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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, MAY 3, 1895.

The Amended Telephone Ordinance.

The action of common council last evening in accepting the judiciary committee's excellent amendment of the Interstate Telephone company franchise ordinance guaranteeing that the franchise will be operated in accordance with the verbal agreements of its promoters puts this matter upon a footing to which the public can cordially yield its assent. Under the terms of this amendment, the new company must, within six months after date of the ordinance's signature, have in actual operation an exchange with facilities for 300 subscribers at a maximum annual rental cost, per 'phone, of $30. To secure a faithful observance of these conditions, the company must file a $10,000 guaranty bond, with two approved sureties.

These conditions will not embarrass the Interstate people if they are in earnest; and they might have been made even more exacting without overstepping the bounds of justice. A valuable public privilege is virtually given away, subject to the single condition that it will be put to a bona-fide purpose without unreasonable delay. The exacting of such a sensible condition as this marks a fortunate departure from familiar precedent, and is recommended to the select branch of councils as an excellent subject for imitation. If there had also been added a condition that in the central portion of the city the new company's wires should be placed underground, it would not have been an excessive requirement.

Senator Morgan's Scathing Rebuke.

Senator Morgan has been interviewed on the Nicaraguan question, and some of his assertions are gems of satirical rebuke to the Cleveland-Gresham policy of non-intervention. "I have no criticism," says he, "to make of the administration, for the simple reason that I do not know what the administration has done in the present emergency. I have conversed with no officer of the government who is in a position to understand the policy now being carried out. I presume"—and the senator gave particular emphasis to the word—"that the administration has done the right thing; that it has adhered to American principles and has insisted upon the plain rights of this country and of Nicaragua. I do not know that such is the case, but in the absence of any information I am assuming that the administration is taking the right course. So I have no criticism to offer of the attitude of the administration, but I can say this positively—if it should prove that the administration has not done what I believe to be the right thing in the premises—that is to say, has not taken steps to prevent Great Britain from squeezing this little government and of obtaining a lien upon it—then congress at its session will, I am convinced, give utterance in no uncertain terms to a demand for the withdrawal of all British interests from Nicaraguan territory."

After reviewing the alleged cause of England's seizure of Corinto, the senator adds:

I think there is enough American spirit in the American people to put a stop to this proceeding. Great Britain is not going to stop it of her own volition. Somebody has got to step in and be disagreeable, and this seems to be a very good opportunity for the United States to assume that role. I think there is a spirit abroad in the land that would insure a ready response to any call that might be made for aid in sustaining such an attitude by congress as I have in mind. I do not know absolutely what congress will do, but if it should turn out that this administration has acquiesced in the British position I am afraid something very decisive will be done. Of course it would be very rude in congress to do this, and it would also be rude for the house and senate to practically order the president to take the field at the head of the American army, of which he is the constitutional commander. I know that if certain men that I have in mind had been at the head of the American administration we would know for a certainty at this moment that every proper step had been taken to prevent British encroachments and to render such disagreeable action on the part of congress as I have intimated entirely unnecessary. But those men are not in charge, and I have no means of knowing that the men who are at the head of affairs have not done their full duty in the premises. So in the absence of information, I am not criticising the administration.

The senator might have added with perfect justice that it is not necessary to fight England to keep her off this continent. John Bull is not fool enough to try to defend his absurd Nicaraguan claim by force of arms, when his antagonist is a nation of his own strength and size. A single firm word by our government, uttered at the right time, would have put a stop to the whole humiliating proceeding; the Anglican bully would have suddenly lost his habitual bluster, and the good faith of the United States, pledged by abundant precedents to the support of the Monroe doctrine, would have been vindicated, to our decided advantage. We trust that when congress shall proceed to an investigation of this second policy of presidential infamy it will not handle the responsible malefactor with padded gloves. His recent escape from impeachment must not be interpreted by Mr. Cleveland as a license to make a permanent failure of himself—when by such a course he brings dishonor upon the American people.

Gold Germs.

