

Freeland Tribune

Established 1888.

PUBLISHED EVERY

MONDAY AND THURSDAY,

BY THE

TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited

OFFICE: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.

FREELAND, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$1.50
Six Months75
Four Months50
Two Months25

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It is stated that the English language is growing faster than any other past or present. This is because those who use it have a great deal to say in this world.

Thirty or forty inmates of the Ohio state prison recently struck for shorter hours. Their demands were not complied with, neither were they informed that their services were no longer needed.

Lord Kitchener recently arrived at Berber, after a camel ride of eight hundred miles through the eastern Sudan. He reports that everywhere he found the natives exceedingly thankful for their release from the terrible sufferings to which they have been subjected for many years by the tyrannical and blood-thirsty rule of the Dervishes, of which he found abundant evidences in all directions.

General Wilson, military commander of the province of Matanzas, has set an admirable example for the commanders of other Cuban provinces in the action he has taken for the protection and care of the unfortunate little ones of the province who were orphaned by revolution's tragedy and Weyler's assassinations. He has investigated and covered with the influence of his position the establishment of an asylum for the shelter of the orphans of reconcentrados and all destitute children.

A soundless electric gun is said to have been bought by the British government. If true, this is mainly interesting as being an effective application of electricity to ordnance. This tremendous new force has been used chiefly in useful pursuits, and what death-dealing powers it has hitherto developed have been expended almost exclusively on its users. The soundlessness of the gun adds one more terror to war and removes it one step farther from personal contest. The smokeless gun was bad enough; one could hear its discharge and one knew only in a general way whence the bullet came and whither to run, but it was better than this last invention, which will strike a man before he knows he is being shot at. Perhaps, though, that is the most merciful way, after all; for it almost takes the gun out of the list of violent weapons and puts it in that of merciful anesthetics.

The sooner parents learn that the skipping-rope is a dangerous plaything for girls the better it will be for the rising generation of women, thinks the Washington Star. Physicians have long been advising against the use of this means of juvenile exercise. They have pointed out its deleterious effect upon several of the organs of the body, particularly the heart, and have in some cases traced diseases to its influence. Now deaths come to give point to the physicians' counsel. Several fatal cases have already occurred this season. The other day in Trenton, N. J., a six-year-old girl died after convulsions following the use of a rope. She had strained her heart beyond its point of endurance. In gymnasiums careful athletic instructors occasionally prescribe the skipping-rope as an aid to the process of muscle-building and lung development. But they watch its use closely and prevent over-exercise of the heart, which is called upon for the most active exertions when the body is put through such violent paces.

His Real Reason.
"Am I to understand that you introduced this ordinance because you are of the opinion the question ought to be settled?" asked the railway official. "That was the way I put it," replied the alderman, "but I really introduced it because I thought it was about time for a settlement."—Indianapolis Journal.

An Argument for Expansion.
He—There are millions of people in this country who don't play golf. That proves that we need more territory. She—How? He—Because when they do play golf we won't have enough room for links.

AN EXPERIENCE WITH A DESPERADO.

By Rev. William E. Barton.

A TRUE STORY.

In the days when I was a student in college I spent my vacations in the mountains of Kentucky teaching school, selling books, and giving occasional talks on popular subjects to the parents of my school children. These so-called "lectures" were delivered in the schoolhouse by what was called "candle-light," although the light was mostly made by pine torches in the great open fireplace.

The first of these lectures was on temperance, a practical subject, and suited to the locality, for although liquor is made and too much is consumed in the mountains of Kentucky, there is no place of which I know where there is a more strenuous and wholesome temperance sentiment. So my lecture was well received in the schoolhouse on Richland Creek, and I was invited to deliver it again on Horse Lick.

Horse Lick was eighteen miles distant, and the road was rough and steep, but I took it on a Friday afternoon, having dismissed school early for the purpose. A mountain preacher met me by appointment on the way, and rode the remainder of the distance with me. We were well mounted on good, sturdy horses, and the ride was pleasant, save as it brought nearer the strange audience which I had rashly promised to address with all too meagre preparation. It began to grow upon me that although I might without presumption give informal talks to the people about my own schoolhouse, talks hastily prepared and necessarily superficial, but not wholly without value for their original purpose, it was quite another thing to go to a strange locality and attempt a formal lecture with the same material.

