

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, MARCH 23, 1894.

It is undoubtedly true, as Mr. Chittenden says, that Scrantons do not keep a sufficiently close watch upon the official actions of their councilmen. Any movement calculated to increase the vigilance of this civic scrutiny will receive this paper's heartfelt and most energetic support.

INCREASE THE FIRE LIMITS.

The present fire limits in this city are a reminiscence of Stockton Hollow. They remind one of the time when this community was a nest of straggling boroughs, separated from each other by bogs, forests and swamps. In a city of 100,000 souls, noted far and wide for its enterprise, energy and municipal dash, it is little less than ridiculous to confine the area of prohibited non-frame buildings to the small space immediately circumscribing the central city's business center. In view of the rapid growth of the city in all directions, and of the multiplying number of new residences springing up as if by magic on every available area within walking distance of the court house, councils ought to make new and ample provision for the protection of the community against fire, and for the prevention of unhealthy overcrowding.

Takes as an illustration the well-known fire trap at Washington and Spruce. Not long ago that was propped up, and in additional story inserted under it. Under proper municipal regulations, this could not have been permitted. Every new building addition in the business portion of Scranton should be constructed of brick, stone, metal or glass. Permits for the augmentation of timber-like frame structures should not be granted under any circumstances. As the case stands now, these permits cannot be refused, because the ordinance on this point covers only a few streets, and refers, or is interpreted to refer, only to wholly new structures, and not to extensions tacked on to old ones. Therefore, the key to the difficulty lies in the adoption of a new ordinance, amended and expanded to cover the larger and livelier city of today, and also to provide satisfactorily for the greater Scranton that is to be.

Provision should be made in connection of only conglomerations of squatty, shed-like tenements like that which is giving public offence on Jefferson avenue. If this kind of overcrowding can be reached by municipal legislation, through some kind of restrictions as to the number of apartments permissible on a given ground space, it ought to be reached efficiently and promptly. The opening of new building territory which will result from the completion of the new bridges makes prompt action doubly desirable. Scranton is too bright, too enterprising and too promising a city to be deluged with impurity by the insatiable greed or the gross indifference of occasional property owners who care nothing for the public, except to squeeze it, and who are amenable to no discipline save the mailed hand of rigorous law.

The fact that Senator Quay's Philadelphia organ has bolted Cameron, taking its place alongside the independent Press, is an indication of more than ordinary interest. Cameron's free silver chickens appear to be coming home to roost.

WHAT IS IT?

Certain events of the last few days appear to make desirable a fixed, accurate and exact definition of the term "bay window." At the corner of Washington and Spruce it has been held that the small abutty which does service on the Spruce street side as a cigar store is a "bay window." Just around the corner carpenters are at work adding an unsightly and generally obnoxious extension. This, too, is defined as a "bay window," and as such its owner not only claims immunity from criticism, but seems to cultivate the inference that he deserves praise and a medal as a public benefactor.

At the corner of Pine, Greene and Spruce, there is a minister's Noah's ark in which an enterprising citizen sells candy and peanuts. No one who had preconceived ideas as to what a bay window really is would ever single out this young shed as fulfilling the functions of a bay window; but legally that is just what it is. Upon the same principle it would be possible to back a coach-and-six up alongside a house wall and claim that the glass door made it, too, a bay window. We are surprised that under all these various interpretations of the legal privileges that hedge the Scranton bay window, nobody has yet thought of building sidewalk tenement houses, one above the other, in the fashion first set by the old Aztecs.

From the standpoint of quiescent legal innocence it would seem to be a queer law that would permit the erection of sidewalk cigar stands and peanut palaces under the generic name, "bay window," and yet deny Mr. Jermy's right to erect a real bay window in connection with a structure that will be one of the distinguished ornaments and architectural assets of Scranton. We are mystified at this nice distinction. We grow faint at the confronting spectacle of such complicated technicalities.

BRICKENRIDGE, being such an innocent young thing, was led astray. We have this from "his own lawyers."

EPIGUREAN ENTERPRISE.

