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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, MAY 18, 1896.

The Tribune is the only Republican daily in Lackawanna County.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

Congressmen-at-Large.
GALUSHA A. GROW, of Susquehanna.
SAMUEL A. DAVENPORT, of Erie.
Election Day, Nov. 3.

The McKinley idea is that the American dollar should be a circulating dollar, and not a dollar surreptitiously "salted" in a sock.

Teach the Scorchers a Lesson!

So far as we know, a legal decision has never been rendered as to whether a pedestrian who is injured by a bicycle propelled in violation of a law which the municipal authorities make no effort to enforce may not claim damages from the city. Yet from the layman's point of view it would seem as if such a claim might be successfully defended in the courts. It certainly is the duty of the municipality to protect pedestrians from defective sidewalks and pitfalls. The courts, indeed, have held that the man who is injured by reason of such a nuisance may recover from the city, which is presumed to see that nuisances are not permitted to exist. It seems reasonable to infer, therefore, that the courts would apply the same logic to the case of the man who is run down by a scorcher, upon the reasonable presumption that it is the municipality's business to prevent scorching.

If our surmise be correct, then the city of Scranton is running a serious financial as well as a grave moral risk in making no apparent effort to curb the speed of careless local wheelmen. The city has passed an ordinance forbidding the riding of bicycles on much-traveled streets at a faster rate than eight miles an hour. Every rider who exceeds this limit breaks a law and ought to be punished. He has no more right to ride at a faster pace than the driver has to do speeding in the principal streets. Every time he goes beyond the legal limit he imperils the safety of pedestrians, who have as good a right to live and breathe and be happy as he has. Yet there is not an hour in the day nor a day in the week, not even excepting Sunday, when this reasonable speed limit is not ignored, often to the serious menace of those who yet venture to walk abroad without first encasing themselves in testproof suits of armor.

The growth of the bicycle habit has invested this subject with real and live importance. So long as only a few persons rode wheels, the risks to pedestrians from fast riding were not such as to excite special interest. But nowadays almost every other resident of Scranton rides a bicycle. There is scarcely a moment in the day when the man, woman, or child who desires to cross any one of the chief business thoroughfares in the central city does not have to wait for the chance to dart nervously between fast-spinning wheels propelled by riders who imagine that when they have sounded a small bell their whole duty to pedestrians is discharged.

Coasting down our steep hills is also a growing source of danger. It is extremely difficult even for a practiced eye to gauge the rate of a coasting wheelman's approach with sufficient accuracy to enable its possessor to keep safely out of the wheel's way. In the case of aged persons and children, the coasting nuisance is doubly abominable. It is almost miraculous that there have hitherto been so few accidents from this cause. The risk is such that serious, perhaps fatal, accidents are bound to occur, sooner or later, if the practice be not stopped, and it is out of the question to suppose that the practice will be stopped unless vigorous means be taken to stop it. So long as the police take no steps in the matter, just that long will reckless riders keep up their criminal negligence, and just that long will it be unsafe for the walking citizen to venture forth.

For two or three years the local press has followed the moral suasion plan of trying to coax scorchers not to scorch. It has failed. Scorching is rapidly on the increase. The percentage of careless riders may be small; but the steady growth which is taking place in the whole number of wheelmen is bringing the careless fraction up to dangerous proportions, and the only way to reduce it is to apply the law. Those riders who are law-abiding and considerate of the public's rights will not resent, they will rather applaud the hauling of the chronic scorchers before the courts. They will realize that they themselves have nothing to fear from an enforcement of the law, and will welcome the chance to rid their favorite pastime from the odium forced upon it by the class of wheelmen who act upon the principle that the individual without a wheel possesses no rights worthy of respect.

Mr. Cleveland need not be so eager to deny that he told Wash Hesing of Chicago he would not run again. It was a sensible conclusion, that does him no discredit.

Secretary Olney is said to be very angry at those Americans who persist in going to Cuba's aid and thus getting this government into trouble. No doubt it is vexing; but, then, he ought not to forget the debt we as Americans owe to "filibusters" like Kosciusko, Baron Steuben, Count Rochambeau and Lafayette.

The Scranton Ball club has got at last what it needed from the first, a capable first baseman and captain. More Power to him!

Politics in Luzerne.

