

tor, especially built for ship disinfection and for handling of large numbers of soldiers and passengers, arrived at Havana during the latter part of June, 1900; it is the only disinfecting steamer in the world and is provided with the most modern apparatus, including shower baths and robing and disrobing rooms sufficient to handle 1,000 persons daily. The experience of the army in Montauk Point in 1898 suggested many improvements in the matter of disinfection, and these suggestions have been utilized in the construction of this vessel. During the month of June, 1901, this steamer disinfected 40 cargoes, passenger vessels, and 39 fishing smacks, making a total of 79 vessels. During the first fiscal year 463 vessels were disinfected, together with 4,360 pieces of baggage.

PRISON AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN HAVANA.

The public buildings of Havana are substantially constructed and will last for many years. The Spaniards had an eye to the future and built for posterity, therefore the official headquarters at Havana and the other cities are large, strong and massive.

The prison is an immense building, and though ornamental in appearance is unfortunately situated on the Prado. The condition of the prison, by the way, has been much improved during American occupancy, a fact to which the Cubans point with much pride and satisfaction. The Palace, occupied by the governor general during Spanish rule, is a commodious structure near the wharf, and Former Governor General Wood has made his headquarters here, as have the heads of the various departments of the government.

When I called upon the mayor, the able and accomplished Senor De la Torre, I was ushered into a reception room which was formerly the crown room of the palace. There my attention was immediately attracted by two splendid oil paintings of large size. One represented Cortes landing in Cuba, and the other the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock. In the first picture the great Spanish explorer appeared as the central figure; he was mounted upon a war-horse and around him were cannons, guns, sabres and chains. The second picture represented a group of unarmed men, women and children; one held an open book, while on the ground were spade and pick and saw. The pictures were presented in 1867, by Senor Miguel de Aldama, the wealthiest Cuban of his time, who, a year later, was a prominent leader in the war begun for the independence of Cuba. The pictures contrast the doctrine of colonization by conquest with the peaceful methods employed by those who go forth to build a new home in a new country. There is an exquisite humor in the gift and the donor would have felt fully repaid if he could have known that those pictures would for thirty years mock every kingly gathering and utter their mute protest against arbitrary power and colonial misgovernment.

Bull fighting and cock fighting have been prohibited during the intervention, and "Jal Alai," a very skilful ball game, has taken their place to some extent. But for the gambling that is encouraged by the "Jal Alai" company the game would be deserving of praise.

HAVANA A FUTURE WINTER RESORT.

Havana is destined to be a popular winter resort for American tourists. It is only three and one-half days from New York by steamer and only little more than a day from southern Florida, and its climate affords a delightful retreat from the rigors of a northern winter. The hotels are well kept and sufficiently commodious for the traveling public, but as the number of American tourists increases there will doubtless spring up other hotels built and conducted upon the American plan.

The one great and overshadowing need of Havana is a sewerage system, and that subject is now being considered. It has not been thought advisable to run a sewer into the harbor because

it has no outlet, and the fact that the Gulf Stream would carry into the harbor any refuse matter emptied along the seacoast makes the problem a difficult one; but that it will be soon solved is certain, and then no city on the Western Hemisphere will be more attractive to those who have the time and means for travel.

To Americans Santiago is almost as interesting as Havana, because it was the scene of the decisive land engagement of the Spanish-American war as well as the scene of one of the two great naval battles of that war. The harbor of Santiago is as well protected as the Havana harbor, but is not so large.

Nature has also done much for the harbors at Cienfuegos and Matanzas and both are prominent shipping points for the exportation of sugar. There are now more than 150,000 tons of sugar stored in the warehouses at the latter place. The harbor at Matanzas is an open one, but large vessels anchor in deep water about a mile from the wharf and have no difficulty in loading and unloading from lighters. Like Havana, the city draws its water supply from springs, and, lying upon the side of a hill, it can be more easily drained. Captain Hay of the United States army, who was in charge of the military government as well as the custom house at that place, says that Matanzas is now the cleanest city he has ever seen. He is also authority for the statement that the Cubans are law-abiding and very easy to get along with. There is near Matanzas the famous valley of the Yumuri, an excellent view of which is obtained from the old church of Montserrat, situated on a high hill near the city. There is said to be no more beautiful view on the island, and for that matter it would be difficult to find a more pleasing one anywhere. The caves of Bellamar, about three miles from Matanzas, are also highly praised.

