

The Scranton Tribune
Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cent a Month.

LIVY & RICHARD, Editors.
O. F. BYRNE, Business Manager.

New York Office: 109 Nassau St.
S. GREENLAND,
Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second Class Mail Matter.

When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its readers bearing on current topics, but its rule is that they must be signed for publication, by the writer's real name, and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 27, 1901.

Attorney General Elkin evidently takes no stock in the theory that Senator Quay is a back number. He says: "Quay could get up at midnight, in his pajamas, and wipe the ground with his master's feet."

The Principal Point.
IF THE solution of Scranton's water supply problem is to be sought through competition of private companies, the scheme to introduce water from Wayne county is as plausible as any, and those desiring to put their money in it can go ahead at any time.

It is a question, though, if the time is not here to consider seriously the purchase of a plant by the city. Mr. Scranton's plan is as good a plan as can be found. Some years ago he offered to sell "Wayne" for no less than \$1,000,000.

There will probably be no bombardment of Colon. The space which the foreign warship commanders will allow the Panamanian gunners to shoot at is entirely too small.

One Year in Cuba.
THE secretary of war's review of administrative progress made in Cuba during the last fiscal year is a document which all Americans may read with pride.

Following the plan of steadily training the people in performing the duties of government, the organization of the rural guard has been perfected, and that body has been placed under one head, and now includes a total of 1,200 men and officers, armed with modern carbines and well mounted.

There has been a great reduction in the number of asylums and pauper institutions. Beggars are practically unknown in the island. There are supported by the state 31 hospitals, containing 2,814 beds.

Extensive repairs of streets and sanitary work have been done in Havana, Santiago, Cienfuegos, and Santa Clara. Sewerage and paving plans have been completed and advertised for, and the contract has been awarded.

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Public schools have increased in efficiency. There are 121 boards of education elected by the people. The system has been kept entirely out of politics.

The work of changing the old barracks throughout the island into school-houses has progressed, and \$200,000 have been expended upon this work during the year with most results.

There are now over 3,000 teachers employed, with an average enrollment of 180,000 and an average attendance of 110,000 scholars. The teachers have improved. There has been a large increase in the number of pupils in the universities and the provincial institutes, which have been provided with new laboratories and well equipped with the best modern appliances.

Extensive state aid has been furnished indigent farmers by the distribution of cattle, and over 100,000 farmers have been assisted in this way. An expert has been sent from Cuba to Washington to study diseases prevalent among the animals of the island, and his work has been attended by good results.

A systematic combat with tuberculosis, which has one of the largest death rates, has been inaugurated. Systematic vaccination against small-pox is going on throughout the entire island. The death rate from malaria in the large towns has been much reduced by sanitary improvements.

The only direction in which the secretary's report is not wholly encouraging is in the administration of justice. There has, he says, been a general improvement but the courts are still far from what they should be.

Financially Cuba is in fair shape. Last year her revenues were \$17,167,866.21 and her expenditures, \$17,335,965.55. The tobacco crop will be less than last year on account of bad markets and low prices.

On this subject the secretary says: "It is very desirable that congress should exercise the power conferred upon it by the constitution to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia."

Concerning the abolition of the army, the report says: "When the orders were issued for the enforcement of this section of the constitution, the military organizations of the various posts and military organizations were directed to report upon their effects."

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SAVE CUBA FROM RUIN

(Continued from Page 1)

To provide for the broader and more thorough education of an military officers, it is proposed that a school of instruction be established at West Point, for the instruction of the military academy at West Point, for the instruction of the military academy at West Point, for the instruction of the military academy at West Point.

The War College board shall exercise general supervision and inspection of all the different schools and shall have the duty of maintaining through them a complete system of military education, in which such separate schools perform their proper part. It should be kept constantly in mind that the object and ultimate aim of all this preparatory work is to train officers to command men in war.

The officers' schools at military posts and the general service and staff college will be open for instruction to all officers of the regular army, of the several states, to former officers of Volunteers, and to graduates of military schools and colleges which have been approved by the War Department.

The special service schools will be open to officers of the National Guard and former officers of volunteers who are qualified for service as officers of the regular army, of the several states, to former officers of Volunteers, and to graduates of military schools and colleges which have been approved by the War Department.

The college staff of the general service and staff college, Fort Leavenworth, will make report to the secretary of war, of the qualifications of officers of the National Guard, ex-volunteers, and graduates of military schools and colleges, who shall have attended the college staff for examination, and shall further certify whether or not they are qualified for service as officers of volunteers, specifying character of the service, whether line or staff, for which they are specially qualified.

First officers who have heretofore exhibited superior capacity, application, and devotion to duty, the names to be selected by a board of officers convened for that purpose.

Second-Officers who shall be reported as doing especially meritorious service, shall also be mentioned, and the names of such officers shall be placed on a list of the most promising candidates for promotion.

Third-Officers who at any time specially distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious services.

It will be the aim of the department to make this register the basis of selection for details as staff officers, military attachés, and for special service resulting in a high degree of professional capacity.

Secretary Root adds: The course, both of the officers' schools at military posts and of the general service and staff college, will be arranged so that the young men wishing to fit themselves for volunteer commissions may send their names to military posts, if they are not available at the military posts, to the nearest military post, where they may be examined and their names placed on a list of the most promising candidates for promotion.

