

The Scranton Tribune

Taily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition.

Published at 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.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 17, 1896.

Bryan says he was wrong. There's no maybe about it. He was.

The Prospect in Cuba.

One of the most enlightening comments that we have read concerning the Cuban situation is made to a New York Tribune representative by Charles Akers, war-correspondent of the London Times. Mr. Akers first spent some time in Spain, then traversed the whole of Cuba and has recently stationed himself at Washington, where he has been in confidential communication with the state department. As a witness he is disinterested, impartial and certainly expert.

Mr. Akers believes that unless a friendly arrangement is not soon made between the United States and Spain looking to the purchase of Cuba, war may be expected with Spain as the aggressor. He admits that the Spanish government would go into either emergency with reluctance, but his observations in Spain convinced him that public sentiment in that country would force a declaration of war against the United States if the present tension of Spanish bitterness and prejudice be not soon relieved. In his opinion, no European power would lend its assistance to Spain in case of war with this country, nor would any power intervene to prevent war. European countries which hold Spanish bonds, or are interested commercially in Cuba, would seriously regret the occurrence of hostilities, and previous to their breaking would undoubtedly exercise their good offices to secure a peaceful solution of the situation. For one reason all European countries would rejoice at Cuba becoming a part of the United States. They would then enjoy a sense of security in relation to their Cuban investments in all kinds and rest satisfied that there would be no future revolutions. One grave fear to be entertained, in the opinion of Mr. Akers, is that the Spanish government may at no distant period realize that it can no longer hold Cuba as a dependency. To admit as much to the people of Spain would mean the certain overthrow of the party doing so. In such an extremity it might be regarded as good policy by the present government to pick a quarrel with the United States. Mr. Akers said there could be no doubt as to the ultimate result of such a war, and that American arms would be successful. It is Mr. Akers' opinion, based upon observations in the island, that there are no present indications that Spain will conquer the insurgents.

Mr. Akers considers the purchase of Cuba by this country a splendid investment provided the price did not exceed \$500,000,000. The total exports of Cuba are in ordinary times about \$120,000,000. This year they will be only \$18,000,000, owing to the revolution. In 1894 before the revolution began, out of the production of 1,000,000 tons of sugar this country took 970,000 tons. Practically all the money that was paid to Cuba in good times for sugar, as well as tobacco, was spent in this country for food supplies and manufactured articles. The hope of Cuba, if the island continues as a Spanish dependency, or in case it achieves independence, is reciprocity with the United States. With peace prevailing throughout the island, in fairly prosperous times Cuba will produce exports equal to \$300,000,000, including 2,500,000 tons of sugar, \$60,000,000 worth of tobacco, and an output of iron ores used in Bessemer steel equal to at least \$3,000,000. In addition to this is the great yield of fruit, which is large even now. With careful attention, it would be enormous. The same is true of lignum-vitae, cedar, mahogany and other valuable woods. Most of the Cuban trade is with the United States, and if a reciprocity treaty were in force, the products of the island would largely come to this country, and the money paid for the same would be spent here. Mr. Akers reports the dominant sentiment of the educated native Cubans to be favorable to annexation to the United States and says he does not think such a solution, after Spain's grasp on the island is once freed, would present many difficulties. Even if we did nothing to hasten a climax in the Cuban revolution he thinks Spain's poverty would eventually give Cubans the victory and they would then voluntarily seek an alliance with the United States.

In this connection an interesting story is printed in the Sun, upon the authority of a prominent Cuban planter who for political reasons requested that his name be withheld. It is to the effect that the day before Consul General Lee left Havana to return to Washington, a Cuban lady called on him for advice touching a business matter. The lady's husband is a personal friend of General Lee. When the latter asked his visitor what her husband, who is in New York, intended to do in that city, the wife answered: "He intends giving up all hopes of a quick settlement of affairs here, and to start in some other business in America." "Tell him," replied General Lee promptly, "not to do it, and to wait, because the end of all this is very near."

Just what General Lee meant by those words is, of course, wholly conjectural; but there can be no doubt that under a liberal interpretation they convey the truth. The present situation in Cuba cannot continue indefinitely. Spain cannot afford the expense, Cuba can't and the United States must not. The end is near. It will be reached in all human probability long before the McKinley administration shall have completed its first half-year.

The board of trade's decision to expend a goodly sum of money in decorating its new home in the Board of Trade building on Linden street, is a move in the right direction. The board is Scranton's representative body of business men, and its material sur-

roundings should be thoroughly in keeping with the board's influence, and good works. Likewise, the proposed banquet is the outcome of good judgment, especially so if the guests on that occasion are to be Dr. Chauncy M. Depew, ex-Governor Foraker, of Ohio, and other men equally famous, whose presence will tend to spread prestige for the city.

The fact that in portions of the state outside of Philadelphia 1,302 citizens were fooled into voting the McKinley Citizens' party electoral ticket, which had reference solely to the factual fight for the sheriff's office in Philadelphia, shows anew that local and presidential elections ought to be separated. It is needless to say, however, that the politicians will never permit such a divorce.

A Non Sequitur.

