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FREELAND, PA., DECEMBER 11, 1899.

Abuse of the Pardoning Power.

From the New York World.

On Sunday the *World* catalogued 349 pardons granted to criminals and 129 commutations of sentence by Mr. McKinley during the two years and five months of his administration.

The list does not conclude the case of Commissionary General Eagan, who, after a fair trial by court martial, was sentenced to a graceful dismissal from the army, and whose sentence the president changed into the reward of six years' furlough upon full pay.

But it does include the pardon of sixteen bank wreckers and a commutation of sentence in the cases of eight other men who as bank officers betrayed their trusts.

It includes pardon in the cases of sixty-one and the commutation of twenty-nine sentences imposed upon postmasters for embezzlement and kindred crimes.

It includes the pardon of thirty-three counterfeiters and the lightening of sentences upon fourteen others.

Without going further into the catalogue it is fair to ask why the president has come to the rescue of these infamous scoundrels by the use of his pardoning power. Why has he granted respite to bank wreckers and the betrayers of trusts, thus concerning other bank officers to like offense? Why has he impaired the integrity of the postal service by pardoning embezzling postmasters for crimes that are unpardonable? What possible claim to clemency can any counterfeiter have?

The pardoning power is conferred upon the executive for one purpose, and one only. It is not intended for the relief of criminals, with or without a "pull." It is intended, as proceedings in equity are, to correct mistakes and cure injustices of the law. It was never meant in any constitution that the executive should pardon criminals. It was meant only that as a last resort his power of pardon should rescue men unjustly convicted of crime.

In this view of the law and the facts, President McKinley's wholesale jail delivery is a gross abuse of the pardoning power.

Premature Congratulations.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The sudden appearance at Vigan of an insurgent force as though it had risen from the vasty deep and the desperate night attack made on our weak and foot-sore garrison in a town and region supposed to be inhabited entirely by "amigos" suggests the uncomfortable reflection that our recent self-congratulations upon the crushing of the Filipino insurrection may have been premature.

Four-fifths of Aguinaldo's army, estimated at 30,000 armed men, remain unaccounted for, and the "friendlies" who have welcomed our troops in the towns entered by them are probably insurgents in disguise, ready to dig up their rifles and take the field again as soon as our garrisons shall have moved on.

There is nothing improbable in the report that Aguinaldo has made his escape to Cavite province to resume his insurrectionary career in the place where it began a year and a half ago. Doubtless we shall have to hold every city and hamlet in Luzon in a grip of steel before we can claim that the insurrection has been quelled.

Growth of the War Debt.

For the last third of a century the people of the United States have been paying off the great war debt created in the early sixties—they have paid fabulous sums, more than five times the amount of the original debt, but they are not done yet. Even now after paying almost countless thousands of dollars it yet requires more of the products of labor to pay the remaining part of the debt than it would to have paid it all, at the time it was contracted—and all this robbery has been brought about by special and purchased legislation, purchased or inspired by the invisible empire of finance—the destroyers of freedom in all countries in the world.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Notes and Comments, Political and Otherwise, on Matters of Interest.

(By Andrew J. Palm.)

The Johnstown Democrat says: Wanamaker runs two big department stores, the Bethany Sunday school, the Philadelphia North American, and, with one or two more hitches on his trousers, he'll be running Quay out of Pennsylvania politics.

McKinley professes to be satisfied with the result of the recent election in Ohio as an endorsement of his imperialism. How much greater reason has Mr. Bryan to feel proud of the endorsement given him by his own state? The majority against Mr. McKinley, as shown by the combined vote of McLean and Jones, is 60,000, while Mr. Bryan was endorsed by a clear majority of 15,000 in his state of Nebraska.

One of the surprises of the recent election was the result in Potter county. Though it has been considered a safe Republican county the Democratic ticket was elected by majorities ranging from 600 to 1,400. With Potter Democratic a member of congress should be gained in that district, and a Democrat elected to the legislature in Mr. Crittenden's place. Especial care should be taken to select strong candidates—men of conceded ability and unquestioned integrity.

The prosperity of which we hear so much from our Republican exchanges is confined mostly to those who needed it least. Manufacturers and trusts are getting the lion's share. The price of nails affords a good illustration of the whole case. In 1898 the price of nails was $1.50 per keg; now they are selling at $4.35, or an increase in cost to the consumer of 190 per cent, while the increase in wages is but 10 per cent. The manufacturer had a profit at the price of nails in '98, and it is evident that the trust has an enormous profit now. Fully 90 per cent of the increased cost on most articles is clear profit to somebody else than the man who does the work to produce them.