The Isle of Pines, which lies just south of Cuba and is still held by the United States, subject to final settlement by treaty, is said to be the healthiest of the West India islands. Much of the land of the island has been bought by Americans, and several English-speaking communities have already been established there.

Tax Reform in Pennsylvania.

The tax reform league of Pennsylvania, having its office at 708 Penn avenue, Pittsburg, is calling attention to the fact that according to the auditor general's report farmers and home-owners of Pennsylvania are paying \$16.50 in taxes for each thousand dollars in value, while the steam railways pay but \$2.75, the street railways but \$4.75 and the telegraph and telephone companies but \$3.20.

Chairman Creasy of the democratic state committee, a representative farmer as well as a loyal democrat, has been bringing these questions before the people of his state and much interest is being aroused. Such inequality in taxation ought to stir even the republicans of Pennsylvania, and it will be surprising if the facts do not excite a pronounced protest against republican rule in that boss-ridden state.

The Same Old Serpent.

The New York Tribune thinks it has made a point when it says that "the Filipinos are not threatened with loss of their independence because they have never, at least for three centuries, had independence and they cannot well lose that which they do not possess and have not possessed."

Something like that might have been said of the American colonists.

The Tribune also says of the Filipinos: "For many generations they were under Spanish sovereignty without dispute or protest. When finally they did revolt it was not for independence, but for a redress of grievances."

Something very like that might have been said of the American colonists.

The Tribune says: "The islands are to have

the largest practicable degree of self-government."

Something very like that was said of the American colonists by George III.

The Tribune says that this government does not intend to oppress the people of the Philippines.

That is exactly what George III. said to the American colonists and it is exactly what has been said by every other king and emperor who sought to impose his authority upon a people.

Lots of Five.

The proper distribution of democratic literature is a matter that should interest every democrat. Democracy appeals directly to the mind and heart. The rank and file of the democratic party is true to the traditions of the party, and will not consent to an abandonment of those principles upon which the party is founded. The gravest danger confronting the party is that the rank and file will be deceived by the specious cry of "harmony" that is raised by men who have never hesitated to betray democratic principles in order to advance their own selfish interests.

The Commoner is published for the purpose of applying democratic principles to all public questions, and for the purpose of keeping those principles clearly before the people. The Commoner has so much faith in the honesty of the rank and file of the party that it believes that a few men in each precinct can defeat the plans of the "reorganizers," and a small number of watchful and zealous democrats in each county in a state can prevent the emasculation of democratic principles and bring about an indorsement of the principles enunciated in the Kansas City platform. The influence exerted by The Commoner is limited only by its circulation, and the increase of its circulation increases its influence in geometrical ratio. Earnest and enthusiastic democrats in each community are in a position to enlarge the influence of The Commoner in their neighborhoods, and in so doing will be building up democratic sentiment that will be manifest at the polls in a sweeping victory for democratic principles.

The publisher of The Commoner, for the purpose of enlisting the aid of democrats in extending its sphere of influence, has inaugurated the plan of selling subscription cards in "Lots of Five," each card good for one year's subscription to The Commoner. These cards are sold at the price of \$3.00 per lot of five, that being at the rate of 60 cents each. The purchaser may sell these cards at the regular price of \$1.00 each, retaining the \$2.00 as commission, or he may sell them at 60 cents each and feel amply rewarded for his labor by the knowledge that he has been instrumental in spreading democratic doctrines.

In order to further this plan all who are interested in building up democratic sentiment by extending the circulation of The Commoner are asked to fill out the following coupon and send it to this office. The publisher is willing to trust any reader of this paper. If you fear that you will be unable to dispose of a "Lot of Five," and therefore hesitate to send \$3.00, fill out the coupon below. The cards will be sent you and you may remit when you have sold them. Each card is good for one year's subscription to The Commoner. The subscription will date from the day the card is received at the office of publication.

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