

# The Theater of the War.

The Island of Cuba, over whose fate warlike strife is now raging as it has not raged in all the many years that Spanish misgovernment has served its inhabitants to rebel against the control of the proud European peninsula, is indeed a rich prize. When one considers how much Spain has taken out of the island, and how "fat" have been the offices which Spanish domination deemed necessary to parcel out to Spaniards at the expense of the people, we can well understand why the Queen Regent and her advisers hate to let their last great colonial possession go.

Of the magnificent heritage which Cuba might become under a fully civilized administration and guaranteed security to the life and property of the toilers, we get a glimpse in "Ballou's Cuba," printed in 1854 "before the habit of civil war was fixed in the soil of the island and blood of the people." "The virgin soil of Cuba," says the author, "is so rich that a touch of the hoe prepares it for the plant; or, as Douglas Jerrold says of Australia, 'Just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest.' So fertile a soil is not known to exist in any other portion of the globe. It sometimes produces three crops to the year, and in ordinary seasons two may be relied on. The consequence is that the Monteros have little more to do than merely to gather the produce they daily carry to market, and which also forms so large a portion of their own healthful and palatable food. The profusion of its flora and the variety of its forests are unsurpassed, while the multitude of its climbing shrubs gives a luxurious richness to its scenery, which contributes to make it one of the most fascinating countries in the world. Nowhere are the necessities of life so easily supplied, or man so delicately nurtured.

"The richest soil of the island is black, which is best adapted to the purpose of the sugar planter, and for this purpose it is usually chosen. So productive is this description of land that the extensive sugar plantations, once fairly started will run for years without the soil being even turned, new cane starting up from the old roots, year after year, with abundant crops. This is a singular fact to us who are accustomed to see so much of artificial means expended upon the soil to enable it to bear even an ordinary crop to the husbandman. The red soil is less rich, and is better adapted to the planting of coffee, being generally preferred for this purpose, while the mulatto-colored earth is considered inferior, but still is very productive and is improved by the Monteros for planting tobacco, being first prepared with a mixture of the other two descriptions of soil, which, together, form the richest compost, next to guano, known in agriculture."

The poet Longfellow, writing on the poetry of Spanish-America probably did not take poetic license when he described the world-famed island as "Cuba, the garden of the West, gorgeous with perpetual flowers, and brilliant with the plumage of innumerable birds, beneath whose glowing sky the teeming earth yields easy and abundant harvest to the toil of man, and whose capacious harbors invite the commerce of the world. In the words of Columbus, 'It is the most beautiful land that ever eyes beheld.'"

This prose of a great poet may fitly be supplemented by the sparkling verse of James M. Phillippo, which was inspired by the Cuban sky:

"Ye tropic forests of unfading green,  
Where the palm tapers and the orange groves,  
Where the light bamboo waves her feathery screen,  
And her tall shadow the matchless ceyba throws:  
"Ye cloudless ethers of unchanging blue,  
Save as its rare varieties give way  
To the clear sapphire of your midnight hue,  
The burnished azure of your perfect day."

Surely this land of matchless endowments deserves a better fate than to be the perpetual theater of misgovernment, and of civil war, and all miseries that follow in their train as night follows day?

Cuba is about the same size as the South Sea Island of Java. Java has not the natural advantages which Cuba possesses. Her people are further removed from a market for their products. Their surroundings are scarcely as healthful. The country is subject to violent changes in weather and destructive earthquakes have visited it. But Java has been well ruled by Holland. Her people have been contented and happy and her soil now gives sustenance to 24,000,000 inhabitants. Cuba, cursed by misrule, heavy taxes to sustain a horde of favorite Spanish exploiters, devastated by civil war, recently had 1,600,000 inhabitants, now reduced by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, the direct outcome of the present terrible condition of affairs by at least several hundreds of thousands.

Almost any change must bring a better state of affairs to the unhappy island. Why should it not speedily begin a career that may early in the twentieth century rival that of Java?

