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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 signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 8, 1899.

If the promotion of General Leonard Wood to be a major general of volunteers has any meaning at all, it means his ultimate designation for the military governorship of Cuba, in spite of the jealousies and murmuring within the army line. Mere power, therefore, to the president's backbone.

The President and Germany.

NOT THE LEAST interesting part of the president's message was its allusion to the relations of the United States with the German empire. These I pronounced most cordial, adding: "In all that promises closer relations of intercourse and commerce and a better understanding between two races having so many traits in common, Germany can be assured of the most cordial cooperation of this government and people. We may be rivals in many material paths, but our rivalry should be generous and open, ever aiming toward the attainment of larger results and the mutually beneficial advancement of each in the line of its special adaptabilities."

This is the answer of large-minded statesmanship to the small-potatoes tactics of busybodies who have sought to embarrass and complicate the feelings between the two nations. But this is not all the president said. The best part is to come:

"The several governments of the empire seem reluctant to admit the natural exclusiveness of our food productions and to accept the evidence we constantly tender of the care with which their purity is guarded by rigid inspection from the farm, through the slaughter-house and the packing establishments, to the point of shipment. Our system of control over exported food staples invites examination from any quarter and challenges respect by its efficient thoroughness. It is to be hoped that in time the two governments will act in common accord toward the realization of their common purpose to safeguard the public health and to insure the wholesomeness of life among all food products imported by either country from the other. Were the congress to authorize an invitation to Germany, in connection with the pending reciprocity negotiation, for the constitution of a joint commission of scientific experts and practical men of affairs to conduct a searching investigation of food production and exportation in both countries and report to their respective legislatures for the adoption of such remedial measures as they might recommend for either, the way might be opened for the desirable result indicated."

In this paragraph we read the president's answer to the German agrarians who, in season and out of season, reasonably and unreasonably, have fought the introduction into German markets of American food products, even when the exclusion of those products worked to German consumers a loss not counterbalanced by any visible gain. Should congress invite Germany to make an independent investigation of all our exporting processes Germany could not well refuse, for if she did it would be a confession of wilful blindness and, having accepted in good faith and named men of character to inquire into American methods, the truth would out in spite of agrarian opposition.

Advices from Berlin thus tell of the message's reception in that capital: "The German government and press almost unanimously welcome President McKinley's message to go across. Even the agrarian papers, always opposed to things American, gradually admit that the message is fair and honest. The drift of private comment is virtually the same. Emperor William, it is reliably reported, had a long consultation with Count Von Buelow, the foreign minister, and expressed himself as very much pleased with President McKinley's attitude toward Germany. It is also reported that his majesty discussed the best mode of giving official voice to the feelings of the crown and the government. In any event, on December 12, the day fixed for the first reading of the budget, Count Von Buelow will seize the opportunity of showing Germany's high appreciation of the friendly tone of the message."

Further than this, Count Von Buelow gave for publication the following as his impression of the message: "Count Von Buelow regards the message as an enumeration of German-American friendship. The warm tone in which the president speaks of our mutual relations has created here the best impression, and one may be sure that the sympathy exhibited by the president for Germany are here sincerely reciprocated. Politically everything between the two countries is serene, and there is nothing that disturbs the entente cordiale. Economically considered, the contents and tone of the message strengthen the hope that the United States, with their increasing exports to Germany, will make fair concessions to German trade, and that the reciprocity negotiations will be further conducted in a friendly spirit to a good end."

It is true that actions speak louder than words; but it was only the other day that, at the German chancellor's personal request, a bill in the reichstag dealing a smashing agrarian blow at American imports was withdrawn from consideration on the plea that its enactment would be incompatible with the best interests of the empire. Putting two and two together, it is safe to say in the matter of American relations with Germany that more flies are to be caught by molasses than vinegar.

The members of the permanent army staff at Washington are reported to be rip snorting mad at Secretary Root for daring to intimate that they ought not to be perpetuated in fat offices, far from the dangers of shot and

shell. We advise these gentry to keep their indignation within bounds. If they venture to cross swords with Elihu Root they are quite liable to get hurt. One of the conditions upon which Mr. Root took office was that no politician, not even the president himself, was to interfere along purely political lines in matters vital to the army's welfare and we suspect from the looks of the man that the secretary means business.

Trusts.

FIRST OF ALL, what is the law? In the states the law varies, going all the way from practically nothing, as in Jersey, to virtual prohibition of corporate property under the "stop, trust" cry, as in some of the Populist western states. These discrepancies in state legislation with reference to combinations tending to restrain trade enable trusts to organize in favorable states and incidentally invade unfavorable states under the powerlessness of the unfavorable states to regulate interstate commerce.

