

product of Ghetto life they have become straight and sturdy. They have learned to fight as they have learned to labor, and they no longer stand in fear of the Arabs, for the Hebrew's gun is well aimed. The Sabbath is most strictly kept. The ram's-horn trumpet summons to worship in the synagogue or to a gallop to the rescue of their possessions. They are a fine body of men, and the return to the land has had a wonderful influence upon their physical and moral development."

ON WITH THE ROAD!

"Just before going to press we learn on what appears to be good authority that the promoters of the Stateline railroad have proven traitors to the cause and have sold out to the Southern Pacific Railroad company. What truth there is in it we are unable to say; but it is so in line with the well known politics of the S. P. that it is easily believed," says the Beaver County Blade.

This statement caused the paper which is published at Mr. Lund's home—the Washington County Star, St. George—to interview that gentleman, and learned from him that it was untrue. He is one of the directors of the Stateline road, and says that they have not sold out to the Southern Pacific at all, nor have they the remotest idea of doing so. Furthermore, that the road is a "sure go."

It seems that Mr. Lund has recently returned from a surveying expedition in company with the head engineer of the new company. They spent several days examining the route from Milford to Stateline. Mr. Lund is well pleased with the result of his labors, and is positive the road will be in working order within the specified time. This is good news indeed, all the more so from the fact that the enterprise is in the right hands to insure success. The completion of the railway service to Stateline will make a wonderful improvement throughout that part of Utah, in which the entire commonwealth must participate in some measure; but of course that will not be the end of it. "On to Los Angeles" is the watchword. More industrial enterprises, especially in the line of railway communication, is what this state needs more than anything else just now, not even excepting politics.

THE ISLAND IN DISPUTE.

The August bulletin of the Bureau of American Republics, contains some interesting information about Cuba, Porto Rico, the Hawaiian Islands, the Philippines and the Ladrones.

Cuba is only 130 miles from Florida, and has been called "the key to the Gulf of Mexico." Its area is estimated at from 35,000 to 72,000 square miles, or about the same size as the state of Indiana. The climate is said to be healthy, except where malarial fevers prevail. There are only two seasons, the dry and the rainy, the first lasting from November to May and the second from May to October. During the dry season, however, sufficient rain falls to give the soil the necessary humidity. According to an official census of 1890, the population was at that time 1,631,687, but it is probable that it is less now. Were Cuba as thickly settled as Belgium, for instance, the island should be able to support 24,000,000 inhabitants.

There are great mineral resources. Gold, silver, copper and iron are found in various parts of Cuba. The copper deposits are believed to be almost inexhaustible. But the great wealth of

the island is in the fertility of its soil. In 1868, only 2,698,400 acres were under cultivation; 9,974,134 acres were devoted to cattle raising, and about 16,000,000 acres were still virgin soil. Later much of this land was cleared, and sugar production assumed large proportions, but old land was abandoned and the cultivated acreage was not greatly increased. It is believed that there are at present 20,000,000 acres of wonderful fertile land awaiting the application of industry and capital.

Porto Rico is now virtually American territory. This island has an area of 3,600 square miles, or nearly three-fourths of the state of Connecticut. It has always been noted for its mineral and agricultural wealth. The population is estimated at 814,000, of which 300,000 are negroes. Porto Rico is mountainous, the altitudes ranging from 1,500 to 3,600 feet. It is known as the most healthful island of the Antilles. The principal products are sugar, molasses, coffee, maize, rice, cotton and timber. The forests abound in mahogany, cedar, ebony and dyewoods. All kinds of tropical fruit are found. An average of 190,000,000 bananas, 6,500,000 oranges, 2,500,000 coconuts and 7,000,000 pounds of tobacco is produced annually. The mineral resources are not very extensive. Still, gold, copper, lead and coal are obtained. Lignite and yellow amber are found, and there are undeveloped resources of marble and various kinds of building stone.

