

The Scranton Tribune

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Without desiring to reflect upon the sincerity of the committee's quest, we feel like saying that its search for a cure for the social evil will be a long one if it is continued until a remedy is reached. After a score of centuries of more or less earnest evangelistic and humanitarian effort in this direction, the evil remains, undeterred and undiminished. Some day it may perchance be realized by our good friends who reform mankind through executive committees that apart from the individual precept and example of pure fathers and mothers, the most that can be done for the social evil is to confine it to certain locations and be ready when necessary, to nab the gross offenders. For the evil itself is here to stay.

Worse and worse. Now the plug tobacco makers talk of giving cigarettes their plugs, as equivalents!

Patriotism in the Schools.

In line with the growing demand for increased effort on the part of the public schools toward the fitting of pupils to be good, strong and dutiful citizens, the timely suggestion is made by the Altoona Tribune that there might be a larger recourse to civic object lessons in the school room. "There might," it says, "be not only thorough and systematic study of the state and national constitutions, but likewise frequent practical illustrations of the manner in which our government is carried on. It would be perfectly practicable to have the pupils imitate the work of each department of the national, state and municipal governments, thus obtaining an education in citizenship that will bring them into constant and sympathetic connection with the living problems of the day. We would think no harm done if in every public school in the country on presidential election day an election were held in precisely the same way, and with precisely the same forms, as are observed at the polls. In state and municipal elections the same rule might be observed. It might be that such methods would create in the youthful mind a sense of familiarity with the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a free land that would cause a fuller attendance at the regular elections a generation hence."

This suggestion, of course, does not ignore the excellent work already done in the schools upon holiday occasions such as Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays and Memorial Day. The commemorative exercises then conducted are in the main fine incentives to patriotism. But, after all, it is a sentimental, dress-parade kind of patriotism, which however noble and ennobling has not as yet had the practical effect to impel the educated citizen to attend his party caucus or primary and do, there, some of those unpoetical and perchance often rough duties of American citizenship which are essential to the proper upbuilding of free government. It is even possible that the restriction of school exercises to the purely sentimental aspects of the civic relationship inculcates in the pupil a theoretical conception of politics which, when once shattered by contact with the hard verities as they pop up at ward caucuses and polling booths, end by prejudicing him against political activities and fairly frightening him away from the ballot box.

There is another circumstance connected with this phase of the school question which perhaps operates adversely on the male pupil after he has become a voter. It is the fact that while in school, he receives instruction almost entirely from women teachers, who, though they may endeavor to expound the intricacies of political duty, are not permitted under our laws to speak from personal experience, as derived through the voters' opportunities. It is possible that the woman teacher who never voted would not be able satisfactorily to instruct the male pupil who expects to vote, in the functions of which she is herself deprived. At all events, the teaching of citizenship is an anomalous task to set before a disfranchised womankind; and we cannot much blame the bright boy in the school room for wondering at the inconsistency and finally conceiving a distaste for the politicians who perpetuate it.

But to the extent within their power the schools unquestionably should teach patriotism—not sentimental but practical patriotism—the kind that works and votes with as much zeal and devotion at it would march and shoot if called into war. And in time, the franchise discrimination of sex will be removed, as it ought to be.

Ex-Senator Ingalls believes there is one sovereign remedy for the unsatisfactory character of the United States senate. That is to "abolish the present antiquated, clumsy, superfluous, and detrimental method of choosing senators by legislatures and let them be elected by a direct vote of the people of the state as they ought to be elected."

A Case of British Justice.

Tenacity of purpose at times is a virtue and at other times becomes will-nigh a vice. The rigidity of the English law and the heroic determination with which its administrators adhere to the letter of precedent and tradition have long since passed among the lawyers; but seldom has this characteristic been so strikingly exemplified as in a case lately debated in the house of commons and reported in our London exchanges. The facts in this case are as follows: In 1852 one John Kelsall was convicted of killing his wife by throwing a paraffin lamp at her, and was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude. He was convicted upon the testimony of his wife's sister, the only eye-witness of the alleged crime. After Kelsall had served three years his sister-in-law confessed that she had committed perjury in giving her testimony against him, and on her own plea of guilty was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. But instead of liberating Kel-

sall unconditionally and compensating him for his false imprisonment, the English law proudly protects itself by granting a kind of furlough, upon which Kelsall can regain his liberty but under which he is debarred from bringing an action in damages. The matter was brought up in the house of commons by the member from West Salford, who said that, in the attempts to secure his freedom, Kelsall, his relatives, and his friends had spent all their money, and it was now asked if he could not be granted a "compassionate allowance" in respect of his three years' imprisonment. It was the home secretary, responding to the member from Salford, who said that though he was aware of the local feeling about a compensation or compassionate allowance to be given Kelsall, he held the opinion of his predecessor in office, who had refused to apply to the treasury for any compensation to Kelsall. And "as there was other evidence against Kelsall, which at least rendered it possible that he might have been found guilty even without Mrs. Curran's evidence, the late home secretary decided that he should not be justified in recommending a free pardon."

