

The Scranton Tribune

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"Printers' Ink," the recognized journal for advertisers, rates THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE as the best advertising medium in Northeastern Pennsylvania. "Printers' Ink" knows.



THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 23,500. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000.

Representative Harvey is to be commended for his promptness and forethought in proposing, for enactment at Harrisburg, a law which would punish by fine the man who persists, against judgment, beauty and reason, in mutilating his horse's tail. The act should, however, be amended to include punishment for employers who discharge employees for protesting against this barbarous imported custom.

Make the Kirmess a Grand Success.

That is the most gracious form of philanthropy which ministers to human beings in distress. It is well enough to prevent or to alleviate cruelty to dumb beasts. Those charitable agencies which have this as their mission are worthy of cordial praise. But we think it will be conceded that the needs of those who are the victims of cruelty to man are of superior importance, and that they should receive priority in the list of one's material benefactions.

The general announcement of a kirmess soon to be held in our city has already informed readers of The Tribune that the proceeds of this interesting and instructive purpose entertainment are to go into the badly depleted treasury of the Lackawanna hospital. But has the casual reader of this announcement ever paused to reflect upon what significance there is in it? Has he given due thought to the almost incalculable value of a well-equipped hospital situated near to the busy streets of this large city, and in speedy communication with the scene of any runaway, street car collision or other serious accident? Does he appreciate the extent to which such a hospital, at all times open to the unfortunate, relieves human suffering of the most critical and poignant kind; enables men without other resources to receive, at such periods of urgent and intense need, skillful attention by expert physicians, surgeons and nurses, and in a thousand ways stands between misfortune and physical agony if not outright death?

It is customary with most of us to pass lightly over these cases of physical affliction so long as they are confined to other people. Almost anybody can suffer vicariously and feel quite comfortable while doing so. But if those who read these lines would remember the tremendous agony of some personal pain of their own—a severe case of toothache, for instance, or a scald or burn or sprain—and apply the lesson of it to those daily cases of physical suffering which a free public hospital treats, relieves and cures, we should not doubt the entire and hearty success of the forthcoming charitable entertainment in the Frothingham theater, the proceeds of which will go toward enlarging and further equipping the now inadequate single free hospital in this immense community.

Somewhat Inconsistent.

In speaking of the "cranky," "impudent," "unfair," "un-American" etc., compulsory education bill which is before the Harrisburg legislature, the esteemed Scranton Truth says: "Of course if we have a compulsory law we must have schools to accommodate the children, who will be gathered in from factories and other places where they are earning bread for themselves and their widowed mothers and younger brothers and sisters, who have been orphaned and left destitute by the sudden death of a father in the mines." Does the Truth believe that children would, under the Farr bill, be "gathered in from the factories and other places" where they are "earning bread" for "widowed mothers," etc.? If it does, what about the factory inspection law, which the Truth ardently supported, and which expressly prohibits the employment, in "factories and other places," of children between 8 and 12

years of age—the years covered by the Farr bill? The Truth, on the one hand, earnestly advocated a law prohibiting children of such age from "earning bread" in factories "for themselves and widowed mothers," etc., and yet it now declares that these idle children shall not be sent to school, because it thinks that they ought to be busy violating the law which the Truth originally championed.

Our neighbor, it strikes us, is not altogether consistent in this matter.

Inspiration is the keynote of Burns' poetry as it is of the poetry of the American Burns, James Whitecomb Riley—the inspiration of nature speaking an untraced message through human lips direct to the hearts of men. Others built wonderful verse or selected deep thoughts; but Burns for Scott and Riley for our own land have echoed the beauties of air and skies and limpid streams, and sung the songs of the common people. Hence their memory is eternal.

Need of a New Cabinet Office.

It seems probable that one of the results of the multiplying demand for state departments will some day be the creation of a new cabinet office, to be known as the secretariat of the interior. This department could, through various bureaus, cover such subjects as labor, mining, agriculture, banks and banking and similar fields of enterprise calling for state supervision much more economically and effectively than they could be covered by independent departments, besides offering a more compact and statesmanlike system of supervision.

