

own nation a badge of honor, to be worn properly by gentlemen only, and not by shysters who without any respect of their own, seem ambitious to spread contention among their comrades, and reflect as much discredit as possible on the army to which they belong. This class—thank Heavens they are few and far between—may expect nothing from Freedom, but the very severest chastisement it can give."

That this standard may be maintained, Freedom become a bright, and glowing light in our new national possessions and be prospered all along is our sincere desire.

NOW IT'S THE PENSIONS.

It is a significant and an interesting fact, although one that was in the natural order of things and therefore to be expected, that the pension roll of the Spanish-American war has been opened by this government and the first name been placed thereon. Speculation as to what the roll will amount to before the last name is placed upon it has already begun and of course those who are opposed to expansion and the policy of the administration, and who are to that extent so many irreconcilables, are conjuring up all manner of unwelcome things in connection with the subject as a matter of regularity. It is probably going too far to class the New York World as one of these, but it is diametrically against both the administration and its so-called imperialistic policy. It is said by the Gotham cotemporary:

"The estimate given out informs us that the new pension list will 'probably' amount to \$20,000,000 a year. Pension estimates have always been below rather than above the mark, both in amount and in duration of term. The pensions of the civil war will last far beyond the fifty-year period, and in fifty years the Spanish war pensions now in sight will take not less than \$1,000,000,000 out of the wages of labor and the earnings of capital. With a pension roll increased to \$160,000,000 we shall be paying much more to our soldiers in time of peace than the cost of the heaviest military burden of any of the 'armed camps' of Europe."

Bad as this is made to appear, it is made but the prelude for something worse. The World is positive we are only at the beginning of the evil. We are, it holds, deliberately proposing to enter upon a policy of territorial expansion which inevitably carries with it an increase of land and naval armament and a corresponding cost compared to which the pension figures of this little Spanish war will seem a trifle. "The administration which is committed to this policy refrains from making even a guess. Perhaps it does not care to estimate what this new departure into the path of glory will cost."

It is not, then, the pension expense altogether that is to be dreaded, but the results of the war in which the pensions accrued. Undoubtedly the total payments will represent an "imperial" sum before all the accounts shall have been settled, but wars are costly experiments at best, and our nation emerged from its last one under a much lighter burden than was expected when it began. Besides, every object for which the contest was inaugurated has been or is being consummated and a good deal more in the way of compensatory returns has befallen us than was thought possible when the tocsin was sounded. It is idle to look at but one side of the Philippine situation, and it the expense side; there is a profit account to be considered, and unless all

signs fail the latter will exceed the former by a monarch's ransom during every lunation.

It will be remembered with what bitterness the acquisition of Alaska was fought by certain of the press and public. The territory was pointed out as barren, sterile, uninhabitable except by savages and altogether worthless; instead of which it is filling up tolerably fast with a white population, is growing somewhat in progressive and improved ways, and has already returned to the United States at least twenty, perhaps fifty dollars for every one that it cost, and its development is still not fairly under way. It has proved a very profitable investment indeed.

Don't be in too much of a hurry. Give the "colonial policy" a fair chance. See how it operates after a reasonable trial. Perhaps the Philippines will pay the expense of its gathering in and the pensions of the war there and elsewhere besides.

OUR BOYS AT MANILA.

Some time since a private letter from Manila was turned over to the "News," in order that some portions of it that were of general interest might be published. This was done. In the letter were some reflections upon the Utah surgeons and hospital corps, which are said to have caused relatives and friends no little anxiety.

From advices just received, there seems to be no foundation for any reflections upon the Utah boys at Manila. They have made a splendid record there and it is sincerely to be desired that they may, as we believe they will, return without a blot upon it.

Mr. J. W. Clovis, under date of Oct. 22, writes in part:

"On the night of the 31st of July we had three surgeons at the brigade hospital at the beach, one steward and two acting stewards. This left about twelve privates; of these W. G. Hampton was clerk and three more were nursing in the tents which were full of sick men.