In other words, although fully acquitted upon direct testimony, Kelsall, in order to preserve the time-riddled fiction of the law's infallibility, must yet be deemed guilty, since any other conclusion would be equal to the confession that the courts, in the original trial, had erred. Is it much wonder that, with such exhibitions of legal astuteness before them, many people learn to distrust the law and to lack confidence in its fair administration?

In view of the fact that the Carnegie company has contracts for more than a million tons of structural iron, while the big Illinois steel company cannot keep pace in its structural department with the overwhelming demand, it is suggested again by laymen that the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company might profitably equip itself to compete in this line of the trade. At all events, the day of the iron house is at hand.

In 1920, according to Elmer L. Corthell, the distinguished engineer, London will have 8,344,000 inhabitants; Chicago, 7,797,600; New York, 6,337,500; Paris, 3,808,586; Berlin, 3,422,221; Philadelphia, 1,823,160, and St. Petersburg, 1,470,833. Mr. Corthell doesn't mention Scranton, but we do not mind saying that Scranton will try to jog along with a modest three-quarters of a million.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

Rocheater Post-Express: "Some of our contemporaries are discussing 'plutocracy in politics.' We see no reason at all for bringing the mere question of wealth into consideration in discussing a man's fitness for a public trust. It is the man himself that should be regarded. What the people should guard against is men, whether rich or poor, who aim at making a fortune out of politics. There are, in some way or other, a sacrifice of public interests for private interests. Lombard street is trying to extort our currency system because it wants to invest in new bonds, to wipe out legal tenders, to furnish raw money, and to enhance the value of all bonded indebtedness. That sort of plutocracy is dangerous in politics. Dan Lambert, of Washington, is a plutocrat a poor man; and he is now apparently rich enough to offer to advance money to pay off arrears to the treasury. The poverty is dangerous in politics. George Washington was one of the richest men in America in his day and one of the best public servants the world ever saw. That sort of plutocracy is not dangerous in politics. Examination of the world shows so poor that he did not have enough to pay for his own burial, but no nobler patriot ever lived. That sort of poverty is not dangerous in politics."

Lyman Had Better Keep Still.

Washington Post: "The domain of the possible undoubtedly includes radical taxation; for, although the natural obstacles in the way of such a consummation are serious, they are not insurmountable, for their surmounting does not call for a suspension or repeal of any law of nature, but only for the enactment of laws and advantages to be derived from navigating the air, there are various opinions. Many practical scientists are convinced of the feasibility and danger inevitably incident to such travel will not give it preference over the rapidly improving methods of the land and water transportation. Other scientists hold decidedly optimistic views, and think that the time is not far distant when the railways and steamboats will be left to handle heavy freights, while passengers and express packages will go from all parts of the world by aerial routes. In view of what has been accomplished in this century is the utilization of steam and electricity in the way of a keep quiet, if they have doubts, and let the scientists do the talking."

Senator Quay's Attitude.

Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette: "The attitude of Senator Quay toward Governor Hastings and his administration is a question of no small concern to the Republican party. That it will be entirely friendly there is no doubt, provided the governor cares to have it so. The senator has certainly extended the olive branch in many ways. He has always disclaimed any personal hostility toward the governor, and when he had gained his victory and was in a position to wreak revenge if he sought any, he was very conciliatory and generous. He has a distinct purpose in view, but it does not comprehend warfare upon Republicans or injury to the party or its chosen agents. He seeks to eliminate some bad methods and some very rotten material through the destruction of which the party will receive new strength and vigor."

As Viewed From Outside.

Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer: "William Connell and Congressman Scranton have looked horns for a number of years. Both are detestable of representing the district in the national convention of next year. Mr. Connell has the advantage of being first in the field, and as he is a fighter of the sturdy and dogged kind we believe that his chances are the better. Mr. Scranton is also a plucky fighter and an antagonist to be feared. In all fairness and courtesy, the advantage of being first should not oppose Mr. Connell in this matter. He was gracious enough last year to retire from the congressional fight, the nomination of which he could have undoubtedly had, in favor of Mr. Scranton, and courtesy would dictate that the compliment should now be returned."

One Lesson From Europe.