As the state's wealth and industries shall develop, the pressure for such supervision will naturally increase. If a new cabinet department should be created flexible in its nature, this pressure could be accommodated, from time to time, by the establishment of subordinate bureaus, without involving an unwelcome multiplication in the number of high-salaried state departments. The same difficulty is under consideration in New York, where the formation of state bureaus, departments, commissions and boards has proceeded at a pace unparalleled in any other state. A strong effort will be made at Albany this year to weed out the superfluous among these numerous appointive offices, and to bring all offices of a kindred nature and purpose together under a common head.

Pennsylvania, however, is in a position to illustrate the truth of the adage that "prevention is easier than cure." Our state sinecures as yet are few. They should be kept so. This can be done by classifying new offices under a general department, and by going slow in the creation of such offices. There is danger ahead at Harrisburg in the easy spirit in which the present legislature contemplates propositions looking to the creation of new commissions. It is easier to create such commissions than to abolish them. Hence the need of caution before the mischief shall have been precipitated.

We reproduce elsewhere the Wilkes-Barre Leader's reply to our suggestion that manual training in the public schools, as commonly advocated, seeks to educate specialists at the public expense. We agree with all that the Leader says, and suspect that only a misapprehension divides us. What The Tribune opposes, in the public school system, is not elementary education, which manual or intellectual, but the ginger bread "finishing touches" which properly belong to the domain of private enterprise. The mission of the public schools is to teach the masses the rudiments of a general education. Anything that will help boys and girls to prepare for the trades has naturally as much right in the public schools as have those studies which lead to the learned professions. But the public should not be taxed to establish schools of business, schools of mining, schools of wood carving and design, schools of law, theology, medicine or art. Such schools should be provided by private enterprise or benevolence or both. They lie outside the proper sphere of the common, public schools.

Judge Schuyler, of the Northampton courts has enjoyed for years a reputation for patriotism and firmness in his treatment of the laws relating to naturalization. He has recently, however, taken a further step in this direction by ordering four special quarterly sessions of courts to consider the applications of persons desiring to be naturalized. In these sessions only will such applications be considered; and the effect of the ruling will be that applicants will be rigorously cross-examined, instead of being ground through the mill at a velocity corresponding with the political necessities of the campaign managers. This example is as praiseworthy as to inspire a hope that it may be generally imitated throughout the commonwealth.

What is the Chicago Herald driving at when it says: "If Democrats in congress had poured on Benjamin Harrison for proposing a pension for Queen Lili a dth of the abuse heaped by the Republicans on President Cleveland for refusing to meddle with Hawaiian affairs, we should have heard the Republican press ringing with denunciation of their lack of patriotism. A more undignified proposal than to pension an ex-queen put off her paltry throne by our connivance is not to be found in the history of a republic, ancient or modern." When did Benjamin Harrison or any other Republican propose to pension Queen Lili? We fear the Herald is laboring under another delusion.

When a Republican candidate or measure goes down before a "moral wave" it is generally true that that candidate or that measure is in some manner out of joint; and it should be the signal for Republicans to get both back in line or let both drop.

The Wayne Independent and the Montrose Democrat both credit to The Tribune a prediction that Hon. Galusha A. Grow will succeed Senator Calumet. The Tribune never made such a prediction.

The house committee on education, of which Representative Farr, of this city, is chairman, has favorably reported the bill enabling school districts to set aside for the use of public libraries 2

per cent. of the collected school tax. There is little question of the educational advantage of public libraries; and 2 per cent. of the school tax could not be better employed than in maintaining and extending such libraries. Scrantonians have only to look to the Albright Memorial library to understand the merits of this bill.

As marking the progress of common sense in libel legislation, an Indiana proposition is interesting. It provides that before any suit shall be filed for libel the aggrieved party shall notify the publisher of the paper of him an injustice done him and shall give him an opportunity to retract the statements. If this is done within three days, where the paper offending is a daily, and in ten days, where the paper is a weekly, the plaintiff shall recover only actual damages sustained. The statute hooks of all the states will eventually have to come up to this position. It is the only tenable one consistent with equal and exact justice to all persons concerned.

