

SCRANTON TRIBUNE  
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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, MARCH 20, 1894.

THE PRESENT sickly red postage stamp costs Uncle Sam seven and one-half cents per thousand, gum included. It is an emphatic plea he doesn't make it an even dime and secure a quality of paper that will occasionally tear along the lines of perforation.

TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

On this, the nineteenth birthday of General Neal Dow, the initiator of the temperance movement in America, it will be customary, no doubt, to supplement the personal celebration in which the venerable reformer will participate in Portland, Me., with reminiscence glances at the progress of the general battle against strong drink. That, in spite of many eccentricities, much false leadership and the hindering championship of unreasoning fanatics, the belief in temperance has gained large hold admits of no denial. Nor can we longer say that "temperance," in the sense in which it is generally used, means intemperance in that it compels total abstinence instead of moderate and prudent indulgence to which the adjective properly has reference.

The truth is everywhere apparent that the temperance movement, considered as an enterprise, has broadened and liberalized. It no longer veers on the borderland of personal buttonholing and proselyting. It is no longer attended by excessive noise and mental hysteria. Instead of depending for its strength upon the arid and austere exhortation of the zealots and enthusiasts, it includes within its intellectual arsenal the chief forces of secular education and religious culture, the wide-spread fact that sobriety is one of the first requisites of success in business and the developed sentiment that intemperance is a mark of disgrace, and not, as formerly, a token of personal distinction. When employers raise the issue of temperance as a prerequisite to employment, when science shows the excessive use of alcohol what a wreck he really makes of himself and what a peril he entails on posterity, and when, possibly, above all this, society begins to shun the inebriate and even smile upon the abstainer, it is time to conclude that the movement with which Maine's venerable monogamian reformer is so intimately identified is rapidly nearing the haven of success.

Its greatest mistake has been the common one of proceeding upon the supposition that, in these matters of personal option, laws can do for obnoxious or unfortunate individuals what the individuals refuse to do for themselves. There has been rather too much of the notion that it did not much matter how the individual stood, provided only that the laws were sufficiently severe. Thus we have witnessed many efforts to enforce prohibition long before the sentiment of a fair majority of individual citizens had come to a settled conclusion in favor of legal prohibition; and thus has there been counteracted inevitable failure and discouragement, due rather to premature pushing than to any fundamental aversion for honest temperance reform.

But no great movement is free from errors. That which is reviewed today is a great and grand one, in spite of its passing faults.

Intemperance is a disease, it is certainly contagious.

It is well enough, in time of sound national credit, to talk broadly about "the atom being the gain's rank," but the flat moneyists would sing a different tune were that credit to fall. And what keeps it up, if not the faith of the world that America, in matters financial, will not repudiate its pledged word?

WAGES GOING DOWN.

Those Democratic journals which are making partisan arguments of each new iron mill resumption neglect to dwell upon the important fact that almost without exception these resurgences of suspended industry are accompanied by sweeping wage reductions. While a half-loaf is better than none, in this time of Democratic depression, it is to be remembered that never once during the thirty years of Republican administration did there occur such an abrupt drop in the earnings of labor as has this year been precipitated by Democracy's threatened tariff legislation.

It has never been claimed by Protectionists that the enactment of a low tariff law would permanently suspend the industries of this country. It has been contended that it would materially embarrass them, and that it would inevitably necessitate a sweeping reduction in wage scales; but, that accomplished, production must necessarily resume. The present experience is an ample vindication of the soundness of this argument. It is, in fact, an ocular and a mathematical demonstration having, in many instances, the cumulous force of a direct and palpable personal illustration. If the people of the United States desire lower wages without a corresponding decrease in the cost of living, they should again make manifest their approval of the Democratic tariff program. But if they dissent from the practice of a theory whose threatened enactment into law leaves them daily poorer by \$10,000,000, they should evince in no uncertain manner, their repugnance to further experimentation.