The Philadelphia North American is doing the state excellent service by exposing rascality and crime against good citizenship and against the very foundation principles of a republican form of government. Every time The North American's ax has fallen thus far some bad Republican has got it in the neck, and it deserves all the more credit for waging battle against wrongdoers who claim allegiance to its own party. If The North American's club in its descent shall strike some rascally Democrat the party is ready to say "Well done; hit him again." The North American's bold stroke in forcing Josiah Adams off the ticket, and its dilligence in running down ballot box stuffers, as well as its general fearlessness, make it a paper to be feared by those whose deeds are evil and respected by those who obey their country's laws.

The voting machine at the recent election in Buffalo worked to the satisfaction of everybody. It was absolutely correct, no man could work it for more than one vote at a time, and the result was known all over the city within an hour after the polls closed. The Philadelphia machine was not so generally satisfactory, though it did work that pleased its advocates. It dumped 200 ballots into one ballot box to start with, in order not to be obliged to have so many to put in later in the day. The result is, the honest citizens of the state are disgusted, some of the perpetrators of the fraud are staring at penitentiary doors, while the instigators of the crime are quaking in their shoes, fearing that the real criminals may be discovered before the end of the hunt. Governor Stone stands as sponsor for the Philadelphia machine, and absolutely refused to allow the people of the state relief when they, through their representatives, asked for a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment to prevent ballot box stuffing in the large cities.

The Democrats of the state are pretty well out of patience with the so-called Democratic organization of Philadelphia. About the only time the Philadelphia leaders show any activity is at state conventions; but unless they make more of a showing hereafter toward repressing ballot box stuffing and general political crookedness instead of seeming to wink at it, they will not be permitted to have so much to say in conventions. All reasonable allowance should be made for the political sins with which they are charged, but of which they may be innocent, but when it goes without contradiction that precinct after precinct in Philadelphia holds election after election without a single qualified officer on the election board, and that, too, without a protest from anybody, there is something in Denmark that stinks. Philadelphia Democrats are not expected to poll votes they do not have, but they can make such a protest against open and flagrant election frauds as will make Ben Franklin's statue on city hall smile an approval.

The more the people hear and see of Hon. William J. Bryan the more they find in him to admire. He is honest, frank, courageous and able. He never hedges, dodges nor equivocates. He has decided opinions and can express them as forcibly and eloquently as any man on earth. During the 12 days preceding the late election Mr. Bryan traveled 3,600 miles and made 82 addresses. His speeches were not mere platitudes about the starry old flag or the transcendent glory of this great republic or the high destiny of the nation under God and McKinley. His addresses always contain something sensible and worthy of thoughtful consideration. Mr. Bryan is a marvel of physical endurance and has an exceedingly wide and accurate knowledge of public affairs. The editorials of goldbug papers in attempting to belittle him and his cause are written by men who are so far his inferiors in every good sense that they are not worthy to be mentioned in comparison. Most of his detractors are men who have no convictions on any subject that they hold sacred, but who write what their employers dictate, for a fixed price. Courage and ability cannot be hooted down by the jibes of aristocrats, and William Jennings Bryan will live to triumph over those who meet his logic with ridicule and his arguments with sneers.

CUBA IS PROSTRATE.

ITS FERTILE FIELDS ARE VACANT AND ITS PEOPLE DESTITUTE.

William Willard Howard's Vivid Description of a Scene of Desolation and Despair—Cuba in All Its Nakedness.

"After a year of peace the island of Cuba shows practically no progress toward its own reconstruction. The desolation that war and Weyler wrought continues almost without abatement. The fertile fields are vacant; the farmhouses in ruins. The destitute and helpless farm folk remain in the towns, waiting for assistance to return to the cultivation of their lands. On the outskirts of the town and on some of the large plantations a little attempt has been made to resume cultivation of the soil, but the country as a whole is tenantless and idle. Thousands of Cuban widows are without homes or any means of support. Many, many thousands of helpless orphans beg their bread from door to door."

This statement of the present condition of Cuba was made to the Executive Committee of the Cuban Industrial Relief Fund by William Willard Howard, general manager of the fund, on his return from Cuba a short time ago. Mr. Howard continues:

"The improved condition in Cuba that one now and then sees reported by casual travelers and others refer almost wholly to the improvements in sanitation and civil administration. In these two things there has been decided improvements. The administration of General Brooke and his officers has been and is a wonderful object lesson in honesty and efficiency. The Cubans cannot yet believe that it can be real, so great is the change from Spanish corruption and incapacity. Some day I hope that General Brooke will receive full credit for what he has done in Cuba. The relief work that I have already done in Cuba shows me how hard is General Brooke's task.