However, on one point I felt tolerably strong—the part of my lecture that dealt with temperance and crime. In my own schoolhouse I had used as the "awful example" the well-known case of the then regnant desperado of the adjacent county, Pal Seagraves. Every one in our county knew who Pal Seagraves was, although he preferred to do the most of his mischief in the nearest blue-grass county, Madison, and when pursued, to take refuge in the mountains of Jackson.

Pal Seagraves consumed more uncolored corn whiskey and killed more men than any other man in that part of Kentucky. I never knew just how many men he had killed, but the total was not small. Murder was a matter of freak with him; sometimes he had killed a man for no other apparent purpose than to terrify a neighborhood and make his name more potent. Sometimes, so ran the explanation, "he was jes' drunk and didn't keer." He was an excellent warning for use in a temperance lecture in the county where he was known by reputation only. He might not serve so well in the county where he made his headquarters. But that county was Jackson, and Horse Lick, to which I was going, was there, in "the free State of Jackson," as it is called.

I eagerly asked my companion about Pal Seagraves, for his possible presence at my lecture would necessitate radical changes in it, and I had no time to make them. Much to my relief, I was informed that he was gone—gone, they hoped, for good. Being hotly pursued by the sheriff for a crime in Madison County, he was said to have ridden away into a distant part of the State.

Immensely relieved, I gave myself anew to thought upon that part of my lecture, and material for it accumulated, as the road was eloquent with tales of Seagraves.

"Right here," said my companion, "Pal Seagraves killed a man." We were watering our horses in a ford.

"Right where?" I asked.

"Right here." They were watering their horses together. They had had a fuss, and expected to shoot at sight, and they met on you hill, and the other fellow got the drop on Pal. But Pal begged him not to shoot. He told him they were good friends. He swore that he would stand by the other fellow if the other fellow wouldn't kill him, and he, feeling good to have humbled Pal and to have made him his defender, shook hands with him. They rode down here and watered their horses together, and while the other fellow was looking down at his horse, drinking, Pal shot him."

Later my friend pointed out a double log house, with barn across the narrow road.

"In that house and barn six men concealed themselves and waylaid Seagraves. They filled him so full of lead he hasn't dared to go in swimming since, folks say. They thought he would die, sure, but lead can't kill him."

I remembered the incident, for I had chanced to ride in the stage with his mother on her way to see her son, whom she believed to be dying. "My Pally," she called him, and told me that she herself had named him Palestine, "because hit's a good Scripture name." She was curiously proud of her boy, although disapproving his crimes; sorry that he did as he did, but admiring his hardihood and power.

I had seen Seagraves himself once. He had galloped by me, frightening my horse with his reckless speed and yell, and turning toward me as he passed a pair of fearful eyes. Whether he was light or dark, wore a beard or not, I could not recall, but I could not forget those eyes, and I knew that I should know him again if I ever saw him.

By this time the thought of Pal Seagraves had well-nigh absorbed the little part of my lecture that was devoted to other aspects of the liquor problem. I had no thought of naming him, but I knew that every one would know whom I meant, and I was quite willing they should know, inasmuch as he was at a safe distance. And so the lecture began.

I was a boy of twenty, cultivating my first mustache, and the minister who introduced me told the people who filled the schoolhouse not to despise my youth, for, said he, "I reckon he'll talk well, and I know he'll give you the best he's got."

I was through with my introduction, and had started well upon the body of my lecture, and had reached the topic of temperance and crime.

I had just got into this when the door opened, and in came Pal Seagraves. He had a companion before whom he was evidently minded to show off, and both were more or less drunk. Respectful room was made for them, and they sat well toward the rear, but in plain sight, and their coming sent a perceptible chill over the audience, and worse than a chill over me. I tried not to look that way, but turn as I would to this corner and that, I saw nothing but those eyes. I talked on from sheer inability to stop. I could not forget what I had to say. I could not change it. I had to go on.

I confess I tried to soften down some of my illustrations, but it seemed to me that every such attempt brought the statement out in all the more uncompromising form. I grew almost desperate.

