of the buff and blue To the days of the withering Jorgensen, The hands that hold it true. 'Tis a far, far cry from Lexington To the Isles of the China Sea. But ever the same the man and gun— Ever the same are we.

For the blood of the sires at Bunker Hill, Through countless fierce campaigns, Is as red and eager in peril still In the depths of the children's veins, And the heart and the eye support the hand. No matter what odds there be— Ever the same, thy sons, O land, Ever the same are we.

Not a Valley Forge, nor a Wilderness, Nor a hail of a Cuban steep, Can take us out from our fearlessness, Who daily in our hearts keep. We carry the flag through varying scenes— From the sign of the old pine tree To the Stars and Stripes of the Philippines— Ever the same are we. And the lad with the fresh, unshaded mouth Fights as his fathers fought, And the man from the North and the man from the South, Do as their fathers wrought. And whether from city or town we come We heroes superior at the heat of the drum— Ever the same are we. Edwin L. Sabin, in Munsey's.

PERSONALITIES.

The emperor of Austria's salary is \$2,500,000 a year. Mr. Chamberlain, British Colonial secretary, in the '90s was a Sunday school teacher in Birmingham.

Lord Kitchener's latest honor is that he has been appointed District Grand Master Mason of Egypt and the Sudan. Mrs. de Breton, Mrs. Langtry's mother, lives in Jersey and is still one of the best-looking women in the island, in spite of her advanced age.

Hull Crane is rapidly buying land in the Island of Manx, his aspiration being to be one of the largest landed proprietors in Great Britain. S. Edwin Mezerges, who is acting consul general of Greece, has been named as official envoy of that country to the International Commercial congress.

Jokai, the Hungarian writer, has produced more than 200 novels. He has planned to display a copy of every edition of his books at the Paris exposition. Joseph H. Douglas, the colored violinist and owner of the \$2,000 Amati violin, is a grandson of Frederick Douglass and is to spend five years more in musical study in Italy.

Mrs. Harriet B. Stafford, of Martha's Vineyard, is the widow of Paul Jones' Bon Homme Richard's flag, has decided to give that banner upon her death to the Massachusetts Historical society. Sister Estrella Lopez de Romanza, the new president of Peru, is, by training, almost an Englishman. He was sent to London when only 19 years old and was educated at Stuyvesant college.

Captain C. Baetige, of San Francisco, has entered into an agreement to sail around Cape Horn to New York and show it to Europe in his 20-foot Mabel. She is a centerboard boat, drawing three feet six inches of water. Dr. H. E. Wells has been appointed assistant in chemistry in Wesleyan university. Last year he was engaged with Professor Atwater for a part of the time in the food investigation at the New York State Hospital for the Insane.

Charles Laurier, a brother of the Canadian premier, is travelling salesman for a cigar firm of Calumet, Mich. He settled in Upper Michigan a number of years ago. Mr. Laurier is about forty years of age. The Canadian premier has a sister, Mrs. Lamarache, living in the same city. Four years ago Governor Morrill, of Kansas, found himself getting too fat, and he worked off a lot of flesh by taking long daily walks. Recently he was left in an emaciated condition by an attack of rheumatism, and now he is adding flesh by taking the same kind of walks.

Dr. L. Gans, a rich citizen of Frankfurt, Germany, has presented that municipality with 15,000 marks to form the nucleus of a fund, the interest of which is to be devoted to adorning the city's streets and squares with works of sculpture. Other citizens will contribute, and it is thought that the city will have 600 marks a year for the purpose.

Colonel J. L. Torrey, author of the book "The Law and Order" and commander of a regiment in the Cuban war, took a great interest in two of his troops. One of them, Charles Idlake, of Sand Creek, Wyo., has won to the Kansas State university for a full course, and the other, Truman Fox, of Sandusky, Wyo., has been given \$5,000 to study art in St. Louis and London.

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