"I stood one day recently on the top of the Pan de Matanzas, the highest mountain in Central Cuba. The view covered a radius if fifty miles. I could see from the neighborhood of Havana to a point some distance beyond Cardenas, nearly a hundred miles east and west I could see from the Straits of Florida on the north side to the Caribean Sea on the south. In all that wide sweep of country there was little to be seen other than wreck and ruin and desolation. It was as though one looked at a desert from which all signs of human life and activity had been withdrawn. But life was there, huddled in the towns along the railways. The fields were overgrown with weeds and tall grass; the ruined walls of farmhouses gleamed through the luxurious vegetation like skeletons which nature was trying to cover with a screen of dense vines. One had to look again and again to find a ploughed field in all that wilderness of ruin. By far the greatest extent of ploughed land that one could see was two red blurs on the landscape at Ceiba Mocha, where the Cuban Industrial Relief Farms are located.

"I have never seen a more pathetic sight. One saw Cuba in all its nakedness. The ruins, the desolation, the destitution, came home to one's mind and heart in one wide, sweeping view. Until I stood on that mountain top I had not really seen Cuba. I had traveled through Santa Clara, Matanzas and Havana provinces on the cars; I had ridden long distances on horseback, and, more than that, I had walked perhaps a hundred miles through the deserted fields and among the ruined homes; I had lived five months in the midst of all the desolation and destitution, but until I stood on the top of Pan de Matanzas I had not known Cuba."

Mr. Howard believes the ordinary traveler is inclined to be so much impressed with the beauty of the secenry that he does not properly appreciate the extent of the destitution. One cannot see Cuba from a hotel piazza, nor yet know Cuba by riding through its desolation on the railway. The beauty of the scenery charms the casual traveler, so that he sees only the noble palm trees, standing like shafts of granite topped with ostrich plumes, and does not realize that the only shelter which the poor reconcentrados have is the wretched huts which they build of the leaves and bark of this same stately tree. They see the beauty of the trees but not the desolation and misery that lies at its foot. It is hard to realize that a country of such great beauty can hide so much misery.

"Why have the plantations not resumed operations?"

"That is easy of answer. We have on our relief farm, working for five cents an hour, men who own large tracts of excellent farming land. I asked one of them, merely to hear what he would say, why he did not resume the cultivation of his land and rebuild his burned sugar mill, instead of working for us for forty-five cents a day. He looked at me a moment, as though questioning the sanity of my inquiry. Then he held out his hands, palms upward, and said: 'That is why.' His hands were empty."

The bulk of Cuba's agricultural existence depends on the cultivation of sugar cane. With raw sugar selling for only 2½ cents a pound on the seacoast in Cuba, there are few capitalists who will lend money to owners of Cuban sugar estates. The interruption in the sugar industry caused by the war gave the manufacturers of beet sugar such an advantage and such a hold on the markets of the world that the grower of sugar cane finds himself crowded pretty close to the wall.

In illustrating this point Mr. Howard said: "Let us assume that the production of Cuban sugar is now one-fifth of what it was before the war. If Cuban sugar ,with only one-fifth of the normal production offered for sale, is only 2½ cents a pound, delivered on the seacoast, what is likely to be the price of sugar when the production is restored to its normal bulk? The capitalist, who has money to invest, hesitates right there. It is not that the capitalist fears another revolution would destroy his investment, for that contingency is remote; it is that he fears the price of sugar, when the plantations resume operations, will not enable the cane grower and the cane grinder to work at a profit. If the borrower cannot make a profit the lender cannot have a safe investment for his money."

THE FILIPINO'S BOLO.

A Terrible Weapon When Used in a Hand-to-Hand Conflict.

A letter from Lieutenant William M. Copp, of the Sixth Artillery, who was on the gunboat Napidan in Laguna de Bay, gives the following interesting information concerning one phase of the fighting with the Filipinos:

"An odd trait in the character of the natives is that they never leave one of their dead if they can possibly get him away. They leave more now than they used to, for this reason: Formerly they had at least five men for every gun, and about all these men were good for was to carry away the wounded and dead, although they were armed with bolos. These weapons were very effective against the Spaniards, as the bolo men apparently cared nothing for their own lives, and the Spaniards had not the courage to stand when they charged, so, of course, they were cut to pieces, the bolo being without doubt one of the most terrible weapons at close quarters in the world. It is very sharp and so heavy that it will smash any sword in pieces that I have seen. They use them in the right hand and a long, heavy dagger in the left. I had one of the many amigos who could handle the bolo go through the motions for me, and it was truly wonderful. The rapidity of his moves were such that the eye could hardly follow them, and all the time he kept a constant guard. The bolo is to cut, no point; the dagger is used to stab, no edge. When the bolo men tried the same tactics on our men that they were accustomed to employ so successfully against the Spaniards, they were killed in large numbers, as our men did not run, but simply shot them. Now so many of these men have been killed, there are fewer of them to a gun, and they are not able to get the dead away quite as well as formerly.