John V. Farwell, the eminent Chicago merchant, has been somewhat puzzled by the violent insistence of the so-called "honest money" press that the only safe thing for this government to do it to copy the gold monometallic system of England and turn its back upon silver. Says he: "Some of the best thinkers in the universities of the United States, England and Scotland, together with several ex-governors of the Bank of England, and other great men of Great Britain and elsewhere, believe that international bimetallism at a uniform ratio is not only possible but desirable, and that monometallism has been, and will continue to be, a menace to universal prosperity among all classes, except owners of gold and gold securities, who alone are benefited by it. If this is financial heresy, I for one want to be set right."

Mr. Farwell is not alone in this desire for enlightenment. Until a few months ago, it was the belief of practically all our citizens, excepting perhaps the gold brokers and their friends, that a time would never come in America when the whole force of the executive branch of the government would be thrown into the scale of gold against silver, so that the one metal might artificially advance in value precisely in proportion as the other is artificially depressed. Not only was it believed in those salad days that the constitution expressly discountenanced such an attempted repudiation of one-half the money of the nation, but it was further believed that when, in 1892, both the political parties, divided as they were on other questions, unanimously declared for bimetallism they meant something more than a deceitful promise which a candidate elected on that platform might violate at will.

But, in the interval, a Daniel has come to judgment; a fat Daniel, who, having made a hopeless mess of everything else with which he has meddled, now proceeds to head an assault upon the silver current among our people. It might be asked why any considerable number of the American people, in the light of their past experience with Grover Cleveland, would again harken to his delusive voice. It might be inquired why the bidding of the gold exporters which he obediently repeats should suddenly have a charm for the usually thoughtful masses, whose undoing it would effect. We can account for these phenomena only on pathological grounds, by the hypothesis that gold germs are in the air.

Is Mars Inhabited?

Professor Holden, of Lick observatory, scouts the idea that Mars is inhabited. He rejects, also, the theory that Mars has canals. Observations by him of the spectrum of that planet convince him that Mars has an atmosphere utterly insufficient to sustain human life. He contends that its atmosphere is certainly as thin as that surrounding the highest peak of the Himalayas, and probably much thinner; so that, if there be any animate Marsians at all, they must necessarily be ethereal beings invisible to an inhabitant of this earth.

All this makes a very interesting speculation, but it is much less convincing than a glimpse through Professor Coles' Electric Eye. That marvelous instrument distinctly reveals a surface on Mars which could not be explained except upon the hypothesis that the planet has an atmosphere even heavier than our own. It shows great masses of mountains and fertile valleys, dotted with immense lakes. In these valleys towering vegetation is discernible, consisting chiefly of great, palm-like trees, rising to a phenomenal height and capped with short, thick branches, like broom corn magnified a thousand fold. While there are no direct revelations of animal life the contour of the country and the apparent fertility of the lowlands would seem to lend plausibility to an affirmative belief on this point.

It is claimed by Professor Coles that only a portion of Mars, however, is habitable, other portions being yet in a molten, or volcanic, state. Photographs taken by him of certain portions of the planet reveal great, white spears of light, as if immense natural gas wells were spurting forth streaks of intense illumination. When we consider that Mars receives approximately eleven times as much light from the sun as our own planet receives, the intensity of these exhalations of Marsian light, standing out as they distinctly do, even against a background of fierce sunlight, may be imagined.

The study of the question raised by Professor Holden is a fascinating one, even to the layman in astronomy; but if all that the Electric Eye reveals be true, the Lick professor is viewing things Marsian as through a glass, darkly.

Our Detroit namesake suggests that all existing coinage laws be repealed and that there be "enacted a law creating a new American dollar, which should be the sole standard coin of the nation, this dollar to be composed of 206¼ grains of standard silver and 12 9-10 grains of standard gold fused together and struck into a handsome coin about the size of the present half dollar. The coin would be of absolutely staple value, for in case of disparity at any time in the commercial values of gold and silver, what was lost by the depreciation of one metal would be made up by the exactly corresponding appreciation of the other." There is nothing like an artistic straddle, when you have to straddle at all.