On this subject the secretary says: "It is very desirable that congress should exercise the power conferred upon it by the constitution to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia. The organization and armament of the national guards of the several states, which are treated as militia in the appropriations made by congress, should be made the same as those provided by congress for the regular and volunteer forces."

The relations of the national guard organizations to the national forces, and the regulations and discipline of these organizations in time of war, should be clearly defined, so that the confusion and dissensions regarding their action which accompanied the outbreak of the war with Spain may not again occur.

The reliance of the country for the large forces necessary in modern warfare must necessarily be chiefly upon volunteers. The organization and armament of these forces should be prescribed in advance, so that instead of waiting to devise plans for a volunteer army until the exigencies of a sudden emergency make preparation of design difficult and satisfactory execution impossible, congress will have had time to direct the execution of a well-considered plan by officers, one of whom has long been familiar with the part he is to play. It is desirable that any plan adopted should provide for utilizing, in the earlier volunteer organizations, the best of the regular army training, men, much valuable time and expense can be saved, and many dangers may be avoided during the period while the military volunteers are receiving the necessary training.

It is recommended that the president be authorized to convene boards of officers, including the general officer and staff college board for the examination of officers of the national guard, and other officers who may apply to be examined, as to their qualifications to be admitted to commissions in the regular army, and to the military academy at West Point, and to the military academy at West Point.

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ment of a general staff as is practicable under existing law. Consideration of the amount of work which that board ought to do, however, in the field of education, leads to the conclusion that it is not adequately prepared for the duties of a general staff, and that the whole subject should be treated by congress in a broader way.

During the year the operations of the field forces in the Philippines were so vigorous and unending that more than 1,000 contacts occurred between our troops and the insurgents from May, 1899, to June, 1901, in which the insurgent casualties were: Killed, 8,834; wounded, 1,193; captured, 6,672; surrendered, 28,003. With a total of 15,293 rifles and nearly 200,000 rounds of small arms ammunition captured and surrendered. Our casualties during the same period were: Killed, 245; wounded, 490; captured, 181; surrendered, 30.

The recent disturbances in Samar and Cebu, Luzon, etc., says the report, "of minor consequence, and are being stamped out by the vigorous operations of our troops. Such disturbances of this character are, unfortunately, to be expected, but will be controlled and guarded against by every means possible. The difficulties of this description are not more but less than were anticipated."

It is the design of the department not to subject any of our forces to the effect of a tropical climate for a longer period than three years without an intervening tour of service in a colder climate.

A number of improvements in the methods of transacting the business of the army department have been formulated and will be followed. The economical handling of supplies will be greatly promoted by the proposed construction of numerous storehouses and by the progressive concentration of troops at fewer stations, while the quantity of supplies required will be reduced by the gradual substitution of native troops and consular constabulary for American soldiers in maintaining order.

Early in the year a number of small peculations by persons concerned in the business of the commissary department at Manila were discovered and received great prominence in the public press. Through military government measures the demoralization which they indicated was confined to a few individuals, who were promptly tried, convicted, and sentenced, and the general confidence of the public was restored. The whole amount of loss to the government proved to be less than \$1,000.

A supplementary report on the government of the Philippines is promissed.

Cuba's Political Future.
Secretary Root reports at length the proceedings leading up to the adoption of the Cuban constitution and adds: "I do not wish to agree with the statement of some of the writers of this constitution that it is a constitution for a republican form of government; it was adopted after long and patient consideration of the merits and demerits of the various proposals submitted by the people of Cuba; and it contains no features which would justify the assertion that a government organized under it will not be one to the satisfaction of the people."

By virtue of the constitution of June 12, 1899, appended thereto, the constitution defines the future relations of the United States with Cuba by the provisions of the constitution of which Cuba is a part. The constitution defines the future relations of the United States with Cuba by the provisions of the constitution of which Cuba is a part.

The new republic will begin its independent career with the greatest promise of success. The great wisdom of all the officers and soldiers of the United States who have fought and labored for the good of Cuba, and who have learned to appreciate the many admirable and attractive qualities of her people, I think that as the period of American occupation draws toward its close there is no more appreciation by the Cubans of what the people of the United States have done for them. During the recent severe illness of the military governor, the manifestations of esteem and affection for him were especially noteworthy; and the lamented death of President McKinley was followed by general expressions of sympathy and sorrow throughout the island.

Minor Features.
Concerning the abolition of the army, the report says: "When the orders were issued for the enforcement of this section of the constitution, the military organizations of the various posts and military organizations were directed to report upon their effects. A great body of reports has been received, which indicate that the effect of a sufficient time has not elapsed to give the law a fair trial, and the observation and report of its working will be continued during the ensuing year."

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Christmas Gifts for the Children



THE TRIBUNE'S JUNIOR EDUCATIONAL CONTEST

Gold and Silver Watches, Sleds, Skates, Games, Toys, Etc.
Estimate the Number of Words.

To be given to the Boys and Girls of Northeastern Pennsylvania who succeed in making the largest number of words out of the letters in S-C-R-A-N-T-O-N T-R-I-B-U-N-E.

Prizes will be given to the boy or girl, under 16 years of age, building the largest number of words out of the letters contained in "Scranton Tribune."

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