"If your servant goes away for a day or two, you can be certain he is with the insurgents and in some fight. It is too common to excite comment here when an officer's servant, who has been absent several days, is found in the insurgents' uniform killed or is brought into our hospital for treatment."

Early to Bed in Manila.

The recent order of Gen. Otis that all residence of Manila must be off the streets by 7 o'clock in the evening has had a wonderful effect in tranquillizing the city. The order is obeyed to the letter. When the clock bells in the many church towers peal their seven strokes they chime in with a general shop doors and rattling of rigs along the bumpy streets. In a few moments swarming, buzzing Manila is changed into a rural, drowsy village where the maxim "Early to bed," etc., holds iron sway. Barefooted pickaninnies and loose sandaled men and women hurry to their homes and the streets resound only with the heavy tread of the civil guard.

Toward the curfew bell the vehicles begin to move faster, the horse cars all run one way, toward the barns, and the Filipino clerks and waiters begin to stamp about in a restless and impatient manner. A lingering customer perhaps finds himself suddenly walled up within a store, and is compelled to make his exit through a small opening, which is closed as hurriedly as possible after him.

It is a transformation while that street is full of humanity. At five minutes after 7 the last two or three Filipinos are seen almost running to get home. The provost guard calls out "Pronto," or "hurry along," and the tardy culprit instantly halts. He would rather halt twenty times than run the risk of misunderstanding a command and getting a bullet in his person. Then he sets out with renewed vigor—not running, for if he ran he would surely raise suspicion and run a greater risk of getting shot, but walking with both hands flapping and linen shirt swinging wide to the breeze, and with that earnest expression which is meant to say to the guards, "Yes, Senor, I am hurrying home just as fast as possible."

Grown in the Sandwich Islands.

"The soil of the Hawaiian Islands is of a very rich volcanic nature, and nearly all the plants and trees of the tropical and temperate zones may be grown on it, but only a small portion of the land is under cultivation. When irrigation is perfected there is scarcely a limit to the productive capabilities of the islands.

"Citreous fruits, oranges, lemons, limes and grape fruits can be grown, ripening in time to supply the deficiency of the California market when that gives out. All vegetables, breadstuffs, mangoes, dates, figs, mulberries, pomegranates, strawberries, guavas and cocoanuts grow in profusion. There are hundreds of acres of land which might be used for cocoanut groves with great success. Thousands of acres are covered with guavas in the wild state, which are falling to the ground ungathered. The fruit makes a fine jelly, and United States capital might make guava jelly factories profitable.

"Celery is grown if the proper soil is selected. That this vegetable thrives in a warm climate was proved in Southern California, where five years ago not enough was produced to supply the home market, but on the introduction of skilled methods from Michigan, celery raising has become a great industry. Dairying might be made a profitable business in the Hawaiian Islands, but at present is neglected."

Cuba's Benefactor.

The United States has done a great good in Cuba. It has lifted up a stricken people and put the reins of government into their unpracticed hands, in so far as it has been safe to do so. It is daily increasing the scope of this power, as the Cubans show themselves capable of receiving it. It has kept down the carpet bagger rushing here for employment, until the howl has been raised by indignant Americans that Americans are being discriminated against. It has given a Cuba for the Cubans at the cost of much patience and toil.

Since annexation there has been a mania for busines consolidation in Honolulu, and even the barber shops, and candy stores have formed trusts with a view to discouraging outsiders from offering competition.

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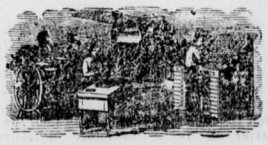
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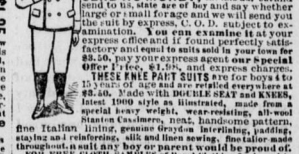
3,000 CELEBRATED "SEVERWAROUT" DOUBLE SEAT AND KNEES, REGULAR $3.50 BOYS' TWO-PIECE KNEE PANTS SUITS AT $1.98. A NEW SUIT FREE FOR ANY OF THESE SUITS WHICH DON'T GIVE SATISFACTORY WEAR. SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small for age and we will send you the suit by express, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for $3.50, pay your express agent our Special Offer Price, $1.98, and express charges.
THESE KNEE PANT SUITS are for boys 4 to 15 years of age and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with DOUBLE SEAT and KNEES, latest 1899 style as illustrated, made from a special heavy weight, wear-resisting, all-wool Stanton Cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine Italian lining, genuine Brayton interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor made throughout, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of.
FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing for boys 4 to 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 958, containing fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.
Men's Suits made to order from $5.00 up. Samples sent free on application. Address,
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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)