

SCRANTON TRIBUNE  
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PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY IN SCRANTON, PA., BY THE TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

NEW YORK OFFICE: TRIBUNE BUILDING, FRANK S. GRAY, MANAGER.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, APRIL 6, 1894.

If the Lehigh Valley Railroad company officials will kindly indicate when it has supplied its wants, there are a few million other patients, Americans who are waiting for their turn at Partner Bissell's pill counter.

The Coke Region Strikers.

In ordinary times, 17,000 men are employed in the coke works of Western Pennsylvania. This spring and during most of the winter, 8,000 of these were thrown completely idle, and the 9,000 who were so fortunate as to obtain work were forced in the great majority of instances to accept wage reductions. The shutting down of factories everywhere, during the tariff uncertainty developed under Democratic legislation, had robbed the coke industry of its market, the lack of prospective resumption had made impractical the accumulation of surplus stocks of coke and there was no other alternative open to the coke operators but to discharge some of their men, and put the others on small pay. It was an unpleasant task, at best; and it was made worse by reason of the presence, in the coke region, of many hundreds of ignorant laborers brought over from Europe, with a view to underbidding the native American workers in the performance of crude duties. Idleness, hunger and general discontent, fanned as usual by men who derive profit from industrial disturbances, completed the causes which have just culminated in a widespread strike, a bloody riot and murders that parallel the darkest incidents of war.

The climax was reached, as the dispatches inform us, when a body of several hundred strikers marched into the Davidson works of the H. C. Frick Coke company at Connellsville, Fayette county, where men were working. The strikers had been there in the morning to get the men out but no one was working. In the afternoon when they returned the deputies had been placed to receive them. When the strikers approached they were ordered to stop. They came on and tried to get at the men in the ovens. The deputies fired. The strikers returned the fire and charged, driving the deputies and men from the plant. Now note this sequel: "Chief Ensign or Padlock of the Frick company ran up in the tipple of the works. The strikers followed and shot him in the back of the head. They beat him and crushed his head with stones and threw his body from a tipple window to the ovens, forty feet below. They then attempted to fire the tipple, but left when they saw the deputies returning with a large force from Connellsville."

Nothing that we could add in any way of comment would equal the effectiveness of this single statement. The unadorned facts are peerlessly eloquent. For such rioters, in the frenzy which kindles at sight of blood, there is only one remedy—cold lead. Yet it would be idle to attempt to hold these ignorant persons responsible for conditions of which they are merely the victims. The system which permits the immigration under contract of this particular type of aliens is one cause; and the politics which gives honest, upright and respectable foreigners, as well as Americans, no security against them, is another cause that need attention of the most serious kind. As an economic experiment cheap labor, when it means also ignorant and vicious labor, is a failure that amounts to a crime; and it would be well if public sentiment would punish those who force that experiment upon the people of the United States, both at the ballot-box, in the markets of commerce, at the social functions and in the sanctuary of God.

A FACETIOUS Luzerne county contemporary fears that James Adelbert Stranahan's position on the temperance question would interfere with his usefulness as Democratic state chairman. Mr. Stranahan, it is true, is a prohibitionist, that being a prevailing tendency in Mercer. But in politics, at least, he also possesses the saving characteristic of being able to wink his other eye at the exact moment when that feat does the greatest good.

Speaking of Zell.

There is more truth than poetry in the criticism that in giving Defendant Zell only four years for stealing \$363,000 while many poor thieves get the same sentence for stealing a loaf of bread justice committed another of her proverbial blunders. The circumstances in Zell's case, so far as we have been able to learn them through published testimony, were such as to invite rather more than ordinary severity. He was paid an ample salary. He was, we believe, happily married. He enjoyed the esteem of many friends, stood well in club circles and had a promising future. That he should not be content with this, but should in the first place want to get rich without work, through the gambling processes of race tracks and Wall street, and next should lose faith in his home and seek for real happiness in the commercial atmosphere of a gaudy fast set would seem, in most eyes, to be a poor recommendation to judicial clemency.