A bill has been introduced in the Indiana legislature providing for the teaching of the German language in all public schools where twenty-five patrons shall sign a petition requesting the same. The German language is an interesting and a valuable study; but it should not be taught in the public schools of the United States until there is no lack of knowledge of the English tongue.

Mexico promises to annihilate Gaute-mada in a twinkling in case war is declared between the two nations. This sounds very much like the talk indulged in by China previous to the opening of hostilities in Korea.

The action of the Vatican in rebuking Bishop McQuaid for his bitter political attack upon Archbishop Ireland will not occasion surprise. That attack was unprovoked and to all outward appearances uncalculated.

Dr. Parkhurst describes Thomas C. Platt as a good man and a brainy man gone wrong through the fascinations of the gambler's game called politics. This definition, we fear, fits other men than Platt.

Men who want to wear the mantle of Dr. Parkhurst should not forget to clothe themselves, at the beginning, with Dr. Parkhurst's unassailable sincerity.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

It has remained for Senator Grady, of Philadelphia, to afford corporation influence the greatest shock of the present session. He has introduced a bill which provides for the inspection and supervision of heat, light and power companies. It provides for an inspector at a salary of \$4,000 per year and six months at \$2,000 annually, one being a chemist and one an electrician. The electric standard shall be known as the Pennsylvania unit and shall be fixed at 1,100 Watts hours. The maximum price for electricity shall not exceed 10 cents per Pennsylvania unit. In connection with the insurance commissioner and the director of public safety in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, the chief inspector shall form rules for the government of these corporations. This bureau will also fix the price. Each gas, heat or light company must furnish a map of the district in which it operates. The final paragraph of the bill reads: "Only one of each of the companies described shall occupy and supply light, heat or power to the public in the district described in their charter and shown on their maps, except that two or more may operate in the same territory at the passage of this bill. All applications for charters must be submitted to the inspectors, etc. All charters shall give the right to exclusive possession in any territory until 12 per cent. dividend has been declared for five consecutive years."

Dr. Rothrock's Forestry Bill.

Below is a complete synopsis of the forestry bill prepared for this legislature by Professor J. T. Rothrock, secretary of the forestry commission. It shall be the duty of the forestry commission to report to the legislature at each session through the state board of agriculture an account of forest fires, their causes, values destroyed and the extent of the damage done by them. The commission is instructed to prepare a code of rules and regulations for the guidance of firewardens, to appoint with the consent of the governor firewardens in remote and thinly populated forest sections where there is danger of fire and the necessity of prompt action. The commission is to be fixed by the commission. The main feature of the bill makes the township supervisors of roads firewardens in their districts. In cases of emergency they may serve as such beyond the township limits. It will be their duty to take charge of fires, assist other wardens and call on people to help put out fires, to be on the lookout when notified by any person intending to burn brush or other combustible material close to forests, and to supervise or prevent it, if necessary; to arrest on sight people violating any of the provisions of the act concerning forest fires; to inquire into the cause of fires and hold the people responsible to whom it can be traced to account. If the fire is less than two rods wide and where authorized by the forestry commission as barriers against fire, providing such barriers need not be fenced. If the fire is more than two rods wide and where authorized by the forestry commission, people who refuse to help put out a fire when called upon may be fined \$5 for each acre, unless they have a good excuse. It shall be the duty of justices of the peace residing nearest to scenes of forest fires to inquire into the causes. If the fire is due to the negligence of persons or corporations, warrants may be issued at once for their arrest as in other cases of misdemeanor. Those who assist in putting out fires shall be paid \$1.50 per day. People intending to burn brush must notify the warden. They can't proceed without his written consent. Hunters are not permitted to use any other than incombustible wads for firearms. It is illegal to carry a torch or brand dangerous near or on a forest land that is liable to catch fire. Persons who hang warning placards are subject to a fine of \$25. No fires shall be less than \$5, half going to the informer and the balance to the supervisors for the use of the township. If people fined are unable or refuse to pay, they may be placed in jail one day for every dollar of the fine and costs. Supervisors will be paid \$2 per day for every day worked in putting out forest fires, or superintending brush fires. The township where the fires occur paying the bill, half of which the state will refund. The prothonotaries are ordered fifteen days after an election to forward a list of the township supervisors to the forestry commission.