Mr. Bryan in his Lincoln speech on Saturday evening said, not without truth: "We have reached a time in this nation when certain great influences in society seek to control government. They seek to control courts; they seek to control legislatures; they seek to control your city legislatures; they are omniscient. While the people are busy attending to their work trying to support their families, trying to lay aside something for a rainy day, these great agencies have their eyes open, have their representatives present and are urging those whom they elect to turn over the instrumentalities of government that they may use them for private gain. And, my friends, in this nation the struggle is not yet over to determine whether the people shall have a right to such a form of government as they desire and such laws as they wish, or whether they shall submit to any legislation that shall be forced upon them by those whom they have elected to their seats."

We admit that much of this is true. But what has it to do with free silver, or free trade or free coin, as advocated by Bryan and the Chicago platform? It is a transparent non sequitur in the manner in which Mr. Bryan uses it. He has no right to claim to be the people's special champion. The people by a large majority have rejected him in his aspiration to that distinction, and if he were a prudent man he would not seek to call further attention to the immensity of his own political conceit by presumptuous posing in a false attitude.

The expected has come. One of the leading bicycle firms has listed its highest grade 1897 pattern bicycle at \$10 instead of \$100 as heretofore. The others will no doubt follow suit. It is inevitable.

The Harnessing of Niagara.

It has been estimated that all the coal in the world would not generate as much power if burned steadily as goes to waste at Niagara Falls. This estimate was made at a time prior to the talk of utilizing Niagara's waste power; but it is probably still approximately true. Now that the great cataract is to be harnessed, what effect will such a utilization of its power have upon the coal trade? Is a question naturally of interest to this community. The answer to it will depend mainly upon the distance to which the Niagara power can be economically transmitted. As yet all this is mainly in the realm of theory.

According to Dr. Lewis Duncan, there are twenty-seven instances of successful transmission of power generated primarily by falling water, mostly from two to eight miles. But in at least a dozen cases the distance exceeds ten miles. Thus, San Francisco, Portland, Ore., and Brescia, Italy, are each twelve miles away from their respective bases of supply; Lowell, Mass., is fifteen; Zurich, fifteen and one-half; Rome, eighteen; Geneva, twenty; Sacramento, twenty-eight; San Bernardino, Cal., twenty-eight and three-quarters, and Fresno, Cal., thirty-five. And, then, four years ago during the international electrical exposition at Frankfort, Germany, electrical power was brought from a waterfall at Lauffen, 105 miles away, but this was on a small scale and is prophetic rather than demonstrative of capabilities in this direction.

At the present time it seems to be the average belief of the various experts who are wrestling with this problem that the Niagara power plant will do very well if it can distribute its electrical energy at a profit to places within a radius of twenty-five miles.

That would include Buffalo and several small towns, and would cut somewhat into the blithesome trade, but it would leave the anthracite trade practically uninjured. If, this view is correct, Scranton need not fear.

But if it isn't? Then we shall have to go for our coal piles, and get ready to fight fire with fire. The Niagara current was turned on for Buffalo at midnight Sunday and is reported to be giving satisfaction. The distance is twenty miles. So long as the transmission goes no further we can afford to rest on our oars. But once let the Niagara company's ambitious dreams of sending power to Cleveland, Rochester, Erie, Syracuse, Albany, Elmira and Binghamton, not to speak of New York and the surrounding Jersey towns, be realized, and the coal trade will have, in common parlance, to "put up dust." We guess, however, that it needn't lose sleep.

Fair play for the "foreigner." He may be a bad citizen in certain localities, but the statistics show that a general rule the so-called foreign vote is often more to be trusted than the vote of some classes that look down upon those who are citizens by adoption. It is the New York Evening Post which points out that in a great crisis involving the purity of government and the maintenance of national honor, nearly every state with a large foreign-born population gave a majority to the candidate who stood for both these principles. Among the most prominent McKinley states were North Dakota, with 48.89 per cent., of its voting population of foreign birth; Minnesota with 53.85 per cent., Wisconsin with 52.93, California with 60.21, Michigan with 46.22, New York with 38.73, Massachusetts with 38.66, Illinois with 38.39 and Iowa with 29.92. In the Bryan column were some of the strongest American states. In South Carolina the foreign population of voting age

is only 1.45 per cent. of the total; in Georgia it is 1.75, in Mississippi, 1.86, in Alabama 2.56, in Tennessee 2.74, in Virginia 2.89, in Missouri 17.11, in Kansas 19.97. These figures certainly don't baffle the nativists.

On Oct. 1, with the free coinage issue still pending, the county commissioners in vain sought to dispose of a \$90,000 issue of 4 per cent. bonds without the gold clause. Yesterday they sold the whole issue on their own conditions at \$102.50, the highest premium ever received for a Lackawanna county security. This shows whether or not confidence has returned.

We offer congratulations to the esteemed Scranton Post on its 23-page "prosperity number," which exhibits in gratifying clearness the many resources of the enterprising city in which it is published. That kind of work tells for good times.

The canvass for the Harrisburg speakership has already, it seems, reached the "combine" stage. Our recollection of the "combine" as a means to victory does not offer encouragement to this latest use of it.