If he were starving, the theft of a beggarly crust might appeal to merciful instincts, inasmuch as the deed would be in obedience to an irresistible natural law. But the spectacle of his downfall in the midst of comfort and affluence, of his gradual weakening under the seductions which a strong man would have sprung as beneath him, and finally of his complete plunge into social infamy, crime and flight, presents no such palliating circumstance. It inspires pity only because it is so typical. It induces to charity only because in it we see re-

vealed so common an outcropping of the instilled falsities and the integral weakness of our present systems of education and mode of life.

Had Zell, for example, been put through a school which did not regard the parrot-like ability to conjugate Greek verbs from memory as a thing at all comparable with a character strengthened in its unfolding attributes of manliness, truth, justice and honor; had he received his tuition in an atmosphere where there was less machine-like crowding of intellectual gim-cracks into the distended minds of "smart" young boys and girls, and more serious attention to the individual needs of the individual pupil—needs not alone of mind, but as well of heart and conscience and character—it is a safe guess that he could have gone to New York with perfect safety, and could have withstood, like a man, its artificial blandishments and hollow fascinations. Only upon the philosophical ground that he was the predestined victim of a pernicious system can we see any justice in the leniency of his sentence.

THE POLITICAL liar is beginning to make himself felt again in Pennsylvania politics, if we may credit as his work even one-half of that which violates all probability. One specimen in point is before us in the form of an alleged interview with Congressman-at-large McDonald, in which the genial Sharon major is quoted as threatening all kinds of dire things in case "the old man," referring to Senator Quay, "doesn't soon pull Huff out of the field." We know, of course, that Major McDonald never said such a thing; first, because he is a gentleman and, secondly, because he is old enough to understand that Senator Quay's pulling powers this year will follow the bent of the popular inclination. Mr. Huff is in the field fairly and squarely, and if the people prefer him to Major McDonald they will doubtless find it no inconvenience to say so.

Real Principle Involved.

Postmaster General Bissell is quoted as predicting that the appointment of John J. McDonald to the Kingston postmastership, without the knowledge, advice or consent, of the Democratic member from Luzerne, will not hurt Mr. Hines' chances for re-election, for the excellent reason that he hasn't any. Mr. Bissell is even more cruel than this. When asked what he thought of Hines' indignant protest, coupled with a threat never again to darken the door of the postoffice department while Bissell is at its head, the corpulent Buffalo representative of the Lehigh Valley railway company is said to have replied with contempt: "I am sorry to have offended Hines, but he will not come within a thousand miles of re-election. I would not be surprised to see him defeated by 5,000 majority."

We believe that Mr. Bissell is correct in his diagnosis of Hines' case. If the Republicans of Luzerne county rise to their opportunity by the nomination of a strong and popular candidate and then give their loyal support, it will be possible not only to defeat the present demagogical representative, but also to give the defeat such proportions as would convey an impressive lesson to men who deliberately misrepresent the interests of their constituents. But this is not the point just now of chief importance. Let Hines be what he may, in a partisan sense, he is, until defeated, the regular official representative of the people of the Twelfth district. He is the man through whom they are supposed to voice their preferences in the choice of local government officials. They have a valid right, through the recommendation of their congressman, to express this preference. To deny them this right would be to deny the very principle above all others upon which our government is founded, the principle of home rule. To foist upon the people of Kingston a postmaster without consultation with the congressman who represents those Kingstontians is to put an affront, not only on Hines personally, but upon every voter within the borough of Kingston, and, indirectly, upon every voter in Luzerne county.