Merchant Farwell, of Chicago, asks three very pertinent questions when he inquires of financiers of the Cleveland school:

1. Is gold alone sufficient primary money for the world?
2. If not, will gold and silver together provide an excess?
3. If not, is any nation desiring commercial relations with all the world—as we and England do—justified in restricting the amount of primary money in the interest of any class of citizens?

Of course, the Cleveland school will reply that they do not intend to do away with silver altogether. Unfortunately for that bluff, Secretary Morton, in his recent burst of loquacity, gave it all away. There is no doubt whatever that Mr. Cleveland's purpose, if he could accomplish it, would be to retire every silver dollar and every silver certificate from circulation, throwing our currency back on a restricted gold basis, and making dollars twice as scarce and therefore twice as valuable as they are today, and it is this absurd policy that many Republicans are mistakenly applauding.

The prediction is made in the current number of Scribner's that before the end of the century all railroad trains will be propelled by electricity. This will necessitate the replacement of many million dollars now invested in steam locomotives; but people will travel more than they do today, and the railway companies' receipts will be greater. It is probable, too, that rates will cheapen. A passenger rate of say one cent a mile would unquestionably prove welcome.

If those nations which have adopted the single gold standard would turn 'round and demonetize gold, substituting silver, is anybody foolish enough to believe that a gold dollar, measured in silver, would not soon depreciate until worth only fifty cents? The remonetization of silver by the leading nations, thus restoring bimetallism, would soon end the cry of "fifty-cent" silver dollars.

A Chicago interview quotes Senator Allison as having recently said: "It might be well enough to have a silver standard, if the remaining nations of the world could be induced to accept the same, but in my opinion international bimetallism is about as impossible as the discovery of the North Pole." We will wager a straw hat that Senator Allison never said anything of the kind.

The Tribune is opposed, on principle, to the regulation of municipal governments from Harrisburg. But the tone of certain Philadelphia journals in their comments upon the proposed Lexowing of Philadelphia would seem to indicate that a little bona fide probing by somebody on the inside might at least have an exemplary effect.

The American people certainly have the gift of patience. In some countries, if a chief executive should make the number of inexcusable blunders that Cleveland has made, he would be not only impeached, but also exiled.

And now Sir Edward Gray, speaking for the English government, says the United States didn't even offer to arbitrate the Nicaraguan affair. Apparently the United States let England have the whole game to herself.

A stationary currency means either a stationary population or a panic. Do the advocates of gold monometallism favor the Chinese policy of infanticide so as to fit our population to our supply of gold?

If a combination of European nations should undertake to say what Americans should do in their own continent, we guess there would soon be some fun. Let Japan apply this hint to herself.

It begins to look as though Postmaster Vandling had hit upon a plan of interpreting civil service reform in accordance with the ideas of the wild-eyed and hungry Democracy.

As between helping the owners of American silver mines and helping foreign syndicates, it surprises us that anybody in this country should be at a loss how to choose.

Senator Quay's decision not to visit Harrisburg this session will tend to intensify the anxiety of members still on the fence.

Queen Victoria's "great and good friend" at Washington seems this time to have somewhat overdone the friendship role.

Isn't the Cuban-revolution-ended rumor becoming a trifle stale?

It begins to look as if Scranton at last had a ball club.

FOR YOU.

For you, dear heart, the light—
God's smile, wherever you be,
And if he will—the night,
Only the night for me!

For you Love's own dear land
Of roses, fair and free;
And if you will—no hand
To give a rose to me.

For you Love's deaest bliss
In all the years to be;
And if you will—no kiss
Of any love for me.

Thankful to know you blest,
When God your brow adorns
With the sweet roses of his rest,
I thank him for the thorns!
—F. L. Stanton.

SENATOR MORGAN TALKS.

Views of a Leading Democratic Senator on the Remarkable Attitude of the Present Administration Toward the British Seizure of Nicaraguan Soil.

Interview in Washington Star.