A new industry according to accounts has been developed down in the vicinity of Mauch Chunk. A man named Kunkle has made preparations to engage in the novel business of mushroom raising, and expects to keep the markets in that locality supplied with an article that will render the services of the coroner unnecessary after eating. Mr. Kunkle has leased an

abandoned railroad tunnel about one hundred and fifty feet in length near Rockport and has boarded up the ends and will enter at once into the work of producing esculent fungi in the dim recesses of the artificial cave.

The so-called mushroom in its natural state, gathered from woodland dells and rolling sheep pastures, has kept pace with the instrument that no one knew was "loaded" in furnishing business for the undertaker. In fact the services of the funeral director have been usually necessary in every case to fully decide between the harmless mushroom and the deadly toad stool.

Mr. Kunkle proposes to grow fungi from genuine mushroom spores that has none of the bad traits often found in the wild plant, and as he is not an anarchist and so far as he is known has no interest in coffin factories in the vicinity of Mauch Chunk, the hungry public will, no doubt, extend a hearty welcome to his enterprise.

SCRANTONIANS will be delighted to learn that the recently proposed series of Moody summer meetings in this valley is practically an assured fact. The great evangelist, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Whittle, will, it is announced, reach Wilkes-Barre on or about June 1, and will devote himself thereafter for three months to the work of reclaiming the souls of men in the twin valleys. The field which stretches out before Mr. Moody in the immediate vicinity of Wilkes-Barre, is probably as fertile in sin and social corruption as any similar area in the United States. It is gratifying to observe his intention to begin the heaviest part of his task first, when energies are fresh and moral courage strong.

EXIT BROOKWAY.

For so many years has the name of Zebulon R. Brookway, warden of the Elmira reformatory, had accepted by penologists and philanthropists as synonymous for all that is creditable, humane and progressive in the treatment of criminals that it is difficult, all at once, to grasp the sweeping significance of the striking statement of the man and of his methods which has just been brought after careful investigation, by the New York state board of charities.

Not only does this board's report convict him in numerous instances, of "cruel, brutal, excessive, degrading and unusual punishments" of "needless cruelty and gross humanity" of "permitting, countenancing and encouraging brutality on the part of the officers and the keepers," but it also arraigns him, by inference for an even greater crime, and one which the public will be least likely to forgive, namely, the crime of prolonged hypocrisy and systematic deceit.

If there is any meaning in words and any force in cumulative evidence, this detailed exposure of Brookwayism, carried as it is into all the relentless particulars of the brutal warden's conduct, inhumanity and unctuous simulation of superior sanctity, will lead to immediate action by the New York legislature, before which a bill for Brookway's removal is now pending. The fact that the board of managers of the Elmira institution arraigned as accessories after the fact to all of Brookway's mismanagement, having, as it appears, been hypnotized by him, abruptly ends their usefulness and calls for a prompt and sweeping reorganization. Even though this Niagara of damning testimony and incriminating detail were purely the fabrication of malevolence and spite—a supposition so wild as to be almost incredible—it is clear that the effect which it has had in influencing public opinion would preclude the re-instatement of Brookway and cancel all the value of his future services.

While it is true that no other man has enjoyed so large an experience of flogging and of adulation at the hands of American prison reformers as has this discredited Elmira, it would be false logic and worse justice to connect his hypocrisy in any unpleasant manner with the cause of genuine prison reform. His case vividly illustrates the terrible wrongs which a hypocrite can perpetrate when clothed with the mantle of high authority and shielded by the misplaced confidence of indiscreet dupes. But by that very fact it forms a doubly powerful argument in favor of such an overhauling of our prison system as will do away, not only with the old defiant brutality (that called penology into being, but also with this masked diabolery of which Brookway will henceforth be the disgraced exponent.

We are pleased to note the success which has attended the efforts of two Tribune graduates, Editors Pennington and Lewis, to give the citizens of Plymouth a first class local daily newspaper. Few communities of equal size are better served than are the readers of the Plymouth Tribune, and many are not second half so well. It gratifies us to observe that this merit is receiving substantial tokens of appreciation.

SUE FOR DAMAGES.