Considerable interest is being manifested in Luzerne county over the question whether Congressman Leisenring wants a second term. Until recently we had supposed that the breeze upon this point was artificial, but inquiry has since convinced us that there is real uncertainty among leading Luzerne Republicans; and it is now apparent to us that a positive expression from him to the effect that he expects to be a candidate again will be the only thing which can much longer keep the field free from other entries.

While there is no dangerous disposition to antagonize Mr. Leisenring, there are several Republicans of standing and influence who argue that if he doesn't desire to retain the congressional mantle, he ought frankly to say so, thus opening the way to a fair contest among those who do have ambitions in that direction. In the upper end the name of County Chairman W. S. Tompkins has been presented as that of a possible candidate; while further down the valley there is talk of Gaius L. Halsey, of White Haven; and beyond the mountain, Hazleton, as usual, has a round half-dozen of congressional possibilities. Under the surface there has already been a quiet movement toward the forming of combinations in the event of Mr. Leisenring's withdrawal; and it has even been whispered that Frank Willing Leach stood ready to help any man who might wish to make war on Leisenring—this, as a requital for the congressman's recent championship of Elkin. Whether true or not, this story has added piquancy to a situation which was already full of interest.

To all inquiries Representative Leisenring has thus far returned indefinite answers. The inference from them is that he expects to be a candidate for renomination but he does not say so. It is said by some that he contemplates a visit to Europe this summer and that he expects to be gone for several months, perhaps for a year, intending, upon his return, to enter actively into the canvass for the gubernatorial nomination in 1898. We do not know whether these reports are true. Accuracy in connection with Mr. Leisenring's political intentions is difficult to secure. He evidently believes that it is good politics to look shrewd and say nothing.

To Rev. Frank Crane, pastor of the Trinity Methodist church, Chicago, must be credited a novel experiment in persuasive Christianity. In order to attract people to prayer meeting, he has arranged to serve lemonade and ginger snaps to all comers. His plan has worked well, so far, but it has its disadvantages. Gift inducements, to be permanently successful, require to be conducted on an increasing ratio; and sometimes a point is reached where that doesn't pay.

After the Civil Trial.

A question not without potential interest and importance has been raised in connection with the case of the two Americans captured by Spain on board the filibuster ship, Competitor. If they should be convicted at the approaching civil trial and sentenced to death, what course would this government pursue?

Under its treaties with Spain, this government could do nothing in behalf of the men directly. It asked a rehearing in accordance with its rights under two treaties, that of 1795 and that of 1877, the latter of which is known as the Cushing protocol. The first treaty stipulated that "the subjects and citizens of each of the contracting parties, their vessels or effects, shall not be liable to any embargo or detention on the part of the other, for any military expedition or public or private purpose whatever, and in all cases of seizure, detention or arrest for debts contracted, or offenses committed by any citizens of the one party within the jurisdiction of the other, the same shall be made and prosecuted by order and authority of law only, and according to the regular course of proceedings usual in such cases. The citizens and subjects of both parties shall be allowed to employ such advocates, solicitors and attorneys, agents and factors, as they may judge proper, in all their affairs and in all their trials at law, in which they may be concerned before the tribunals of the other party; and such agents shall have free access to be present at the proceedings in such causes, and at the taking of all examinations and evidence which may be exhibited in the said trials." The Cushing protocol reads: "No citizen of the United States in Spain, her adjacent islands, or her ultra-marine possessions, charged with acts of sedition, treason or conspiracy against the institutions, the public security, the integrity of the territory, or against the supreme government, or any other crime whatsoever, shall be subject to trial by exceptional tribunal, but exclusively by the ordinary jurisdiction, except in the case of being captured with arms in hand."

The contention of our state department for a civil trial of the Americans, Milton and Laborde, was based upon information that these men, at Weyler's court martial, were not allowed to choose their counsel nor accorded an opportunity to procure testimony in their own behalf. This deprivation was clearly a violation of the provisions of the treaty of 1795, as just quoted. But if, at the civil trial which Spain has ordered, the prisoners shall be accorded all the privileges vouchsafed to them by this treaty and yet are convicted and condemned to death, it does not appear that we will have further legal right of intervention. The men are not pirates and never were; but if a Spanish court after due formality pronounces them such, we shall have to swallow the injustice as best we can; we will have no decorous alternative.