It remains to be noted in addition that these contemporary reductions in the wages of labor, occasioned by this prolonged threat of a hostile tariff, are unaccompanied by corresponding reductions in the financial obligations of labor. The man who owed \$1,000 a

year ago, but who has since suffered a 30 per cent. cut in income, will have to pay the full amount of his former indebtedness. Eight hundred dollars will not cancel the \$1,000 mortgage, note or judgment. The reduction affects simply his ability to pay, and leaves untouched the amount that he must meet. Thus any permanent lowering of the standard of wages based upon unnecessary reductions in tariff rates, amounts, in real fact, to a robbery of the debtor classes and is by far a worse deception than any which Democratic orators say is practiced by advocates of a gold standard, for the reason that it is ostensibly achieved in the interest of the oppressed laborer while in cold practice it adds directly to his burden.

Protection gives prosperity, because it makes living wages possible. Low tariff gives depression, because it inevitably forces wages down, while leaving debts just as high as before.

AN INCOME TAX in time of peace is simply and purely a device of thieves.

It is not usually the province of a newspaper to comment upon private enterprises or mis-enterprises, no matter if the rules of good taste are violated in general detail, but when a so-called enterprise becomes an evildoer, a blot upon space, an unmitigated nuisance, it seems just and proper to say so. A case in point may be easily located at the corner of Washington avenue and Spruce street, where the public taste has been shocked and city ordinances violated, it is believed, by the erection of a nameless architectural monstrosity upon the sidewalk at one of the busiest and most slightly corners of the city. Public indignation at this virtual fencing in of a portion of the Washington avenue sidewalk has assumed militant proportions. It is time the respective rights of private ownership and public convenience were more definitely defined in this municipality.

PRESIDENT PRINCE, of Brazil, has an excellent chance just now to teach Lithuania a lesson in clemency.

CRIME IS CONTAGIOUS.

The evil influence of a bad example is frequently shown in current annals. Thus since the publicity given to the Stroudsburg lynching we have had one local abolition of attempted similar lawlessness, and several distant ones. The finding at Plains, Saturday, of the body of a man who had been shot by unknown assassins appears to have corresponding effect in stimulating imitative crimes, and the next day, within a radius of six miles, occurred one successful murder and a shooting and stabbing affray in which two persons are reported to have received fatal injuries.

While it cannot be scientifically demonstrated that the suggestion of these later crimes was imparted by publication of the details of the former ones, there remains no moral doubt of the fact that crimes are contagious; and that the seed of lawlessness, planted in one place, brings forth harvests of criminal impulse covering wide-spread areas. Thus an additional weight of responsibility is laid upon the shoulders of those officials who, by their indifference or insufficiency, give opportunity for the original crimes to be gloriously and conspicuously committed.

We should like to believe, in this direction, that the brutal prize fight said to have occurred Saturday near Wyoming borough had no connection with the prize fight once conducted publicly, without interruption, in the immediate vicinity of District Attorney Garman's home in Nanticoke, or with the later encounter in a Wilkes-Barre graminium, at which policemen were accessories, both before and after the fact. But probability is strongly in favor of a close bond of relationship. We do not cite these Luzerne instances in any Pharisaical spirit, to inspire the inference that Lackawanna has less occasion to promote law enforcement. They are cited merely because the news record of two days accords them notable prominence.

It is a bad investment for any community to shut its eyes to familiar lawlessness.

It has occasionally been the fashion in politics to make it fashionable to be honest.

IN SPITE of strenuous newspaper opposition, "Jack" Robinson has captured the four Blair county Republican delegates away from Walter Lyon, after one of the hottest battles on record. The article of war put up by this Delaware aspirant is beginning to make the best of spectators open their eyes in surprise. Allegany county's favorite son is recommended to look carefully to his fences, for with Robinson pursuing his present pace they will soon fall inside the danger line.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

In an instructive address delivered last Friday evening before the American Academy of Political and Social Science, in Philadelphia, Editor E. L. Godkin, of the New York Evening Post, outlined his ideas of the municipal problem that, in greater or less degree, confronts all American cities; that, is the problem of transferring the control of city government from men who are often, as a class, illiterate, dishonest and careless to men who can bring to its discharge personal probity, comprehensive intelligences and the prestige of individual business success. Mr. Godkin, to be sure, presented no new thoughts, nor did he give so much time to outlining practical remedies as he gave to painting in dark colors the difficulties already familiar. Yet some thoughts of his are of present interest, and will continue to occupy a growing share of public attention until the abuses in question shall have been in some manner overcom.