I soon saw that Seagraves recognized his portrait, and counted it a good joke. He winked at his companion and nudged him. Then he laughed, first softly, then aloud, and then a coarse, defiant laugh. This irritated me and steadied my nerve somewhat, and I began to say to myself that he should hear the truth about himself once, anyway. So I gave myself more liberty, and went straight ahead.

His laughing mood did not continue long. He scowled; he scuffed his feet on the rough floor; he made some discourteous noises; and all the time I talked on as if driven by fate, every word sounding harder and more stinging than I had meant it to, even when I supposed that he would be absent.

At length he rose and started toward me, walking instead of partly because he was drunk, partly because such is the custom of human centaurs when compelled to use their own legs. It was not because I wanted to that I looked him straight in the eye. I could not help it. And I talked on because I could not stop. Perhaps my looking at him had an effect; perhaps he counted me small game; for he turned on his heel and went out.

Many mountain schoolhouses have no glass windows, but this one had, and at one I soon saw the hideous, grinning, angry, drunken face of the desperado. There are few faces that look well through a window at night, but I am willing to affirm that no face ever looked less attractive than his did to me. It was plain that he was undecided what to do, for I could read his thought in his drunken features. At times he seemed tempted to shoot me through the glass and again, he remembered apparently that I was a boy, and that to kill me would be a little out of his line, and could do him little good.

As before, I kept my eyes on him, and every eye in the schoolhouse was fixed with mine on that pane of glass. His curiosity soon overcame him, and he came in again, apparently a little more sober, and partly restored to good nature by the fresh air. And I found means about that time to draw my lecture to a close.

In that part of Kentucky the ministers descend after a service, and the people come forward and shake hands with them. I was a sort of brevet minister, and the preacher and I stepped down. The first man to come up and extend his hand, which he did with a swagger, was Seagraves.

I took the hand which he extended, and asked, "Will you tell me your name, sir?"

He told me his name with emphasis and evident pride.

"Do you live about here, Mr. Sea-

graves?" I asked. It was a stupid enough question, but it was all that I could think to ask. To my surprise it abashed him. He felt an apparent humiliation that he had left it possible for any man to enter Jackson County and not know his name. Turning on his heel, he went out.

My friend, the minister, got together a group of people to walk with us to our stopping place and protect me in case of need. We passed the ruffian, who was watching for us in the shadow of the schoolhouse, and his attitude and a growing curse convinced my friends that the precautions were not unnecessary.

By the time Pal had taken one or two additional drinks, he appeared to repent of having let me off so easily, and came galloping up to the log house where we were entertained. I had gone to bed, and was making some mental calculations of the thickness of the walls when I heard his voice.

My landlord went out to the fence and reasoned with him. Pal demanded that "the preachers" should be brought out. He wanted to see both of them. If we did not come out, he would come in and fetch us out. And there was more talk of this sort, emphasized now and then by the firing of a bullet over the house.

My host pleaded the laws that govern hospitality, and seemed to be urging my youth in extenuation of my conduct. Somewhat mollified, Pal at last rode off, and as the light of the new day was coming in, I ceased to wonder if he would return again and fell asleep.

That was the last time I saw Pal Seagraves; but I was told a year ago that he has settled down into a shiftless farmer, and "rides on his raids no more." About three years since, his nerve shaken and his aim less true, he found himself with empty pistols looking into the loaded barrel of a revolver in the hands of a younger and equally desperate man, and gained his life by the hardest begging upon his knees.

The stock in trade of such a desperado is chiefly the fear which his name excites. The power of his name to frighten once broken, his poor, shabby courage oozes out, and he stands confessed a coward. I never knew a ruffian who had not in him some patent elements of cowardice. The swaggering and bluster of the desperado rarely go with true courage, which, as I have seen it, is almost uniformly modest and at the root, moral.

Now, they told me, "Anybody can kick Pal Seagraves around," and "When a fight begins, and you see a man going through the brush to where he's tied his horse, and hitting the road right lively—that's Pal!"—Youth's Companion.

WISE WORDS.

The greatest remedy for anger is delay.—Seneca.

Kindness out of season destroys authority.—Saeadi.

Avarice is the vice of declining years.—George Bancroft.

Curiosity is one of the forms of feminine bravery.—Victor Hugo.

Behavior is a mirror in which every one displays his image.—Goethe.

The last pleasure in life is the sense of discharging our duty.—Hazlitt.