Should this result be reached, however, the blood of these men would be on Grover Cleveland's head, almost as directly, in morals, as if he had been their actual slaughterer. Had he obeyed with promptness this nation's mandate to recognize the Cuban insurgents as belligerents, the ship Competitor could have carried arms to the Cubans without further risk to the men on board of her than that of losing their cargo by confiscation in the event of the ship's seizure by Spain. The charge of piracy could not have been preferred, the Americans in the Competitor's crew could not have been held as prisoners of war and the whole incident would have lost its tragic aspect. If these American citizens, Milton and Laborde, are shot, as is freely predicted by eminent authorities, the odium for their assassination will belong ten-fold more to the president of the United States, who, as the head of a humane and enlightened government ought to have been quick to extend the hand of help to Cuba, than to Spain, a traditionally cruel and ignorant nation, from which no better course was to be expected.

But if these men shall be shot, won't there be a stir in this country in Cuba's behalf? We shall see then whether Mr. Cleveland will persist in disobedience of the nation's expressed will.

According to Correspondent William E. Curtis, who recently went to Canton to look around, Major McKinley "is in a serene and amiable mood. He says that he hasn't an unkind thought toward anyone, not even toward William E. Chandler, and that he is willing to forgive and forget everything unpleasant that has occurred during the campaign." We should imagine that if any candidate could look "serene and amiable" with good cause, he is the man.

The New York Republican state committee has just passed a set of resolutions solemnly and emphatically reaffirming its devotion to the gold standard. Yet there is no special need of declaring a self-evident truth more than forty times.

IT IS TIME TO ACT.

From the Baltimore American.

A crisis in the relations between the United States and Spain is rapidly approaching. Even should the decision of the Spanish government be to give the Competitor prisoners a fair trial, such incidents will in future multiply, rather than decrease, and the advice openly given to the Cuban authorities by one of the most prominent Spanish statesmen, to hang such prisoners hereafter at the yardarm, will produce the fruits intended. The Virginius case showed that immediate fear of personal chastisement is the only restraining influence on these bloodthirsty Spaniards when they get prisoners in their hands. The opportune arrival of a British vessel and the determined action of the British captain stayed the Virginius massacre after the built of the prisoners had been butchered with hideous atrocities. Had Weyler known that his government would interfere with the execution of the Competitor prisoners, they would probably all be dead at this moment.

The press and the people of Spain are clamorous for the abrogation of the treaties of 1795 and 1877 for no other reason than that they prevent the butchery of American citizens without the forms of law, and it is not unlikely that the Spanish government will yield to the demand. The Spanish government has no more love for the United States than the Spanish people but so long as it can cajole President Cleveland by a mock compliance with treaty stipulations, it is willing to prolong the farce. It can snap its fingers at the congress of the United States while it duplicates the horrors of Armenia almost within sight of the American shore. It does not whip the Cubans, and it is very doubtful if it has now the slightest hope of doing so, but it goes out on the plantations around Havana and other Cuban towns and assassinates the unarmed laborers and their families, and puts their names in its daily lying bulletins as insurgents killed in battles. It is the first instance in history of a nation's being proud of such a vile record, and we scarcely think that any of the human race now or hereafter will feel tempted to imitate it.

But the first American prisoner swung to the yardarm by a Spanish bully will mean war. The president's amiability will be wholly powerless in such an emergency. The Spanish government received sufficient warning of the temper of the American people in the Virginius case. Many persons will remember the fearful excitement which that brutal and cowardly outrage caused. It was with difficulty that the administration, which possessed the full confidence of the country, restrained the popular indignation, and a repetition would seal the fate of Cuba in forty-eight hours. But why should the United States prolong the horrors of this hopeless struggle? American public men were ablaze a little while ago, because of the Armenian atrocities. Is there less human sympathy for a gallant people allied to us by neighborhood, commerce and a common love of liberty? Or, descending to a lower plane, are our commercial interests to be indefinitely interrupted and our citizens to be constantly endangered while Spain wreaks pitiless vengeance upon the non-combatants of an island only thirty-six miles from our coast? It is a reflection upon American civilization that this condition of affairs should be tolerated.