Mr. Godkin discloses propitious signs of coming deliverance from the condition of acquiescent apathy in which the majority of intelligent and self-respecting taxpayers at one period consented to be systematically plundered by the Tweeds and Crokers and Marphys of American politics. To be sure, our method of shaking off these leeches is yet spasmodic and uncertain. We rely somewhat too implicitly on the ability of the so-called better element

to turn, like the trodden worm, and rend its despoiler. Popular uprisings may be effective for the moment, but they are, as Mr. Godkin says, very "apt to be followed by dangerous periods of reaction, or apathy, during which the old evils resume their sway." What is needed, and what the speaker thought would eventually arrive is a state of public feeling, "which the mere appearance of an abuse will at once bring into action to correct it, at the only time when the destruction of an abuse is easy, the time when it first makes its appearance."

In Mr. Godkin's mind this state of public feeling is intimately associated with the divorcement of municipal elections from partisan politics. He does not believe that there is any American city in which the good people, by which term he means the sober, intelligent and industrious people, people who desire pure elections and the honest administration of the laws, are not in a majority. Good government, therefore, is within their easy reach. They have only to stretch out their hands for it, in Mr. Godkin's opinion, to have it. Why, then, do they not have it? Simply because they never, or rarely, vote together. They "regularly split in city affairs and the dangerous classes, the enemies of social order, as regularly do not split." Combine the good against the idle, the vicious and the lawless classes, mass the united strength of character and conscience against what Mr. Cleveland once called the "cohesive power of public plunder," and you will have the battle won.

There is room for thought in this suggestion. It may not be new, but who dare say it is not true?

GOVERNOR WAITE'S course is rapidly agitating some western Democrats with the other party to Democracy's recent fusion. This is the breezy way in which the Minneapolis Times touched the subject:

Out of all the vociferous imbeciles whom Republican and free silver have hoisted into official life during the past few years this howling dervish of the Colorado gulches is the most completely and persistently offensive. He is a public nuisance that calls loudly for abatement. His public career has not been marked by a single act that has not brought disgrace upon the state and universal ridicule and contempt upon himself. The antics of this president mountebank, this political freak, have made Colorado an object of pity to the civilized world.

Yet by just such base means as Waite and those like him did Grover Cleveland ascend to power. It is well to keep this fact clearly in view.

THERE MUST be a depressing dearth of respectable college amusements when freshmen and sophomores can find no better occupation than to meet in warlike array and struggle for the possession of a cane, pole or bowl. The tramping of several bones and the smashing of frequent skulls in frantic struggles to capture worthless trophies may indicate a high grade of civilization and refinement; but if it does, it must be a grade somewhat beyond the average intellect.

IT IS TO BE hoped there is no truth in current rumors that the escape of Puryear from jail was prearranged by the Stroudsburg lynchers. The reputation of Monroe county has enough to stagger along under without adding this capshat suspicion.

COLONEL BURKINSHIRE should be quarantined until thoroughly fougated and disinfected.

AT THE Pie Counter.

Were it the virus doctor, great, When fires of small-pox smoulder All symptoms I'd investigate, And pretty girls I'd vaccinate— Of course upon the shoulder.

Museum Manager—What are your qualifications as a curiosity? Applicant—I never said that I could successfully conduct a newspaper, have never advanced an opinion on the currency question, and— M. Manager—Enough! You are engaged. Name your salary.

Teacher—What does the word colubacy mean? Class—The state or condition of being single.

Teacher—Correct. Now, if you wanted to express the opposite of colubacy or singleness what would you use? Bright Pupil—Plurality.—Chicago Tribune.