"At the time of the battle our boys were up before the alarm was sounded in camp and had everything ready to go at a moment's notice. After the soldiers left for the front about fifteen minutes, a squad of Pennsylvania hospital men came in with a man with a compound fracture below the knee. Then began the work of a lifetime.

"It kept two men busy boiling water for the surgeons and two more to assist the surgeons. The rest were kept busy keeping men alive until they were put upon the operating table. Among the wounded that were brought in was a man of the hospital corps who was shot twice, once through the shoulder and once through the lungs. He was shot while trying to save his captain, who was shot through the head. He belonged to a California regiment and had a litter on his shoulder when he came to the trenches. He dropped it when he saw his captain fall, and ran to him and tried to pick him up when he received his wounds. Two others of the hospital corps brought them in to the nearest dressing station.

"Now for the work in camp. We worked steady until daylight, and still the wounded kept coming in. We did not sit down to breakfast, but ate our lunch as we worked. We worked all that day and the next night. I never in my life saw surgeons work so faithfully as ours did. They never stopped once, and as our records show, we did not lose a life that it was possible to save. For forty-eight hours I never slept, and when I did, it was in the wet. We had to put in twelve hours a day after the battle, that is, twelve hours out of the twenty-four. We have about 800 sick in the hospital now and

more are coming in every day, sometimes twenty-five at a time are being brought in.

"Respectfully yours,
J. W. CLOVIS."

This and other letters also show that all the hospital boys from here were steadily at their posts all the time during and after the battle attending faithfully to their duties.

SHIPS ARE NEEDED.

When the situation in which the United States finds herself at the close of a most successful war is calmly considered, it will probably be found that one of the first requirements now is a larger amount of American vessels for the foreign trade. It would be a mistake to give attention to army and navy measures to the exclusion of the interests of the mercantile marine. The war with Spain has clearly demonstrated the value of ships not originally intended for war. Had we become involved with France, or even Germany, it is impossible to say to what an extent we might have been handicapped, perhaps humiliated, and disgraced, not from lack of warships, but from lack of merchant vessels, capable of transporting troops, carrying coal, and doing the infinite variety of things that merchant ships are capable of being made to do in times of war.

Thomas Jefferson, in his report to the third session of the first Congress, "On the Privileges and Restrictions of the Commerce of the United States," says in part:

"If particular nations grasp at undue shares of our commerce, and more especially if they seize on the means of the United States to convert them into afloat for their own strength and withdraw them entirely from the support of those to whom they belong, defensive and protective measures become necessary on the part of the nation whose marine resources are thus invaded, or it will be disarmed of its defense; its productions will be at the mercy of the nation which has possessed itself exclusively of the means of carrying them, and its policies will be influenced by those who command its commerce. If we lose the seamen and artists whom it now employs, we lose the present means of marine defense, and time will be requisite to raise up others, when disgrace and losses shall bring home to our feelings the disgrace of having abandoned them."

There never was a time when the axioms here laid down applied with greater force than the present one. By the acquisition of colonies in two oceans, the United States has become a maritime power and must be prepared to hold its position as such. What is needed is an American built merchant marine handling the commerce of the country and ever ready at the request of the government to render such services as may be required. Foreign-built ships should no longer be registered as American vessels. Our own shipbuilding should be encouraged and, if need be, protected, until it has assumed such dimensions that vessels can be constructed cheaper and better than those built by any other nation. The material is here, and the skill is here.

Tax Collector Samuel M. Findley of San Luis Obispo county, Cal., is a defaulter and a fugitive from justice. The amount of his embezzlement is not definitely known. On forcing his safe it was ascertained that he was short at least \$1,000, but a hasty examination of the records by the county clerk indicates that he may have taken as much as \$50,000. No clue as to the whereabouts of the missing official has been discovered. It is now nine days since he took his departure from the county seat.