Chicago Times-Herald: "Paris and Berlin save their sewage and have immense sewage farms, and their methods seem to be successful. Indeed, Paris is so satisfied with this plan that the present sewage farm of 2,000 acres is to be doubled, the sewer system being extended so that with in four years every house in the city will be connected with the sewers, and no sewage whatever will be suffered to reach the Seine. It will all be carried to the farms and made into the best of fertilizer. We have not reached that degree of progress in the United States, and the best we can do is send our sewage seaward if possible."

Wind and Water.

Chicago News: "It has been objected to the bicycle that it injures morals by taking young men out on the country roads and teaching them to drink beer, cigars and drink hurtful beverages. Any gentleman who has attempted to ride his bicycle home at night at a few taverns can appreciate the absurdity of this suggestion. The bicycle is the foe of rum. Wind for the bike, water for the rider; that's the rule."

A Pleter on Next Year. New York Sun: "There are 44 votes in the electoral college. In the presidential election of 1896 the Democrats secured 27 electors. At the elections held since,

the Democrats carried thirteen states, with a collective electoral vote of 231. All the other states since March 4, 1893, have gone Republican or been carried by the Populist party."

Their Faith is Firm.

Syracuse Post: "While Senator Quay has for many years been a person of great public interest, his personality attracts more attention now than ever before. His great victory a few days ago does not seem to have changed him, and his friends believe that he will use wisely the great power intrusted in him."

The Hope of a Friend.

Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette: "While Senator Quay is off on that fishing trip, it is to be hoped for his own sake that he will catch some of the suckers who are doing their best to make life a burden for him since the victory, and give them the grand political and social shake."

Not as Popular as It Once Was.

Washington Post: "The business of defrauding life insurance companies shows every evidence of going into decline."

Exchange, connect me with Mr. Robinson. The ex-sheriff? Yes. Hello! Is that Charles? It is. So you are out of politics? You bet. What do you propose to do in future, Charles? Well, for the present I shall put my leg in a plaster cast and see if it cannot be restored to its normal condition. Z-z-z-Eng!

Hello! Hello! Well? The Tribune? Yes. Who's talking? An anxious citizen. Can you tell me how Pennsylvania's affairs are to be conducted without a governor? We have a governor. Is that so? What? Daniel H. Hastings. You don't say so? Why, I have been reading Ellis Foster's Time lately and was of the impression that Governor Hastings had been forced to vacate. Z-z-z-Eng!

Say! Hello! I want to talk to somebody! Well, what is it? I am dissatisfied with your political methods. What's the matter? Isn't the city government all right? Yes. Have you any objection to the character of city or county officials? No. Don't you think the men in office are honest, yes! Honest and faithful. And good Republicans? Yes. Anyone ever injure you? No. I like 'em all. Well, what's the trouble? Oh! It's your methods! your methods! Z-z-z-Eng!

Hello! Is this The Tribune? Well, who's talking now? This is ex-solicitor—Burns. Oh, yes. Don't recognize your voice at first. What can we do for you, Mr. Burns? I have a conundrum for your paper. Let 'er go. What is the nearest approach to the horseless wagon, horseabout? Give it up. Lackawanna Democracy. Why, how do you make that out? Isn't it being pulled by mules just now? Z-z-z-Eng!

ABORIGINAL BON MOT.

It being a warm evening, the Chief Powhatan removed his collar before proceeding to the execution of Mr. John Smith. "Now, what is the matter?" he thundered, waving his most clever aloft. "Papa!" observed Pocahontas, leaving the royal bed and stepping to the front of the stage, "please don't do that." At that the doomed man broke into a loud laugh, in which the gallery, occupied by persons who never read the newspapers, heartily joined.—Detroit Tribune.

They Were Missing.

"Where are the brains?" asked the king of Mbwika. "Please your majesty," explained the chef, "the John's have any. This is the man who could not talk about anything but it to I, your Highness may be pleased to remember, I think his brains had all run to whiskers."

To the Believers and Malarians.

The most inebriated are convinced of the virtues of Aunt Rachel's Malarial Peruvian Bark Bitters upon a trial of them. Their habit is Spiced Port Wine, with herbs and roots so favorably known to the Medical Profession and the community at large as the best cure for Malaria. They are all that can be desired by those feeble victims of Malaria. Physicians prescribe them.

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SECOND--Spend your money carefully.

While you are earning it by making something which you probably don't want somebody else is equally busy making something you do want. Don't be worsted in the trade. Until you find the best place to spend it hold the dollar so tightly that the eagle screams and the Goddess of Liberty expostulates.

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Call and see these Pianos, and some the second-hand Pianos we have taken in exchange for them.

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