It is charged that Mr. McDonald's appointment was decided upon by Mr. Bissell in obedience to the expressed or implied wish of persons closely identified with the large corporation by which Mr. Bissell is permanently employed. We do not know that this is true, and we also know nothing concerning Mr. McDonald personally which would incline us to believe his selection unwise. It is, however, an unfortunate fact that in certain other instances Mr. Bissell has evidently consulted the wishes of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company even more closely and more solicitously than he has consulted the wishes of the people; and Mr. McDonald, through the summary manner in which his name was decided upon, therefore rests under a burden of undesirable doubt. While no one blames the Lehigh Valley Railroad company or any other large company for getting all the good things of life that it can get, without violation of law, the people of this state, irrespective of party, have a right to expect more consideration at the hands of the American postmaster general than they seem to be getting at the hands of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company's Buffalo attorney, temporarily sitting in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet.

It is a pleasing symptom of the general interest in fish propagation aroused by Pennsylvania anglers that the demand for trout fry far exceeds the available supply. Yet while we permit lumbering companies to despoil our forests and pollute our forest streams it is a pitiful waste of energy and fry to try to keep the trout streams stocked.

Double Standard in Morals. It is an encouraging fact in connection with the scandal now uppermost in American thought that there is no disposition to shield the man at the expense of the woman. Perhaps this is due to the extraordinary depravity of the man's course, judged in the lenient light even of his own admissions. Perhaps it is due to his mature years and to the disparity existing between him and his companion in guilty. Perhaps if he had been younger and more ardent; perhaps if there had been in his narration of the crime a single element of poetry, obliquity or romance, public opinion would have been inclined to extenuate his fault

and to re-admit him to its favor, as it has pardoned other offenders before him.

Nevertheless, the fact that nothing of this palliation has succeeded Colonel Breckinridge from a condemnation to which there is nowhere respectable dissent is of itself a hopeful augury. It may be too much to expect that within the lifetime of this generation, if at all, the often inconsistent and illogical thing which we call "society," that is to say, the subtle circle of activities which is dominated exclusively by the feminine instinct; will advance to a stage of progress where it will accept, as applying to men, the same relentless code of morals which it applies, often with a refined cruelty that is exquisite, to womankind. But in the larger tribunal which we call public opinion, in the forum where the judgments rendered are made of the aggregate common sense of both sexes and all classes and conditions, no truth is clearer than that the former easy condonation of male license has given way to a stricter and fairer accounting. We saw this instanced in the downfall of Sir Charles Dilke and Parnell. We see it exemplified today in the utter repudiation by all honest men of the arch-hypocrite, Breckinridge. And we may, if we look closely, view the same law outcropping in a thousand minor directions all indicating the existence of a sliding scale of masculine morality whose natural changes are in the direction of stricter standards.

If, therefore, the existence of a double standard of morality be an injustice, it should, in fairness to civilization, be said that this anomalous disparity is a creation and a protege of its very victims, and not a monument to the deliberate tyranny of man. Women have always been the greatest sufferers from it, yet women have always accepted it as just, and have, in sheer perversity, defended it against proposed reforms. Whenever women wish to see this unequal arrangement replaced by a single code, applicable alike to either sex, they have only to begin the crusade and it will quickly enough achieve permanent victory.

IN A SINGLE stretch of woodland north of Westport, Pa., one Williams port lumbering firm lost last week 3,000,000 feet of logs, owing to forest fires. The firm estimates the market value of these logs at \$13,000, which, of course, does not take into account the damage to standing timber caused by the same fire, or the destructiveness of that blaze with reference to growing shrubs and sprouts. We have never been able to get a satisfactory approximation of the fatal yearly loss to Pennsylvania from forest fires; but the amount must be enormous. In our community we know it is a serious present loss, without calculating at all the tremendous sacrifice which we are entailing upon the future. Recent showers have fortunately quenched these fires for a time; but until we begin to do our duty toward the disappearing forests in a business-like manner, occasional rains will afford a sorry guaranty for posterity.