In the Addystone Iron Pipe company case, just passed upon by the supreme court, the Sherman anti-trust act is again upheld in a vigorous opinion by Justice Peckham; that is to say, the combination which deliberately sets out to restrain or interfere with interstate commerce, is outlawed; but Justice Peckham in the opinion referred to, as well as Attorney General Griggs in his recent issued annual report, both say that this prohibition of the Sherman act does not cover the operations of corporations which affect interstate commerce only in an incidental manner. Says Mr. Peckham on this point:

"We do not hold that every private enterprise which may be carried on chiefly or in part by means of interstate shipments is to be regarded as related to interstate commerce so as to come within the regulating power of congress. Such enterprise may be of the same nature as the manufacturing of refined sugar; that is, the parties may be engaged as manufacturers of a commodity which they thereafter intend at some time to sell, and possibly to sell in other states; but such sale, we have already held is an incident to and not the direct result of the manufacture, and so is not a regulation of or an illegal interference with interstate commerce."

The reason for this distinction is thus indicated by the attorney general:

"If the federal government has constitutional power to regulate by legislation all contracts and combinations in manufacture, agriculture, mining and all the vast field of productive industry, including the employment of labor and the investment of capital, where not in fact but only the incidental or ultimate result may affect interstate commerce, then, as pointed out by Chief Justice Fuller, it is impossible to say what, if anything, of the ordinary business of life would remain for state regulation or control."

The Addystone Pipe company case was that of a pool entered into without loss of identity by six corporations. Intentionally, it is alleged, to bleed consumers. By reason of the fact that six separate organizations were maintained, representing three states, the "pool" constituted, in the eyes of the supreme court without dissent a restraint upon interstate commerce; but had the six corporations all merged into one, having its headquarters in a single state (as for instance, Jersey) and then proceeded to do business in the other states of the Union "incidentally," the inference is that the supreme court would have obligingly dismissed the proceeding as not lying within the circle of federal jurisdiction but belonging rather to the several states.

The drawing by congress of a clearer line of demarcation between what constitutes and what does not constitute restraint upon interstate commerce is one needed step toward solving the trust problem; and another consists in federal control of charter privileges affecting commerce between the states. This would call for a constitutional amendment.

Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, has apparently become worried over the danger of swelled heads at West Point and Annapolis, as he has offered a bill to increase the course of physical training at those national institutions of learning. Whether the antics of certain military and naval graduates have impressed the senator that too much brain development is a dangerous thing or whether he attended the recent football game between representatives of the two academies and drew conclusions therefrom is not stated.

The Army Canteen.

IT IS STRANGE how easily mere clamor yields before the presence of a determined man. This was strikingly illustrated over in France, by the manner in which "Old Silver-telly," the marquis de Gallifort, put to flight the zealous generals and squelched the Dreyfus excitement by sheer force of personal will. The same thing is occurring in our own country, in a smaller way and here, as in France, the man of the hour is the secretary of war.

For years, as all know, there has been a growing clamor with reference to the army canteen. Temperance theorists have demanded its abolition and presidents, war secretaries and members of congress have been deluged with petitions or nearly driven to drink by personal intercession in support of the doing away of the authorized sale of army posts of light wines and beers. The army men all know that such abolition would be practically ruinous to the welfare of the men, since it would drive them for amusement beyond the lines, into the grog shops and brothels which hover, vulture like, in the wake of every military encampment. But even some of the grizzled war veterans blanched before the attack of the temperance legions or were stampeded into signing recommendations regarding the canteen which their own experience and better judgment condemned.

Not so with Elihu Root. When the wave of sentimentalism bore down upon him, he caused an exhaustive inquiry to be made as to the facts and then in his annual report said: "The practical question to be considered is not whether soldiers should drink or not drink, but whether they

should be permitted to drink beer in the camp, surrounded by the restraining influences of discipline and good association, or whether they should be driven to drink bad whiskey in the vile resorts which cluster around the limits of every military post and camp, and especially around those in which prohibition is maintained." Inquiry among army officers, the secretary concluded, resulted in overwhelming testimony to the effect that the canteen regulation promotes the discipline, morals and health of the enlisted men. Accordingly the canteens will stay.

Men like Root may not always be popular; but how necessary they are when there is work to be done.

The American renegades who joined the Filipino forces at Manila and have been fighting against their comrades are probably the most miserable of men today. When the war is ended they can expect no quarter from the United States government and if hiding in the wilderness will probably not be able to long retain the friendship of the Filipinos whom they have been instrumental in persuading to continue a hopeless contest. In any event, swift punishment seems certain to overtake them and none will mourn their fate. But how about the Filipino sympathizers of the Edward Atkinson stripe whose treasonable utterances have encouraged this very proceeding? Should they be allowed to go unpunished while their blind followers in the Philippines are shot as traitors? This is a subject worthy of consideration of those in authority.

Unanimous.

The unanimity with which Henderson's election to the speakership is approved reminds Colonel David Litterer of a young lawyer down in Macon county who was engaged to the daughter of an honest German named Martin Damm, W. E. Curtis tells the story. When the young man went up to Springfield to argue his first motion before the supreme court of the state he was followed by the anxiety and the hopes of his prospective bride and father-in-law and mother-in-law and brot her and sisters in law. He telegraphed them when he won the case and the old gentleman replied as follows:

"Glad to get the good news. Love and congratulations from the whole Damm family."