"John Bull is the same today, in 1895, as he was in 1775. Nothing in the meanwhile has occurred to change the character of his disposition. He is the same grasping, greedy, clever fellow—always ready to enlarge his territories and his power. He looks upon America with the same eyes today that he did when we were a band of colonies, independent in every particular except in fact, and though he is a little more cautious in his aggressions in Nicaragua he is playing the same game that he was then. Has the loss of the American colonies altered him in the least in his attitude toward them? Not at all. He has come steadily enlarging his posts, until he has nearly surrounded the United States with a chain of British colonies and possessions. He has a continent, Australia, larger in territory than the United States. He has taken Cyprus, Egypt, countless islands. He has squeezed us out of territory on our western coast, giving him a free seaboard on the western edge of this continent. He has bulldozed us out of the value of our seal fisheries in Alaska. He would have taken Samoa if it had not been necessary to fight Germany in order to accomplish this. He is even now trying to increase his dominion over a large part of Venezuela. The president of the United States tried to give him Hawaii, for to establish the British supremacy over one island in that group, as was proposed by the cable concession, would have surely been to give Great Britain absolute control of the entire country. And here, in Nicaragua, and in this day of enlightenment, we see this same nation, with its record of centuries, a record of aggression, despotic squeezing of weak nations, bulldozing, braggadocia, attempting to obtain a foothold in a land where the interests of the United States are paramount. To let Great Britain secure this privilege now would be to give her control of American commerce and to jeopardize almost every American interest. I do not believe that the American people are ninnies, and cannot see these things as they really are. I do not think that they have become arrant asses and are purblind to the commonest principles of protection and precaution.

The Flimsy Pretext.

"Nor do I think there is a man living in this country today who can read who does not laugh to scorn the pretext that Great Britain is making today that she has anything like a case against Nicaragua. The cause of the present controversy is shallow, flimsy and nonsensical. It is so palpably a case where a great, big, strong fellow has deliberately put a chip on his broad shoulder, and when the little fellow has not knocked it off has shaken it off himself in order to pick a quarrel. The Nicaraguan government found this man Hatch fomenting strife among the Indians and negroes on the Mosquito coast. He was a plain, ordinary citizen, probably an adventurer. To be sure, he might have been a British consul, if Great Britain had appointed him such, which she had not done, and he might have been recognized diplomatically under those circumstances if Nicaragua had issued to him an exequatur, which she had not. Of course there was within him the possibility of being of great importance, which, unfortunately for the position today, he was not. He was taken away from the territory where he was causing trouble, just as this government would take him away from a region where he was fomenting sedition, and sent out of the territory. He was not punished, he was not hanged, nor was he treated with any great indignity. His case presents none of the elements of severity shown in the case of Mr. Waller, who has been sentenced to twenty years of imprisonment by a French court-martial.

British Pride Sadly Hurt.

"Yet this simple act of precaution by this weak, defenseless nation has so wounded the British pride, has so harmed the prestige of the great English nation, and has so besmirched and bedraggled the dignity of the empire as to have inflicted damages on Great Britain amounting exactly to $75,000. Now, this sum is merely the amount of the pecuniary value of the injury done to the sensitive British feelings. Great Britain distinctly says that she will put aside for the present, to be adjudicated later, the consideration of the damages inflicted on Mr. Hatch and his property. That, you will mind, is a side issue, an unimportant, insignificant question. But the nation, however, has been wounded in pride and spirit $75,000 worth, and England says to Nicaragua: 'If you don't satisfy this claim for an insult under which the entire British nation is bursting with anger, we'll seize your coasts, destroy your commerce, pillage your towns, perhaps we'll kill a few thousand of your people incidentally while we are doing this, but, at any rate, we'll have satisfaction for this horrible affront you have given us.' Why, do you know, if any American citizen were to set up such a plea as that in any court of the land he would be laughed at by judges and by jury, and would be driven from the court house with his cause ground to powder. If the president of the United States in his private capacity should thus autocratically set up such a plea for damages to his personal character and dignity he would be sneered at from one end of the land to the other, just as I know the American people are today sneering at Great Britain for its childish, puerile, weak excuse for a belligerent attitude toward this defenseless country."