## Civil Servants And Their Pay.

### Argument That Salaries Should Be Increased Year After Year.

#### Whether the Officials Deserve Promotion or Not.

#### Extraordinary Condition of Affairs Under the Late Dominion Government.

#### The New Government Institutes a Fairer Plan and One More in the Interests of the Taxpayers.

[Special Correspondence of The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, April 22.—The recent debate on the question of civil servants' salaries showed a strong disposition on the part of the Conservatives to insist that there should be a continuous increase in the burdens of the people whether the necessities of the service warranted it or not. The Opposition first argued that the law of the land was mandatory, and that if each civil servant did not get an increase to his salary year after year, whether he deserved it or not, a grave injustice was done to him. It was, however, pointed out that Sir Oliver Mowat, while Minister of Justice, had interpreted the act to mean that the Civil Service Act was permissive, and this view was backed up in the latest discussion on the subject by Sir Louis Davies, Solicitor General Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Monk, Conservative M. P. for Jacques Cartier. The law shows clearly that increases, when made, shall not be beyond a sum, but it is equally clear that the question of whether a civil servant shall have a raise of pay or not is contingent on the discretion of the minister or reporting, and on the minister endorsing the recommendation; but this is not enough, as the Governor-General-in-Council must sanction the increase or refuse it on the grounds of public policy or expediency. When all this was pointed out to the Opposition, Mr. Foster and his friends took up a new attitude. They expressed the fear that the deputy minister might have favorites, and that he might not do his duty fairly, which was certainly not very complimentary to the honesty of these men, nine-tenths of whom are Conservatives, appointed by their critics.

Why all this attempt to compel the Government to take up a position that would certainly not be in the public interest? I can see no other cause for it but the anxiety of Mr. Foster and his friends to vindicate their own management of the civil service by forcing the present Administration to take up a similar untenable attitude. For eighteen years, it seems, the late Government paid the civil servants these annual increases of salary automatically. That is to say, there was no discrimination between the deserving and the undeserving public employes. The one might be a faithful, industrious, capable man; the other might and often was, a lazy, easy-going poor stick, who had been smuggled into office, or had barely passed the requisite examinations. The difference of the value of the men to the public was not taken into consideration by the late Government. The rise of pay was given without question in each case, and the expense to the taxpayer was very much increased. Good men had no encouragement to excel in doing their duty when they saw dollars and pence treated as liberally as they were, and often even advanced to a higher class because they had a political or social pull.

Mr. Foster, Finance Minister in the late Government, admitted that there was something wrong when he was Finance Minister. He talked of making changes which did not go to the root of the trouble, and the system went on till the present Government took hold. It was found that during the regime of Mr. Foster the expense of civil government—represented by these civil service salaries—went up over \$250,000. That in the short space of between six and seven years.

The problem presented to the new Administration was a serious one. They had either to keep on raising the salaries of these civil servants indiscriminately, as had their predecessors, thereby adding to the public taxes several hundred thousand dollars per annum in the course of the next half dozen years, or they had to administer the law in a business-like manner. Their resolution was to carry out the spirit of the civil service law, stop the automatic increase of salaries, without regard to the merits of the men, and only increase salaries as the officers are proved to merit advancement, and as the public welfare demands.

In taking this stand the Government will have the indorsement of every conscientious taxpayer. Even the civil servant who is prepared to stand on his merits, as men have to do in other walks of life, can have no objection to the new departure. It does seem ridiculous that any Member of Parliament should be found—at least outside of Ottawa, where such a line of conduct might be excused—ready to say that a man earning \$1,200 or \$1,500 a year should be paid by the country five years from now \$1,450 or \$1,750 whether he was worth more to the country or not, whether he was lazy

or indifferent, or thoroughly efficient. Then it must not be forgotten that as salaries increase so does the amount of superannuation allowances, and thus the increased tax on the public is the double one.