ENLARGE THE CABINET.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

Under existing conditions the multifarious interests embraced under the general caption of commerce are scattered through various bureaus of various departments. The demand is that a new office shall be created—secretary of commerce—whose functions shall embrace all the scattered details now divided between the state, the treasury and the postoffice. The demand seems more than reasonable—for the new department would find itself charged with the adjudication and administration of more business than fell to the entire cabinet before 1869. As a matter of fact, the government of the republic has far outgrown the restricted framework through which its earlier affairs were adequately carried on. Sixty or seventy millions of people, are more exacting in the diversities of their activities than twenty or thirty millions. The time is come when the great departments of state must be relieved of burdens impossible for the execution of one single mind. Other states burdened with less complicated and less diverse interests have cabinets double in number the executives that carry on our multiform affairs. There should be no need to urge congress to at once take up the Frye bill and create the department of commerce.

A May Mood.

Ef I should lose mer laziness, I sho'ly hates ter think
Ob de comfort an' injyment dat I'd miss,
Dah sin' so many years
'An we may as well jes' make de mos' ob dis.

When I sees de people frettin' teil dey reach de grave-yahd's brink
A fussin' an' a failin' in dah haste,
Mer luck stahs I bless
Dah I's got dis laziness,
An' I ain't a ginwter let none go ter waste.

Ef I should lose mer laziness, de sun would shine in vain
On de ole po'ch what de honeysuckles climb,
An' de gret big rockin' cha'h
Would be standin' idle dah,
While I squandered recklessly mer loafin'time.

So I grabs mer opportunity—it may not come again,
An' I lets de hours pass on, a-driftin' free:
An' de sunbeams come an' play
An' de perfumed breezes stray
Ter keep comp'ny wif mer laziness an' me. —Washington Star.

SUGGESTIONS FROM READERS.

[Under this head The Tribune will be pleased to print from time to time any hints that may be given by readers as to the duty of a daily paper and best methods of conducting the same. As these communications relate to the conduct of The Tribune only they will be published over a nome de plume, but name of writer should accompany articles as an evidence of good faith, though not for publication.]

A Suggestion Barring Snake Stories.

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir:—The Wednesday and Saturday issues of your paper are appreciated very much. Why not give a small space in these issues under the heading: "What the women see as they go about."

I am sure a great many of your subscribers see many interesting things that would be appreciated if published. And please avoid snake stories.

Don Jose.

Scranton, May 16, 1896.

Dislikes Police News.

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir:—I am of the opinion that city papers give too much space to police court and county jail news. I do not think that drunks should be reported in the newspapers. And it seems unjust to brand a man who has just completed a term in the county jail by publishing to the world a notice of his release. Charity.

Scranton, May 16, 1896.

It Might Breed Dyspepsia, Too.

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir:—It seems to me that a cooking department in which choice, up-to-date recipes were given periodically might be a good feature for The Tribune.

Mae.

Green Ridge, May 15, 1896.

REFORMED BY WOMEN.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

It is pleasant to observe that the women have introduced a great reform in bicycle riding. "The bicycle hump" is rapidly disappearing. Only the novices and scorchers now sprawl out on their machines like wounded frogs on a hook. With the absence of the sprawl and the hump we are also recovering from the painful "bicycle face," which told of pain somewhere.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe case: 1.43 a. m., for Monday, May 18, 1896.

A child born on this day will notice that Mayor Bailey's halo is no longer visible to the eyes of anti-Robinson Democrats.

Collector Herring, it is said, is still unable to hear the name of Mr. Burke spoken without feeling as though his back bone was a trolley feed wire.

In spite of all the talk on the subject, the curfew does not ring on the lanierless, bellless, brainless bicycle scorcher.

The Scranton Ball club was again Power-less before the Toronto invalids; but it may not always be thus.

The man who is kept away from church in the winter time because it is too cold, guarded against sunstroke yesterday.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Do not count too much upon dress. Remember that many a five dollar hat is supported by a $1.98 head.

Do not be discouraged at critics. It takes wisdom to create even in a modest way, but any fool can pursue the work of destruction without study or experience.

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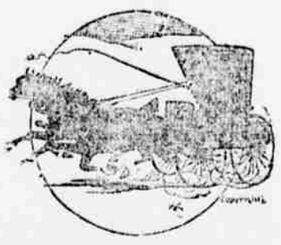

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