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

AN OLD TIME NOVEL:

A pretty girl,
With wavy curl,
An evening party somewhat late
A homeward walk,
A loving talk;
A kissing tableau at the gate.
A moonlight night,
A hand squeezed tight;
A little reference to papa.
A little kiss,
A little bliss;
A consultation with mamma,
A little church,
"For bad or worse
You take this maid your wife to be."
A trembling yes,
A loving press;
A little wife to live with me.
—Williams' Weekly.

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VERY LONESOME:

"Mamma, do liars ever go to heaven?"
"Why, no; probably not."
"Has papa ever told a lie?"
"I suppose not; he may have."
"And mamma, have you ever told one? Uncle Joseph has and I have and almost everybody."
"I don't know but I have sometimes."
"Well, it must be lonesome up there with only God and George Washington."—Life.

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HUMOR ON THE HALF SHELL:

A man in a peck of trouble is in a measure to be pitied.—Tammany Times.

She—Do you believe that two can live cheaper than one? He—It depends upon which one.—New York World.

Woman does all she can to render herself irresistible and then orders man to keep his distance.—Galveston News.

Robbins—Higbee is a genius. Radford—Can do anything, I suppose? Robbins—Yes, anything except making a living.—Truth.

A man's life might be more tolerable if he only knew how his married neighbors could admire each other.—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

"I guess," said the sharp-nosed girl, "that I will take the wind out of her sails." "Why," asked the fluffy girl, "don't you be up to date and say take the wind out of her tires?"—Cincinnati Tribune.

Wife—Why Charles, what do you mean by burning our old love letters? Husband—I have been reading them, my dear, and it occurred to me that after I die some one who wished to break my will might get hold of them.—Harlem Life.

Patient (about to have his leg removed, cheerfully)—"Well, doctor, I'm afraid that I won't be able to go to any more dances." Dr. Knifer—"No; after this you'll have to confine yourself to hops."—St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch.

The bishop—I hope, my dear young lady, that you have always before you some high ideal, some exalted type of womanhood that you hope in time to reach. Miss Pinkerly—I have, indeed, bishop. I have always looked forward to being a bride.—Judge.

"Doctor," said the anxious woman, "isn't there a somnambulism germ? I want one for my husband if there is. He's so busy at his desk all day that he is being ruined for the lack of exercise. I thought if we could make him walk in his sleep it wouldn't be a bad idea."—Harper's Bazar.

FINEST EVER SEEN.

Allentown, Pa., April 30.

The Scranton Tribune, Scranton, Pa.

Gentlemen—Your beautiful illustrated souvenir, entitled "The City of Scranton and Vicinity and Their Resources, Illustrated," is duly received. We will cheerfully give it a place on our reading table and thank you for the courtesy bestowed upon us. In our estimation it is without doubt the finest publication ever seen by us. Yours very truly,

Victor D. Barner,
Prop. Grand Central Hotel.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolage cast: 2.18 a. m. for Friday, May 3, 1895.

It will be apparent to a child born this day that the British lion usually roars the loudest when it has a small country like Nicaragua by the neck.

A young woman whose birthday falls on this date will be much sought after, in case her pa is able to clip coupons quarterly.

Rev. Mr. Weiswasser and Rev. Mr. Hogan no doubt realize by this time that one has to be a lightning sprinter to run down the oft-appearing rumor.

The discovery that Oscar Wilde is minus morals was painful, but the recent intelligence that he is also without money makes this case one too shocking for contemplation.

There appears to be a ring of genuineness about the announcements concerning Mme. Modjeska's farewell appearance in Russia.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Pay no attention to strangers of the female sex this day. Chances are ten to one that thy leg will be pulled.

Keep out of legal squabbles and upon no account become co-respondent in a divorce suit.

Join not the Scranton postal service unless you can furnish proof that you voted for Cleveland.