The civil servants should be fairly paid. Public corporations ought to call for efficient service and get it; but the expensive and unbusiness-like methods pursued by the Conservative party leaders for eighteen years, and still advocated by them, are such that the taxpayers would not stand, and the present Government has done well to discard them.

#### DID MR. BEATTIE DREAM?

[Sarnia Observer.]  
The agitation displayed by the member for London at sight of ginger ale and sandwiches being served on the floor of the House of Commons during the weary hours of the early morning may have been due to the fact that, in his then half asleep and shaky condition, it looked to him like the ghost of the night carnival in the Conservative attitude that preceded the day of his election.

#### THE SENATE.

[Woodstock Sentinel-Review.]  
The Globe continues to give cogent reasons why the Canadian Senate should be abolished. Judged by its record, it certainly ought to be. But there is a possibility that an agitation for abolition will succeed, or will not better to reach after the attainment.

#### THE TIME LIMIT.

[Toronto News.]  
The London Advertiser suggests a time limit for speeches in parliament, which is a very sensible proposition. If politicians had to sell their opinions as editors do, they would put more meat in a sentence than in their present practice.

Mrs. Cleveland recently had a new set of photographs taken, the first time she has been photographed since leaving the White House, and has given them to Mr. Bok, with permission to publish them in The Ladies' Home Journal, where they will be publicly seen for the first time. The set also includes the best authoritative photographs published of the new Princeton home of the Cleverlands.

The bank statement of Canada for March is another proof of brisk trade. The note circulation during March, 1898, was \$35,930,055, as compared with \$35,232,223 in February, and \$31,082,221 in March, 1897. The Anglo-Saxons' circulation is the increase of bank deposits. In March, 1897, there were in the chartered banks deposits of \$74,235,225 payable on demand, and \$13,191,346 payable after notice, or a total of \$87,426,571, while in March, 1898, these deposits had increased to \$76,471,017 payable on demand, and \$14,525,489 after notice, a total of \$90,996,506, an increase of over twenty-three millions. Current loans have increased from \$13,232,223 in March, 1897, to \$218,055,418 in March, 1898, and call loans from \$14,099,277 to \$20,237,515.

#### LAMBETH.

Lambeth, April 23.—Miss Moore, of St. Thomas, is visiting Miss May Lown.

Mr. W. R. Sadler, after spending the winter near Chatham, returned last week.

Miss Edith Vandermade spent Sunday with Miss Lottie Poole, of York street, London.

Mr. and Mrs. James Burrows have returned from Dorchester.

They are visiting their daughter, Mrs. W. Hunt.

The funeral of Mrs. John Adair took place Friday. She was an old and highly respected resident of Westminster.

Mrs. David Mann is sick with influenza.

Mr. Keddy and Miss White spent Sunday in the village.

Dr. G. A. Rowland has disposed of three of his valuable horses to Dr. Blackwell, horse buyer.

Mr. Fred Thornicroft has his sister from Michigan visiting him here.

Mr. Calvin Burch, of Michigan, is receiving acquaintances here.

Mr. Thornicroft's plowing bee was well attended.

ALISA CRAIG.

Alisa Craig, April 23.—Mr. E. Rawlinson, an English gentleman, has bought Dr. L. Stewart's grazing farm of 180 acres, adjoining the village of Alisa Craig, for the sum of \$8,500.

Mr. Thomas Armstrong has sold his house and lot to Mr. Daniel Edwards, butcher, of the place. Dame Rumor says Dan is going to join the benedictines.

Good luck, Dan!

Billy Colter has returned from the house of refuge, Strathroy, where he has been during the winter months.

Billy is a good deal like a skunk in the winter, but goes to a skunk during the summer.

D. A. McEwen has 16 horses in training at his stables on the Alisa Craig driving park. They are a lot of good ones. A number of them have records better than 2:20, and one of them is below 2:08. Mr. McEwen has with him the old record breaker, Henry Donley, also Chance Bennett, the peer of all swipes, and with John Healy to give them orders, the horses will be well looked after. Mac has three swipes besides the noted ones above.