THE PHILADELPHIA Evening Star isn't as thick as a mill stone nor as big as barn door, yet it has passed its twenty-seventh birthday and still has a crust of bread. One of the reasons for this, perhaps, is that it hasn't sacrificed quality to quantity, hasn't despaired of making merit out and hasn't believed itself to be under any necessity of muffling its mouth and putting felt on its tongue whenever it wanted to say anything. After all, the people do like grit.

ABOUT Art and Artists.

In a review of pictures shown at a New York art exhibition recently given in the Sun, the name of J. W. Raught is mentioned among the artists whose works are worthy of more than passing notice. It will be seen by the above that the productions of Mr. Raught, a native of this city, are recognized by the highest metropolitan authorities upon what constitutes artistic merit. This calls to mind a peculiar circumstance illustrating the vagaries of Scranton picture buyers. During the holidays Mr. Raught, who had passed the summer near Philadelphia, making studies of the delightful scenery in that locality, exhibited his paintings at Stewart's gallery. The collection embraced the very pictures that have been so much admired at the New York and Boston art exhibitions. The canvases were a revelation as compared with the usual collections that have been shown in Scranton. Yet, it is understood, not a sale was made. Mr. Raught had scarcely removed his pictures from the gallery in this city when a lively-tongued stranger, from no one knows where, secured space in the place where he unpacked a lot of "dreams" of doubtful origin, whose chief attraction seemed to be the gilt frames in which they rested. By the usual clap-net methods the paintings brought here by the dealer were all sold in less than a month.

—Silas Kind, the talented sketch artist, who returned to this city some time ago, contemplates the establishment of an engraving plant for the production of zinc etchings and half-tone plates.

Scranton contains many art connoisseurs and numerous artists of more than ordinary ability, but the people who buy pictures appear to be influenced in every instance by the eloquence of the exhibitor rather than by the merits of a picture. Colonel Fairman, in reference to whose abilities there have been many controversies, undoubtedly has produced most excellent specimens, especially in sky effects. But it is probable that in the majority of instances the sales made in this city were effected almost solely by the Colonel's business tact and persistence.

Mrs. Agnes Booth, exponent of the Prang Art system in the public schools, is an instructor of great ability, and her labors are aiding materially in creating taste for and appreciation of art among the rising generation. Scrantonians, however, are still seeking for light in art circles, and the Electric city is the home of many enthusiastic artists, both amateur and professional, who are doing much toward creating additional taste for the beautiful among our people. From among the number may be mentioned Miss Hester A. Worthington, whose studio is situated in the Coal Exchange, and who is one of the most

conscientious and painstaking instructors in the city. Miss Worthington is a sketch artist of marked ability, as her excellent crayon work will testify and she has had flattering success in imparting the inspiration to many of her pupils.

John L. Hangi, the wool engraver and designer, who has been obliged to take a vacation from work upon account of ill health, it is said will soon resume operations in this city.

Mrs. Frederiek Lunge, in addition to talents as a painter and sketch artist, exhibits also marked ability in the line of wood carving. Her work shows artistic taste as well as mechanical skill in this branch of art that is gaining in popularity as a fad.

Mrs. W. W. Barry, wife of the well-known jeweler, is an adept at china painting and has produced excellent work in that line.

Among the most talented of Scranton's young lady artists may be mentioned Miss Grace Norton, whose still life studies in oil have attracted attention wherever shown.

Mrs. Harriet Clay Penman, the well-known writer, is an artist of much ability. Her work in china decoration is exquisite and is greatly admired by connoisseurs.

SONG.

There is a wondrous story  
That I would sing to thee,  
A song of golden glory,  
Love's faith and constancy  
The winter day beaded,  
But in the sky above  
A thousand lights are blended,  
The thousand thoughts of love,  
Bright thoughts of love.  
The western skies are golden  
As some great western chief,  
But brighter far than golden  
Sweet tale of love's belief.  
The sunsets die and vanish  
With each departing day,  
But years serve not to banish  
The love that lives away,  
And this is my song,  
—Flavel Scott Mimes in Godey's Lady Book

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