The Philippine islands are a group of about 2,000 islands, with an aggregate area estimated at over 100,000 square miles. The island of Luzon, on which Manila is situated, is larger than New York and Massachusetts. For the sake of comparison, it is stated that the six New England states and New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware have 10 per cent less area than the Philippine group. It is believed that in this archipelago are the peaks, mountain ridges and table lands of a submerged continent which at some time extended to Australia. Countless rivers and streams traverse the islands and there are many hot springs of iron and sulphur waters with medicinal properties. The climate is considered healthful. The months between March and May are the hottest. During the rainy season, from June to November, inundations of rivers are frequent. Occasionally the region is visited by monsoons.

The population has been estimated at from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000, of which about 25,000 are Europeans. The bulk of the natives is of a race akin to the Malays, but there is a considerable number of mestizos. The capital, Manila, has about 300,000 inhabitants of whom 15,000 are Europeans and 100,000 Chinese. Though the native classes are much addicted to gambling, the average of crime is said to be very low in Manila. The city is lighted by electricity and has a telephone system, and tramways run in the principal streets.

The principal mineral resources of the islands are gold, galena, copper, iron, mercury and coal. The soil is said to be wonderfully rich and producing hemp, cotton, rice, maize, tobacco, sugar, coffee and cacao. Only one-fifth is under cultivation. The commerce of the islands has been calculated at \$10,000,000 imports and \$20,000,000 exports for 1896 and 1897. About one-third of the exports go to Great Britain and over one-fourth of imports come from that country. The articles of import are principally flour, wines, clothing, petroleum, coal, rice, arms, machinery and iron. The imports to the United States average nearly \$5,000,000 annually.

The Ladrones are composed of a chain of volcanic islands east of the Philippines. The largest of the group,

Guam, is about 1,700 miles from Manila; about the same distance from Yokohama and a little less than 4,000 miles from Honolulu. The Spaniards took possession of these islands in 1565, owing to the advantages they offered Spanish sailors to procure water and provisions. When discovered the islands had a population of 40,000 souls. They defended themselves against the Spaniards until only 10,000 of their number remained. The majority of the inhabitants are located on Guam, where also the principal town is, called San Ignacio de Agaña. The natives are of the same race as the Tagals of the Philippines. Rice, pineapples, watermelons, oranges, limes, coconuts and breadfruit are the principal products. At one time there was an American colony on the island of Saypan, but it was forcibly removed by the Spanish governor.

In view of the coming negotiations between this country and Spain relative to the terms of peace, the above brief summary of the information given in the Bulletin may prove of general interest.

ROTATION IN OFFICE.

The "News" is pleased to observe the perfect accord between some of its utterances and those of its Eastern and Western cotemporaries. The gratification in all such cases is not so much that public topics are observed from similar standpoints, although this is no small consideration, as that the knowledge that a disposition on the part of the press generally to be untrammelled by partisanship is growing perceptibly. This is as it should be. It is not at all necessary that political parties be broken up or abandoned, nor that the papers should cease rendering them support; vastly otherwise. Intelligent, loyal support can be given one's organization, but when it is also unquestioning and offers no opposition to wrong-doing in the party, such paper then becomes a hack, a vehicle for the transportation of corruption and dishonesty, while the chief means by which reforms may come are vitiated if not destroyed.

The "News" yesterday made reference to the propriety of retaining good men in office, not forever of course, nor for a greater length of time than is consistent with the public weal. In this connection the influence and power which a state wields when its able men are kept to the fore was partly shown in the case of Maine, which has just re-elected its delegation to Congress with one exception. She has been doing this for a long time and the salutary results that have followed have been so many matters of course. Now comes the Chicago Record with an article in the same line of thought, in which it reaches the conclusion that Maine exercises more influence in Congress than any other state in the Union. The reason is given that it gets the benefit of experience by returning the same men to Congress term after term. Length of service, as well as the knowledge gained by experience, count for much at Washington, as was shown in our article. Influential positions on committees almost never go to new men. Of Maine's delegation in Congress one is speaker of the House; another—Dingley—holds the important position of chairman of the ways and means committee, which has so much to do with shaping the fiscal policy of the country. A third, Boutelle, is chairman of the naval affairs committee. All these men were re-elected at the late election. To put new men in their places would have been to weaken very greatly Maine's influence in Congress. New men, no matter how brilliant,