They that will not be counseled cannot be helped.—Benjamin Franklin.

If a man is worth knowing at all he is worth knowing well.—Alexander Smith.

Life is not so short, but that there is always time enough for courtesy.—Emerson.

Fine sense and exalted sense are not half so useful as common sense.—Alexander Pope.

He is rich or poor according to what he is, not according to what he has.—Henry Ward Beecher.

He that overvalues himself will undervalue others, and he that undervalue others will oppress them.—Johnson.

Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity there are a hundred that will stand adversity.—Carlyle.

No man is the wiser for his learning. It may administer matter to wit in, or objects to work upon; but wit and wisdom are born with a man.—John Selden.

Fatilities in Modern Wars.

The ratio of killed to wounded has not become greater in modern military conflicts than in those of former days. At Kunsersdorf it was 1 to 1.9; at Leipzig it was 1 to 2; among the British in the Crimea it was 1 to 4.4; among the French in the Crimea it was 1 to 4.8; among the Prussians at Koniggratz it was 1 to 3.6; among the Austrians at Koniggratz it was 1 to 3; among the Germans in 1870-71 it was 1 to 5.4; in our own Civil War it was 1 to 4, and in the Spanish-American struggle it was 1 to 5.6.

In the late Spanish war the casualties before Santiago, from July 1 to 12, were a little over eleven per cent. There were present for duty 858 officers and 17,358 men. Twenty-two officers and 222 men were killed, and ninety-three officers and 1288 men were wounded.—New York World.

Makes the Densest Forest Known.

California redwood, says a writer in the National Geographic Magazine, covers an area of about 2000 square miles, lying in a narrow strip along the Pacific coast, chiefly between San Francisco Bay and the Oregon boundary. This tree is exempt from destruction by fire, as it contains no resin, but has in it much water, and will not burn when green. It is a cheap timber, worth \$14 per thousand feet in Eureka for the best. A redwood forest is probably the densest forest on earth, both from the size of the trees and their closeness. The sun never shines about the base of these trees.

THE ARMY AS IT STANDS TODAY.

Organization of Our Fighting Forces in and Out of Action.

Previous to the outbreak of the Spanish war the permanent military establishment of the United States was comprised in ten regiments of cavalry, five regiments of artillery and twenty-five regiments of infantry, with their necessary adjuncts of the staff bureaus, altogether aggregating 2,164 officers and 25,000 enlisted men. By law its enlisted strength was limited to 25,000 men, not including some hundreds of general service clerks, hospital attendants, etc. So that, with slight fluctuations in the official personnel and these subsidiary corps, the aggregate strength of the army had ranged for a number of years around 28,000. In 1898 in the forty regiments of the line there were 23,310 enlisted men, or an average of 610 in the cavalry regiments, 810 in the artillery regiments and 521 in the infantry regiments.

On April 22, 1898, Congress passed an act to provide for temporarily increasing the military establishments of the country in time of war. Three days later an act declaring war against Spain was passed, reciting that war

over it knew that large bodies of troops would be required to preserve order in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, yet the law compelled a reduction of the army. Subsequently the outbreak of the Filipinos added to the gravity of the situation. The plan adopted was to muster out the volunteers gradually, and depend in future solely upon the regular army, which the military authorities proposed to Congress to have permanently increased to 100,000 men.

To this there was strong opposition, but what was known as the Hull reorganization bill was passed by the house in the last days of January. Although it was called the Hull reorganization bill it carried no changes of moment in the organization of the army. It simply provided for its permanent increase to 95,763 officers and enlisted men, for an increase of three major generals and six brigadiers, five regiments of infantry and two of cavalry, and for "a corps of artillery," dropping the regimental organization in that arm. It also provided for a

retain in the service, including the regular army major generals, one major general for every 12,000 enlisted men, and, including the regular brigadiers, one brigadier for every 4,000 enlisted men. No additional regular army staff officers are provided for, but there is provision for volunteer staff officers if needed.

In short, what is by misnomer called the "reorganization of the army" is merely an act to continue for two years longer the establishment raised for the Spanish war, namely, until July 1, 1901. As before, the regular army is to consist of three major generals and six brigadiers for the field and eleven staff brigadiers, at the head of the adjutant general's, the inspector general's, the judge advocate general's, the quartermaster general's, the surgeon general's, the commissary general's, the paymaster general's and ordnance departments, the corps of engineers and signal corps respectively.