George Charlton, of con. 7, McGillivray, has a ewe 8 years old that has raised 22 lambs, all her own offspring.

The first two years she had two lambs each year, the next three years she had three lambs each year, the sixth year she had four, and this year, not to be outdone by her previous records, she went it one better, and delivered five fine lambs, all living and doing well.

Anyone who may doubt the truth of this can have the cupidity satisfied by paying a visit to the Charltons' farm, near Alisa Craig. Who says it doesn't pay to raise sheep?

#### IVAN.

Ivan, April 23. The home of our esteemed friend, Mr. Alex. Campbell, J. P., was the scene of a large gathering on Friday evening, the 22nd inst.

Mr. Campbell has sold his farm and is moving from the neighborhood, and his friends and neighbors to the number of over 200 met to give him a send-off.

The supper was a splendid success, and reflected great credit on the committee and the caterer, Mr. J. D. Cameron, when E. T. Cameron, J. D. Cameron, and Mr. Campbell will read a complimentary address, and Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were presented with a dinner set, and Mr. Campbell suitably responded.

A song, "Good-bye, Sandy," by Miss Carmichael, was well received, also songs by Miss Mc-

Intyre and the Misses and Mr. Graham, short speeches by T. Oliver, D. Campbell and N. A. Graham, and a good Irish recitation by J. M. Empey, our popular school teacher. Then the young people engaged in dancing to the violin music of Messrs. Dewar and Simpson until early morning, when all went to their respective homes satisfied that they had spent a pleasant evening, and wishing Mr. Campbell and family health and happiness.

The young man, Stuart, who had his leg so badly crushed in the Duncleff mill, necessitating amputation, is doing well.

Many of the farmers are through with their seeding, with the exception of peas, but the continued wet weather is very hard on the lazy man.

Charles McLean starts for Calgary on Monday with cattle for a ranchman from Quebec. We understand that if Charles likes the business he will stay for a length of time.

## Magnificent Surplus!

### The Envious Position of the Mother Country.

New York, April 25.—Harold Frederic, writing to the Times from London, refers as follows to the budget speech delivered by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach on Thursday night last:

"Though the budget may seem to be a tame thing to talk about in these stirring times, it would be worth our people's while to pause one moment from the considerations of the war to the studying of the sturdy financial position of the nation whose hearts have already gone out to them, and who only wait the opportunity and the invitation to hold out helping hands. In view of this undoubted fact, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's statement is enough to set any European concert out of temper and tune. A surplus of over three million and a quarter pounds sterling, and a sound prospect of a far greater balance next year, constitutes a financial position for what the Germans now jeeringly call 'the eastern branch of the Anglo-Saxon race.' The circumstances of a fat surplus is not altogether a surprise for those who had been making careful note of the enormous sums pouring into the exchequer from the death duties. The Tories are perhaps a little grumpy that more is not done for their willing middle-class supporters than some trifling juggling with the income tax limits, but this is a small matter compared to the excellent report furnished by the budget to the angry criticism of the foreign press. The Anglo-Saxons here are no more decadent than those on the other side of the Atlantic.

On the same subject the London correspondent of the Evening Post says: "With what envious eyes England's rivals must read the marvelous tale of British stability which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach unfolded in the House of Commons on Thursday night. The enormous sum of \$75,000,000, yet the chancellor of the exchequer finds himself with a surplus of \$18,300,000 for past year, and can afford to spend \$12,750,000 on beautifying London's public buildings, while his surplus for the coming year is estimated at \$33,900,000, which he can devote to cheapening the workingmen's tobacco, lessening the income tax burden on the middle class, or whose income varies from \$2,000 to \$3,500, and all this while the army and navy each year are swallowing more and more. Last year the navy cost \$100,000,000 and the army \$85,000,000, and strikes and lockouts hindered revenue accumulation in other directions. Well may Sir Michael Hicks-Beach say: 'I don't think anything can be gathered from last year's statistics to justify our ability to compete on fair terms with any foreign competitor.'"

#### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

Changes and Promotions Affecting No. 1 Military District Corps.

Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers.—No. 8 company.—To be second lieutenant, provisionally, Sergt. David Johnston Cheyne. Why delay? No. 4 company.—Provisional Second Lieutenant Nicholas Bott, having moved from the list of officers of the active militia.

Thirty-second Bruce Battalion of Infantry.—No. 1 company.—To be lieutenant, Second Lieut. Jesse Buckley, from No. 7 company, vice Morris, retired.

Thirtieth Essex Fusiliers.—Lieut. Col. John G. Wilson is permitted to resign his appointment as commanding officer, and transferred to infantry reserve of officers. No. 8 company.—To be second lieutenant, provisionally, John McArdler, vice Doug, retired.

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# GOLD DUST THE BEST WASHING POWDER

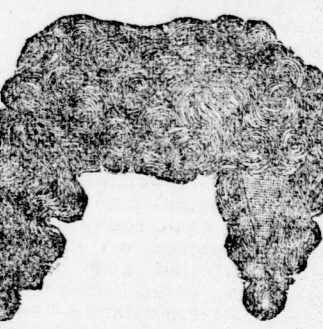
## This Is the Last Week

For bargains at Sharp's old stand. The store will be closed Saturday night, April 30, at 10 o'clock. We don't intend to move any goods—the entire stock will have to be sold out.

## Millinery

—Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats will be almost given away. Black Dress Goods and Crepons will meet a similar fate. Come early and be convinced that we are selling cheaper than ever. Those that have parcels partly paid for or laid aside will kindly call for them at once.

**D. McMILLAN**  
MANAGER,  
120 DUNDAS STREET, LONDON.



## The Loss of the Hair

To a Lady or Gentleman is a Great Affliction.

PROF. DOREN WEND,

Who Will Be At Tecumseh House, London, on Friday, May 6, With All Kinds of

## ART HAIR GOODS

has demonstrated to over a hundred thousand persons that the artificial restoration of the departed locks is pre-eminently essential to their Health, Comfort and Good Looks. Of two every case of baldness or thin hair. Every lady should see his new and artistic fashions in Wigs, Bangs, Waves and Plain Frontpieces, Switches, etc.

Gentlemen who are partly or wholly bald should not miss the opportunity of seeing what can be done to improve their appearance, and add comfort, and protect them against Colds, Catarrhs and other troubles, due to lack of protecting hair. Toupees and Wigs are made to order, and are so constructed that the observer is impossible to detect by the closest examination. Why delay? The benefits now. You will be thankful later. If it is not convenient to come to the hotel, send name and address and he will call at residence. All transactions strictly confidential.

REMEMBER—At Tecumseh House, London, Friday, May 6, 1898.  
Cut hair taken in exchange, or cash paid for it.

## GREAT POPULAR OFFER!

By virtue of the unprecedented sale, in a single order, of one hundred thousand copies of the Standard Dictionary, the publishers are enabled to offer it at a price never before attained. The opportunity to secure it at this price is a rare one, and will not be repeated. The Standard Dictionary is the greatest achievement of modern times.



THE FUNK & WAGNALLS  
**Standard Dictionary**  
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.  
It is incomparably the greatest, as it is positively the latest, most complete, and most authoritative, new dictionary in existence. It is everywhere the standard.

ENTIRELY NEW. It is not a reprint, rehash, or revision of any other work, but the result of the steady labor of the Funk & Wagnalls, and the result of the most exhaustive researches and special studies in the world. Nearly 200 of the leading universities, colleges, and scientific institutions of the world were represented on the editorial staff. 20 United States Government experts were also on the editorial staff. A single complete copy