It has recently been held by the Indiana supreme court that where proof can be produced that the location of a saloon in a given place depreciates the value of neighboring property, a process in law can be instituted for the recovery of damages. If this be true in relation to a saloon, which is a business specially licensed by the state, it ought to be equally true with reference to a gambling room, a disorderly house or any other resort of notorious repute. Frequently, then, when criminal procedure cannot reach these wary offenders, civil action for the recovery of damages might work material betterment in the social atmosphere, upon the principle that what touches the pocket book of vice is even more effective, as a rule, than that which merely touches its uncertain conscience.

It would seem to the layman that some such principles as this ought also to operate, in equity, toward the protection of a quiet neighborhood which is threatened by the introduction of a nest of obnoxious tenements, strung together on a single lot like beehives in an apiary. We have in mind a place on Jefferson avenue where it is proposed to build nine flimsy frame apartments on a ground space not more than sufficient to accommodate one dwelling of ordinary size. From the nature of these small apartments, it seems fair to infer that they will be populated by tenants who will probably not add

to and who may even detract from the desirability of that avenue as a residence center. It is commonly reported with what truth we can simply conjecture, that the threatened construction of this architectural monstrosity on a thoroughfare once esteemed the most select in Scranton, has already precipitated a decline in the value of adjoining property. Why, then, should the owners of these adjacent holdings not proceed in civil action for the recovery of compensatory damages? The Indiana decision affirms their right to do this when the depreciatory factor is a saloon. Upon what principle of equity could they be denied the same right when, instead of a saloon, the disturbing influence emanates from one man's diseased ideas of what constitutes proper and wholesome realty investments?

Understand, THE TRIBUNE does not dispute the legal privilege of a property owner to build whatever he sees fit on land to which he holds a valid deed, but the exercise for such privilege must not work injury to others. It must not, by multiplying extraordinarily the chances of fire, increase the premiums of adjacent fire risks. Nor must it in any other direction bring pecuniary loss upon those who are not responsible for it. Such, we believe, would be the finding of the local court should any property owner on Jefferson avenue bring action for damages against the builder of the new series of rat traps which is located on land between Linden and Mulberry.

WOULD GET A Cold Reception.
Walter Wellman, whose Arctic expedition is now on the way, was given an American flag, with orders to nail it to the North Pole. That would be simply to run an enormous risk of being caught down by the administration. It would not be according to its foreign policy.

SO SAY WE, All of Us.
The best amendment to the amended Wilson bill would be to strike out the enacting clause.

SONG OF THE STARS.
When the day light fades in the evening shades,
And the blue nocturne in the gray,
We perch our tents in the firmaments
To guard the milky way,
And we gather the broken sunbeams up
From the silent lakes of the sea that takes
The gleams as we pass.

THEIR mutual insurance policy against attack of sickness is to be found in taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. If you are weak it will make you strong.

HOOD'S PILLS are the best after dinner pills, assist digestion, cure headache. Try a box, 25c.

Here it remained with some of the covering torn off so that the curious could view the monster for some twelve or fifteen years, and until so many of its parts were broken or detached and taken away, that it was not considered worth repairing, and I think was sold for old iron. Some of its parts are still preserved as mementos of the first locomotive seen upon a railroad in America.

Two Truths Well Crystallized.
If men would preserve their financial credit they must be chary about putting their names to notes that are floated down by the administration. It would not be according to its foreign policy.

Where Appreciation Falls.
To the woman who fails to get her dress in time for Easter, possibilities in a fine art, and all dressmakers are worse than demons. The trouble is that the poor dress-makers do not get thanked for the dresses they do make on time. A little appreciation might lead these hardworking and deserving toilers.

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GOLDSMITH'S G. B. BAZAAR
GRAND EASTER DISPLAY

Of everything new and novel in the fashionable world. To realize more fully what this announcement means we direct attention to our window exhibits, as to some of the representative attractions outlined below.

Silk Department

We are now exhibiting a choice collection of Taffeta Glace Broche and Taffeta Imprimis, Printed Habituae and Kai Kai Silks; also, new designs in Black Moire Antique and Moire Mirroir.

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 Habituae 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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Our new Bicycles are now to be seen at our 314 Lackawanna avenue store.
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At Wholesale and Retail, on easy monthly payments. It will pay to wait for them.

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