The same number of cavalry, artillery and infantry regiments are continued. In other words, the regular army provided for in the Cockrell-Gorman compromise is exactly the regular army of the Spanish war, which will continue until July 1, 1901, when it will be superseded by the condition described in the opening paragraph of this article, unless, meanwhile, Congress takes hold of the matter and actually reorganizes the entire concern.



GENERAL OFFICERS OF OUR REGULAR AND VOLUNTEER ARMY.

had existed from April 21, 1898, and directing and empowering the President to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States in the prosecution of the war, and to call out the militia of the several states to the extent necessary "to carry this act into effect," and the following day a bill was passed "for the better organization of the line of the army of the United States," which authorized an increase of the regular army in time of war to about 62,000 officers and men, but provided that when the war was over the permanent establishment should be reduced to a peace basis, and that "nothing contained in this act shall be construed as authorizing a permanent increase of the commissioned or enlisted forces of the regular army" beyond what it was before war was declared.

When peace with Spain was restored the administration was in something of a dilemma. Although the war was

large increase in line and staff officers.

When the Hull bill reached the senate it was strongly antagonized by the opposition on the old ground of dislike and fear of a large standing army. A compromise measure was forced upon the administration in spite of threats of calling an extra session. A bill known as the Cockrell-Gorman substitute was adopted, and was subsequently passed by the house and approved by the President. Neither was this a reorganization bill.

It provides for the muster out of the volunteer army, in accordance with the original act of 1898, and permits the President to retain in service the present regular army at a strength not exceeding 65,000 men, and, in addition, to raise a new force of 35,000 volunteers, to be recruited from the country at large or in the new colonies, as preferred by the military authorities. It authorizes the President to appoint or

The staff department is the only branch of the service really needing reorganization.

The army as it is and as it will remain until 1901 is set out in the following tabular statement, copied from the Army Register for 1899:

Ten cavalry regiments.....	12,170
Seven artillery regiments.....	15,541
Twenty-five infantry regiments.....	32,225
Unattached.....	239
Indian scouts, recruiting parties, etc.,.....	174
Quartermaster's department.....	105
Subsistence department.....	90
Engineer bureau.....	757
Ordnance bureau.....	605
Signal corps.....	200

Total enlisted strength.....63,106

These figures give an average of enlisted strength to the several regiments of the different arms as follows: Cavalry, 1,217; artillery, 2,363; infantry, 1,289.

ANIMALS

Have Steadily Decreased in Size Since Prehistoric Times.

Most of the gigantic animals of geological eras belonged to species which have completely vanished, and of those which have living representatives it is difficult to say whether they have undergone a true change of size or whether the modern examples are merely survivals of smaller contemporary varieties. The larger animals have a tendency to disappear first in a partial failure of food supply. Gigantic armadillos closely resembling those of the present day were formerly abundant in South America. The remains of huge sloths are found in Cuba and North America. Sharks attaining a length of more than 100 feet are found in comparatively recent fossil deposits. Another fish which represents a larger prehistoric species is the American bony pike, which is one of the few survivors of the enormous ganoids of the secondary strata. The tiny nautilus of the present day had kindred 10 or 12 feet long in early times. Another small shell fish, the perodop, whose delicately complex structure is packed in an inch of shell, is found in fossil remains to have reached the respectable length of a couple of feet.

Seven at a Birth.

The greatest number of children born at a birth was seven. This case is well authenticated. It occurred in Hameln, Germany, in 1609; and in a house which is yet standing and bears the following inscription: "Here resided a citizen, Roemer by name. His spouse, Anna Bregres, well known in the town, when they wrote the year 1600. On January 9th, in the morning at three, bare two boys and five maidens at the one time. They having received holy baptism, died a blessed death on the 20th of the same month at twelve o'clock. May God grant them that blessedness which is prepared for all believers."

Greatest of Wine Markets.

There are over 200 brands of wine produced in France, but more wine is drunk in England than in France, and London is the greatest wine market in the world.

He Became Russian.

"Mulligan always boasted as his Irish blood till he fell off 'th' houn-driht round av th' ladder." "Phwat was he thim?" "Russian desint."