"Jones has been engaged in geological research for some time past." "Oh! A member of the survey corps, I suppose."

"Well, not exactly. He sorts out paving stones for the street commissioner's corps."

"So your husband never objects to your practicing on the piano?" "Oh, no; he is a boiler-maker."

Ho-jack—The sparrow is a very courageous bird. Tomlike—Nonsense! Any restaurant doer can make him quail.—Philadelphia Press.

"What is the matter with Jones, the author of the poem, 'Happy Homes'?" His face is covered with scars.

"Why, he's just had an interview with his wife."

Man—Say, do union is gold to boycott, Doctor Jones next week.

Nicks—What's the grievance? Man—'Cause he's a scab workman; been vaccinating do boys for scab-pox. See?

Hiland—I think that Lent is being observed more generally this year than usual. Van Braam—The hard times are conducive to fasting, perhaps.—Fittsburg Telegraph.

Agent—Do you desire security against tramps and beggars? I have here a patent chain lock— Housewife—No, we need nothing of the kind. Our Katie sings "After the Ball."

SOME PASSING THOUGHTS: The man who stays at home from church upon account of cold weather in winter, generally encounters the same difficulty with the heat in summer.

Weapons of vicious paragraphs are quite apt to recoil with deadly effect. Whom the gods wish to destroy they sometimes make foolish. It is easier to cavi than to create, consequently sarcasm is no great evidence of wisdom. After all, things are about as they ap-

pear from our point of view. To pussy even the back yard summer evening concert hath its charms.

The individual who complains most about the terrors of moving day, generally allows his wife to adjust the stove-pipe and shake the carpet.

Pan Pictures of a Democratic Leader.

New York World, Dem. In the senate instead of "action, action, action," there has been delay, dilatoriness and dickerings. The only light that has been thrown on the question has come from a dark lantern. This is a fool and beggarly showing for six weeks of delay. It would not have come if Chairman Voorhees's resolution were equal to his good intentions. There are too many fingers in his back for a capable party leader. He bends too easily. His capital column needs a stiffening rod through it.

Let No Guilty Man Escape.

Philadelphia Press. The authorities of Monroe county owe it to the state whose fair record has been broken in their county seat to punish adequately and promptly the ring-leaders of this riot and all who had any share in the lynching of the murderer. There is all the more need of this, because the ease with which the murderer escaped from the jail leads color to the suspicion that the sheriff did not do his duty, but entered to the mob by facilitating the prisoner's escape.

Honesty Is the Safest Policy.

Philadelphia Record, Dem. It is an easy way to meet accruing expenditure by issuing notes and putting upon posterity the task of payment; but as the government stands pledged to keep its paper issues and its silver issues at par with gold every actual liability is an added danger.

Knew When to Quit.

Washington Post. Admiral Mello is probably congratulating himself that he had the good judgment to turn the Dutch over to Da Gama.

Can Now Breathe Easy.

Washington Post. It will be a great relief to the governor of Florida to learn that the Corbett Jackson fight is to be fought off in England.

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On Special Counter Several thousand yards 21-inch Double Printed Chinese Silks, beautiful colorings, at 25c. 1,500 yards Patersonia Printed Pongees at 49c. 3,000 yards of 24-inch Best Japanese Habitue Washable Silks, in all of the new floral effects, at 63c.

DRESS GOODS Our stock of Novelty Dress Goods is now complete and represents the latest products of French, German and American looms. 2,000 yards of 38-inch Wool Mixed Suitings, spring weight, worth 45c. per yard; our special price, 25c. 1,500 yards of Changeable Shaperd Crepons, worth 75c. per yard; our special price, 49c. 1,200 yards All-wool 54-inch Oxford Checks and Scotch Mixed Suitings, worth 85c. per yard; special price, 50c.

BLACK GOODS Such a display of all the new weaves has never been displayed before, and black is all the rage. Little Fixings in the way of Laces, Handkerchiefs, Bows, Gloves, &c., for Easter, for men, women and children, abound with us in great plenty and at the lowest prices ever known before.

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