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Eighty-four per cent. of Idaho is public land.

Hawaii is said to have more telephones in use in proportion to the population than any other locality in the world.

In 1890 Duluth will be able to handle 42,000,000 bushels of grain, and will be probably the biggest grain elevator center in the world.

Twenty-five years ago there were 500 lady doctors in practice in the United States and there are 4,500—one in 15,000 of the population.

A Vienna journal declares that a local electrician named Pollack has invented a way of telegraphing 50,000 words per hour over a single wire.

There are seven young lady conductors on the electric cars of Chillicothe, O., and five at Vincennes, Ind. They work nine hours a day and receive \$1 a week.

It is probable that in a century or so the housekeeper will think no more of turning on the cold on a hot summer day than we think now of turning on the heat.

Japanese theaters have their boxes so arranged that the ladies can change their dresses, as it is not considered stylish for a lady to appear in an evening in one dress and with the same ornaments.

About 18,000,000 tons of iron ore will make up the shipments from the Lake Superior region this year, as compared with 18,000,000 tons last year, and yet there will be a scarcity of ore for the winter's use.

Three thousand five hundred and three vessels of all kinds passed through the Suez canal last year, and of this number 2,250 carried the British flag. The receipts for 1898 were larger than in any previous year since the opening of the canal.

During the heavy land landside it is estimated that 990,000 people used the Brooklyn bridge cars; the Sixth and Ninth elevated roads alone carried 49,000 passengers; 216,000 used the Pennsylvania Railway and ferries, and 3,000,000 in all saw the parade.

In Belgium organ grinders are compelled by law to play each morning before the police magistrate, who must be satisfied that their instruments are in tune. An organ which is out of tune must be put in order before a license is issued to the player.

It is not generally known that the remains of all the Czars of Russia since Peter the Great lie in a memorial chapel built on one of the islands of the Neva. All the coffins are exactly alike, each being a block of white marble, without any decoration whatever.

Adrian, Mich., enjoys 3-cent street car tickets. The management has long sold 100 tickets for \$1.00 and 50 for 50 cents, but any one can buy 100 tickets for \$1.00 and the company makes money by it, for people ride five times where they would otherwise ride once.

Back in the days of the Revolution a manufacturing firm of Ohio shipped the equipment of one of the finest paper mills in the world. It was sent to Yokohama for the Japanese government, and was loaded on 25 cars. Japan has decided to make its own paper, as some of her state documents have deteriorated with age.

A pet so tiny that it can be carried in a woman's muff is the "pocket monkey." This little creature has a face the size of a 10-cent piece, with small, even teeth, which he displays when uttering soft, birdlike sound called forth by excitement or fear. His body is only a few inches long, but his plumpy tail is long and he curls it around his neck when sleeping.

In Switzerland a death is attended by a custom which calls upon all charitable and Christian people to show their sympathy. A notice edged with a wide black line appears in the daily papers setting forth the day and hour when sympathizers must assemble before the home of the deceased. At the time named a little cloth-covered table supporting a good-sized jar is stood before the house-table, and all bring of the same color, ebony hue—and into the latter small mourning cards bearing the name and address of their owners are deposited.

UNCLE SAM ON THE ALLIANCE.

We've fixed it up all fair and square 'twixt Johnny Bull and me, With 'cades Bill and John, in now let them watch us three! We'll run things on this mortal sphere just as they should be run, And if the rest don't like it there perhaps it'll be some fun.

We want the open door and lots of other things, and you Can't proceed to take 'em, ten; The other chaps may stand aside and be prepared to see The world as it is run by Bill and Johnny Bull and me.

We've got together brotherly to start things running right, 'N' we'll keep 'em going that way or by god there'll be a fight! I'm in the deal to stay—as long as Bill and Johnny B.

Remember to behave and don't get gittin' gay with me! S. E. Kizer, in Times-Herald.

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The Old Man Escaped.
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SOME SPONGE ON THE DOCTOR.

Doctors nowadays give away medicine much more generally than in former years, and the manufacturing chemists who supply compressed tablets report of late numerous orders and applications from physicians for a tablet that shall be "equivalent to a Ripans Tablet." There is really little reason why a physician should buy an imitation when the genuine Ripans Tablets can be had on just about as good terms, and there is nothing about them to enable a patient to recognize them. The Ripans Tablets look just like any other tablet of the same size and color, and the genuine are only to be recognized with certainty by the universally good results that follow their use. The Ripans Chemical Co. supply their product to the profession on specially favorable terms, because it is for their advantage that every doctor shall become so familiar with the merits of Ripans Tablets that he will be quite as willing a patient shall supply his needs at the drug store as to sponge on his physician, and thus get them for nothing.

A new style tablet containing the RIPANS TABLETS in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—only 25c each. This new style is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the Ripans Tablets (10 tablets) can be had by mail by sending four-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL CO., 25 N. 3rd Street, New York, or a single tablet may be sent for five cents. Ripans Tablets may also be had of grocers, general stores, drug stores, and all liquor stores and barber shops.