Education's Chief Defect.

Wilkes-Barre Leader: "The chief defect of the public school system, as now generally conducted, is that it creates the inclinations of our boys to specialties in which more men are already seeking a livelihood than can find it, and that the principal value of manual training is that it is intended to divert the tendency to more general lines of avocation in which the graduates will be of far greater use not only to themselves but to the

whole community. Our schools now are sending our boys into the law, medicine, bookkeeping, other forms of clerical labor, anything and everything in which the hands can be kept clean from the dirt of honest toil. These are specialties already greatly overdone. Manual training will dignify and popularize the callings of the carpenter, machinist, blacksmith, tin worker, etc.—which are not overdone—by sending into them a larger percentage of boys who have had the benefits of a common school education. It will in that way put an infinitely larger number of our youth in the way of properly supporting themselves and contributing their proper share to the support of the government. The real triumph of the public school system, the only triumph that can be considered satisfying and enduring, will come when, in great part through their aid, the intelligent man has ceased to be the exceptional man; when it will be considered as important that a mechanic and a laborer shall have a fair education as that a lawyer or a bookkeeper should be so fortified; when both the hands and the minds of the young shall be trained with a view ultimately to making the most of the best of every calling, and to lifting every vocation that is useful in the economy of the people to one general high plane of excellence and equality. By other specialties, we have educated men in the professions, before we can lay and honest claim to being an educated people. And, to our mind, the first essential for the country a private school is such modification of our school system as will incline an increasing number of our youth to what might be called the dirty hand employment, the correspondingly decreasing number to the others."

Minnesota's New Senator.

Knute Nelson, senator-elect from Minnesota, was born near Bergen, Norway, Feb. 2, 1812, and came to America in 1839 with his mother, his father having died when he was 3 years of age, and after living one year in Chicago, settled in Dane county, Wis. He graduated from the Al-bion, Wis. academy. As a private he served through the war in Company B of the Fourth Wisconsin infantry. He was admitted to the bar in 1847, and served in the Wisconsin senate in 1868 and 1869. Removing to Alexandria, Minn., he served as county attorney in 1872-73-74, and as state senator in 1875-76. He was elected to the Forty-ninth congress by a plurality of 4,500, and to the Fiftieth congress by 41,000 majority. In 1882 he was elected governor by 11,620 plurality, and re-elected last fall by a plurality of over 60,000.

A Patriotic Project.

The patriotic Americans who propose to erect a monument to the memory of General Richard Montgomery, who was killed in the assault on Quebec during the revolutionary war, have set before themselves and the country a noble and just project. The Canadian government consents to the erection of such a monument on the spot where General Montgomery fell, and it is expected that sufficient funds will be collected to build a handsome memorial shaft with appropriate surroundings.

THE HIDDEN SONG.

O'er blooming miles of hills and dales The wind comes from the south, The fragrance of a myriad vales Is borne upon its gale. Yet there's one flower best loved of all Its lips have kissed while straying, And "Sweetheart, Sweetheart!" I hear the zephyr saying. With many a leap and tenuous turn The brook runs through the wood, By shadowed moss and quivering fern O'er the sands that gleam like gold. In one fair dell it lingered long 'Till mid its coral ringings: "Oh Sweetheart, Sweetheart!" I hear the brook still singing. Let breeze and brook, melodious twain, Love's loyal heralds be, And may their murmuring refrain Incline thy heart to me. By day and night—through joy and pain I see thy sweet eyes beaming; Oh, sweetheart, Sweetheart! Of thee my heart is dreaming! —Samuel Minturn Peck.

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