

The Sun

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1903.

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PAID—Risque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Risque No. 14, Boulevard des Capucines.

Canal Rights in Brackets.

The treaty rights we have exercised for many years as the guardian of traffic across the Isthmus of Panama were not conferred by the Republic of Colombia.

Corrected up to Nov. 1, 1903, the treaty law upon which these rights rest reads thus, the corrections being exhibited in italic letters in brackets:

The United States of America and the Republic of New Granada (the Republic of Colombia), desiring to make as durable as possible the relations which are to be established between the two parties, have declared solemnly and do agree to the following points:

The United States guarantee, positively and efficaciously, to New Granada (to Colombia), by the present stipulation, the perfect neutrality of the free transit from the one to the other sea may not be interrupted or embarrassed in any future time while this treaty exists; and in consequence, the United States also guarantee, in the same manner, the rights of sovereignty and property which New Granada (Colombia) has and possesses over the said territory.

But since Nov. 1 there has been another change in the sovereignty over the Isthmian territory to which this treaty relates. The Republic of Panama has succeeded the Republic of Colombia, as the Republic of Colombia succeeded the original party to the convention of 1846, the Republic of New Granada.

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The transfer of sovereignty also effects, automatically and without further legislation, a corresponding change in the text of the Spooner act, thus:

The President is hereby authorized to acquire from the Republic of Colombia (the Republic of Panama) upon such terms as he may deem reasonable, perpetual control of a strip of land, the territory of the Republic of Colombia, the territory of the Republic of Panama, not less than six miles in width extending from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean, &c.

These changes are involved in our recognition of the sovereignty of Panama over the Isthmian territory where the canal is to be constructed. Events have amended both the Treaty of 1846 and the Spooner act to the extent typographically indicated above.

The Pay of the Army.

The replies which have been made to our recent comment on the pay of private soldiers in the American Army indicate that many of those who have so kindly sent us their comments upon it have—ideally mistaken the tenor and purport of the original article. The pay of privates was not an incident in our argument.

Things considered, the \$13 per month now given to the private soldier, together with his board and clothing, while not large, is not niggardly, and serves to place him, financially, on a par with a very large army of employees in civil life. He can make both ends meet quite easily, and can save a few dollars, provided he is temperate and not a gambler, and has no one dependent upon his earnings for support.

The purpose of our article of Oct. 20 was to emphasize the fact of inadequate pay to the non-commissioned officers who are selected from the ranks, and upon whose efficiency the morale and the general welfare and the proper discipline of the army depend to a very great extent. That for the work which these men do, the servants of various grades and the corporals, are called upon to do and the range of information which they must possess, the pay is in no way commensurate, we believe, by a large majority of our army officers, who are really the best judges of the matter. They are the men who know the value of a good first sergeant.

In addition to the consideration of justice involved in the payment of a fair equivalent for services rendered, we sought to emphasize the view that a much more liberal payment to non-commissioned officers would serve as a stimulus to individual ambition and effort. The "non-com." is not selected at random by his commanding officer. He is chosen because of his presumed fitness. Many who are well fitted for the various positions do not care for them because the small increase in pay does not offset the great increase in work and responsibility. It is a fair assumption, and we believe that facts of experience support the assumption, that many good men would join the army if the future of their connection with it had anything to offer that was worth striving for. It is a simple business fact that more men and better men would seek a corporal's post at \$1 per day with board and clothes than will appear in competition for the present 50 cents and maintenance. It is equally plain that men of good capacity, such as is required for the position of first sergeant, would consider and strive for a permanent occupation at \$2 per day and maintenance, while the \$25 per month now paid would not attract them from their present employment.

The \$13 per month and that which goes with it, now given to the common soldier, is not niggardly, and is perhaps quite sufficient. But if that, or only a little more than that, with a very great increase in work and responsibility, be the limit of attainment, no attraction is offered to many men of real capacity and ambition. With a fairly desirable goal as an open possibility, it is a wholly reasonable belief that many good men would accept the \$13 in the hope of securing the chevrons and good pay.

It is therefore a fair argument that the personnel of the army would be distinctly improved by the introduction of an object which would be attractive to worth and ambition. This was the point to which we sought to call attention.

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The first sensation aroused in a voter's mind by the average promoter of "good government" is resentment. There is an indefinable air of condescension in most of the "public-spirited" citizens who force themselves to the front in municipal campaigns to irritate and offend the constituency to which they appeal.

There is none of this offensive patronizing in the Tammany leader's make-up. He leads his followers by no pre-arranged plan, by no accident of birth, education or environment. His power is his because he has attained it by his own efforts, skill and industry.

Following this course of thought, I have become impressed with the conviction that we may find in lunacy, idleness, as well as in most of the chagrins, discomfited, infirmities and disappointments to which all are more or less exposed while in the flesh, the same explanation and the same providential use as that which illustrates to my apprehension the mystery of sleep.

The notion that sleep is a condition of physical and mental inertia being no longer tenable, to what purpose the activities of the mind and body are studied, the one might seem no more mysterious than the other, though the result might be far more surprising.

It is amusing to note how recklessly some of the up-state newspaper men trot out this and that candidate for State or Congress in many instances, the candidate is hardly known outside of his county. I do not hesitate to say, as a Republican, that if we are to carry the State, we must have a candidate who is carefully considering the locality they are chosen from.

It is a mistake to be most important election, and the Republican nominees on the State ticket must be hustlers if we are to succeed. A ticket headed by the Hon. Hamilton Fish for Governor and the Hon. Hamilton Fish for Governor and the Hon. Hamilton Fish for Governor, I believe, is favorably received by the Republican and conservative, as well as by many Democrats.

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