

possible. So much for "paying for the war;" now for a consideration of the grounds for the grumbling thereat.

In the prosecution of a strife of arms and strategy, one in which so much of the earth's surface is the board on which the game is played and the details of which are so ponderous and yet so infinite in number and scope, great results except in isolated cases where there are exceptional opportunities are for a while impossible. Armies composed chiefly of raw and unseasoned recruits must be brought together and at least a semblance of discipline inculcated before they are fit for service. This cannot be done in a day, nor a week nor in any other measurement of time less than several weeks. All these men must be provided for in the way of shelter, clothing, food and equipment generally, which proceedings cannot begin to keep pace with the rate at which the men are rendezvoused, and this adds something to the delay even after the army is a numerical reality. Ships must be secured, placed in readiness and arrangements for departing, disembarking and all manner of preparations relating thereto be looked after. In no other nation under the sun where there is practically no standing army could 200,000 men have been raised, equipped, drilled, a great number of them sent on their way and ample arrangements made for many more in so short a time. In no other country with or without a standing army could so much, in a general way, have been accomplished within the same period, for the simple reason, for one thing, that no other nation has the internal resources nor the spontaneous, elastic characteristics which bring people together and make them act with such intelligent and intuitive concert. When properly looked at, the work that has been accomplished by the United States since war was declared upon Spain is one of the natural and scientific wonders of the world.

It is true that naval operations have been slow and fearfully expensive with practically no foreign territory yet in our possession. But it is coming. The slowness in the matter of occupying Cuba, when the story is finally told, will be shown to have been deliberation on the safe side. The Spaniards claim that they have 200,000 soldiers on the island; making due allowance for the conspicuous Spanish weakness of exaggeration, it is safe to reduce that figure one-half and concede them 100,000 effective men. They are on their own ground, have had all the time needed to make great preparations for invading forces, and cannot be dislodged by a greatly inferior number. Those that have gone already, added to the Cuban forces, are yet not enough, but the work is going steadily along. The enemy is already beginning to feel the constricting folds tighten about him, and knowing what this means will fight the fight of desperation. It is great work, and like other proceedings of vast magnitude is endangered as much by undue momentum as by causeless delay. The war is going on. Let us wait awhile and see.

#### MAKE IT POPULAR.

The "News" hopes the popular subscription for a sword to be presented to Ensign Pearson, Utah's representative in the battle off Manila, will be popular indeed. The suggestion was first made by the congressional delegation of Utah in a letter to Governor Wells. Mr. Pearson not only is Utah's representative in one of the most remarkable naval engagements on record, but he is believed to be the first native Utahn who ever had an opportunity to take part in the defense of his country against a foreign foe. The proposition to present him with a

sword adorned with Utah precious metals and carrying an appropriate inscription, is one which undoubtedly will meet with general approval.

Before this war is over, there will be others, too, who will have claim upon their fellow citizens for recognition. Utah has sent to the front quite a few who need only the right opportunity, and when it comes they will distinguish themselves as heroes. None should be forgotten.

#### LEITER'S FALL.

For several months past young Joseph Leiter has been the object of envy in the financial world, on account of his easily made millions, while political economists of a certain school have philosophized over the conditions prevailing, which, they say, make it possible for a single individual to control the price of an important article of food, thereby causing hardships upon millions. Now the news has been cabled throughout the world that the young "Napoleon of finance," the man with "the invincible chin," has closed his wheat operations, surrendered to his creditors and sustained a loss estimated at \$5,000,000.

His transactions commenced in April, 1897. For about four months he conducted his operations without anybody being aware that he was in the market. Since last September he was known as a grain merchant, buying for cash and selling for cash. His holdings at the final disaster are estimated at sixteen million bushels. As to the causes that led to his defeat, the fact that the wheat producing countries of the world have good prospects of an abundant crop was the chief one. The war scare could no longer be depended upon to keep the price up. Financial institutions became alarmed and refused to advance the necessary cash. The deal had to be closed with the result recorded.