That hope sits perennial in the human breast is vividly illustrated in the case of our amiable friend, Colonel Fitzsimmons, who is already figuring out a Democratic victory in Lackawanna county one year hence.

Mark Hanna denies that he is an office broker. His part as a Warwick ends when the king is crowned.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

Jim Manley is one of the homeliest and most disagreeable looking terriers imaginable. But with all his physical hideousness he has a great and mighty brain. Jim Manley is Select Councilman Durr's dog and was named after Councilman Durr, who is a tall, lank, thin, bald, but because of their remarkable mental resemblance. The dog is a Scotch terrier. Wonderful stories are told of his intelligence. He has been talked about so much in the city hall, where his master frequently goes, that he is a familiar object to all the doormen.

I finished my conversation with Jim, and, noticing that Jim was not disposed to follow me, left him at play and went inside the building. The elevator lifted me to the sixth floor, and I went to room 601. In about ten minutes Jim had again come to the door, and, having no admittance, he knocked and then rang the bell. At that point the boy said he made a mistake in supposing some one wanted to alight and opened the door a trifle. That was enough for Jim; he bolted through the aperture and scented along the floor until he found me.

"What now? What mischief did he know you were on the sixth floor?" asked Councilman Oliver.

"Why, he heard me telling the gentle-

man outside the —." The last words of the sentence were drowned in a crash of flying glass furniture and scuffling. Durr burst into the hallway but wasn't disengaged. He and Jim went to tell the story to the mayor.

There is surely one woman in Scranton's select circle of society women who likes excitement, something out of the ordinary. We will call her Mrs. X—. She was with the author in Scranton recently. Mrs. X— had evidently been down town and after making the market rounds was being driven home in a two-seated carriage behind a spirited pair of high-headed horses. The day was bright and driving along the roads the reins were in place on the back part of the vehicle, whose only occupants were Mrs. X—, who leaned comfortably back in a corner of the seat, and her coachman, who seemed pretty well occupied in handling the foam-speckled bays.

They were on the Olive street when the X— team was crossing Vine street. At that point the carriage was overtaken by a pair of black horses owned by a prominent Scrantonian and evidently being exercised by his coachman, the only occupant of the red-gold carriage. The horses responded to the touch of the whip, dashed into the rear of the dash. The horses drew ahead of the other pair and she smilingly settled back in her seat with the air of one usually overburdened with emoji but who had found and enjoyed the momentary tingles and heat of a little episode out of ordinary.

Mrs. X— is one of Scranton's unapproachable twenty or thirty, but the little race with a pheasant coachman indicates that the demands society are not the only things that give her amusement,

Spotted Gopher Spelman, who is station-

ed at the Delaware and Hudson Lackawanna avenue depot, tells a queer story of a lost pocket book, which has a good moral:

A well-known Scranton man and his daughter took an afternoon train for Carlisle, and when they got off at the station that city the young lady telegraphed to the Delaware and Hudson station agent here asking him to recover her pocket-book. If possible, she having left it on a chair in the ladies' waiting room at the station. Officer Spelman was sent to take the girl to the office of the agent and it so informed the young woman on her return the following day. She wasn't much concerned, however, as the purse contained but a small sum of money and a few minor articles.

The young lady telephoned to the station agent and Officer Spelman's attention to a pocket-book lying directly in front of the gates heading to the train shed. The officer, being busy at the time, thrust the purse in his pocket without examining the contents, but upon opening it some time later he found it was the same pocket-book lost by the young woman. The contents were undisturbed. It could not have been on the platform since the day before, as it was picked up directly in front of the iron gates, through which hundreds of people pass daily, and furthermore, the platform is quite isolated.

It is presumed the pocket-book had been

found on the preceding day by some woman who in turn lost it while hurrying to catch the train about to leave the station a moment before the article was found.

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point in the development of electric traction where franchises granted to electric railway companies in cities of 30,000 and over should have the following conditions attached: That the company shall pay and keep in good condition all cars with fenders; that the company shall adopt a new system of motor power as soon as the city engineer or council shall decide that a new and practical form of traction is to be adopted; that the franchisee shall be expected sooner or later with a safer and better means of transit, the above conditions are reasonable and just, and should be insisted upon in the interests of the public from which these franchises emanate." That is, provided the public has any remaining rights which the trolleyed councilmen are bound to respect.

The experiment of lowered prices inaugurated by the management of the Agency of Manufacture at the beginning of the present session has already more than proved its own wisdom. At a time when technical ventures generally were suffering from what to the profession are known as "frosts," this popular playhouse has kept on unusually brilliant terms with the public.

To be sure, not little of this large patronage is due to the efficient management and personal popularity of Harvey Long, who has demonstrated his entire fitness for the position entrusted to him by Messrs. Mishler and Burgeon. Mr. Long is uniformly popular and satisfies the public's needs, and such qualities quickly tell on the attendance at a playhouse. But beyond all that is the fact that cheaper prices are demanded by the average theater-goer and that it is going to pay the amusement managers the country over to recognize.

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