The experience of Leiter and some others who have failed to obtain absolute control over the bread market proves that the opportunities for kings of finance to assume prerogatives for any length of time in a free market are very limited. Fluctuations may occur and prices may be forced up occasionally, but natural conditions sooner or later prevail. This is true especially in a country like this where there is such a variety of food and where one kind can be substituted for another, to a very large extent.

#### CUBA.

In the opinion of the Army and Navy Journal, it is not improbable that the liberation of Cuba may give material aid in the settlement of the so-called "negro problem." Cuba would be the ideal home of the colored race. The laboring population there is largely made up from this class and the new planting, manufacturing and mining ventures that would follow the establishment of a liberal government would vastly increase the demand for laborers. The greater part of farm work and similar labor would be performed by negroes, and with fair wages and good treatment they would be happy and contented and never bother about the social questions that sometimes turn white laborers into rebels. If this view is correct, the danger of continual disturbances in Cuba Libre would be small.

Much has been written lately about the wonderful resources of the island, only waiting for development. The soil is said to be a marvel of richness. It is stated that if all the land suitable for sugar culture were devoted to that industry, Cuba could supply the world

with sugar. Tropical and semi-tropical fruits are abundant. There are great possibilities in the mining industry, copper and iron being found in various places. The climate, too, is described as delicious, the summer temperature never reaching so high a point as at Chicago, for instance, while the nights are cool and the heat of the day tempered by the breezes from the sea.

With all these advantages, Cuba, whatever the final arrangement may be as regards the government of the island, will rapidly become Americanized. It is stated that many people in the South are already thinking of removing to the island, as soon as peace shall have been established. This is an indication that American capital and American methods are to take the place of the present ones, and wherever these go, miracles of enterprise and industry are the result. The transformation of this great West in half a century from a supposed desert into a vast empire is an illustration. It will take less time to transform Cuba, and then—when the fertile fields yield their fruit to the industrious farmer, when the wheels of industry are heard by day and by night, when the mountains are made to yield up their hidden treasures, when the harbors are filled with ships exchanging the precious products of Cuban labor for those of foreign countries, and when liberty, religious and political, holds undisputed sway—then, if not before, the whole world, including Spain, will admit that our war was just.

#### HAWAII IS OURS.

When the Hawaiian treaty looking to the annexation of the islands was before the United States Senate some time since, it received only fifty-nine votes, one less than the two-thirds necessary for ratification. Accepting this as the present status of the Senate on that subject, a state of things which is very probable, the mid-ocean islands will be Uncle Sam's property within a very few days. There is now no treaty to ratify, and the resolution to annex Hawaii passed the House on Wednesday by the decisive vote of 209 to 91; there are ninety members of the Senate, and if all are in their places and vote, the majority for the resolution there should be about twenty-eight, but making allowance for some changes—which, by the bye, are as likely to be favorable to the measure as against it—there is still assured a majority large enough for all practical purposes.

Some of the Eastern papers, notably the New York World, keep hammering away at the annexation scheme, trying in vain to create a hostile sentiment strong enough to defeat it. They call the islands a "leper colony" and otherwise appeal to the people's and the congressmen's prejudices; but if the showing made is a fair sample of those journals' capacity in the direction indicated, they can scarcely feel overly gratified when they contemplate it.

Hawaii is too small, both in population and territory, to maintain itself as an independent nation. It needs a strong friend to insure its stability and permanency, and it can have none stronger than the United States, which is also the nearest and least selfish of the great powers. A protectorate, however, would amount to little more than the condition of things already in existence; so it is determined to add the Sandwich group to this country's dominions. Doing so will entail some additional responsibilities and possibly some few disadvantages; but these will be more than compensated for in the gain of a splendid coaling and supply station for our merchantmen and navy, the value of natural products and the control of the trade of the