

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, APRIL 3, 1897.

To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a controversial character MUST BE SIGNED FOR PUBLICATION BY THE WRITER'S TRUE NAME. To this rule we cannot except.

It Gets the Best.

With this issue The Tribune ceases to receive the telegraphic news service of the United Press and beginning with its Monday issue it will be served by the greatest news association ever organized, the Associated Press, with which this journal on March 31 signed a ninety-year contract.

The Tribune was the first paper in Northeastern Pennsylvania to sign a contract for this superior news service, and when certain other improvements now being arranged for shall have been completed, the advantages of this step will, we trust, become apparent to all of our readers.

The Associated Press is the legitimate outgrowth of various unsuccessful attempts to collect news in the wrong way. While other news agencies have been operated for profit, and have been at times susceptible to improper influences, the Associated Press is organized on a mutual basis. Each paper which is a member has a voice in the management and a vote at the annual election of officers; the rights of one member are equal to the rights of any other, and the assessment is based upon equity, the purpose being not to reap dividends or facilitate stock jobbing, but to collect the news.

The Associated Press is the only news collecting agency of a national character. It includes on its list over 1,000 newspapers. Every daily paper of any consequence in the United States, except the New York Sun, is a member; every paper in Philadelphia, and all but two in Pittsburgh belong.

At the Washington office of the Associated Press, which is presided over with signal ability and effectiveness by that veteran in journalism, General H. V. Boynton, more than \$100,000 is expended annually for news; and an even larger outlay is directed from the New York office. Put cable news the annual expenditure is enormous, reaching close to a million dollars.

The miles of wire under lease by the Associated Press would send a single wire nearly fifty times around the earth. In securing the fruits of this incomparable system for daily presentation to our readers we feel that we have justified their confidence in The Tribune.

With this service secured to us by contract, we shall have facilities at command equal to any in the country, and in a short time expect to make use of them in a manner that will merit increased public approval.

Congress should afford relief to the railroads, but also remember that "there are others."

Hawaii.

A resolution having been introduced in congress providing for the annexation of Hawaii to the United States, and commissioners from Hawaii being now in Washington for the purpose of concluding such an arrangement, it becomes pertinent to consider whether we want Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Islands lie in the North Pacific at the convergent point in the principle ocean routes to the Orient. Honolulu, their capital, being 2,100 miles from San Francisco; 3,510 miles from Auckland, New Zealand; 4,484 miles from Sydney, New South Wales; 3,410 miles from Yokohama, Japan, and 4,392 miles from Hong Kong, China. There are eight of these islands, the largest being Hawaii, which is 190 miles long by 50 miles wide and contains 2,500,000 acres.

The islands possess belts of arable land of exceeding fertility; the principal agricultural products being sugar, coffee and rice, but there is fine grazing territory and sheep raising and cattle growing are developing industries. The salubrity of the climate and the beauty of the scenery are wonderful. In twelve years at Honolulu no day was ever hotter than 90 degrees or colder than 52.

Captain Dutton, of the United States army, who has made a critical study of these islands, says that in wildness and grandeur they far surpass all the other islands of the Pacific; that gorges little inferior to the Yosemite in magnificence are numerous; that in a certain sharpness of detail and animation in the sculpture they are unique; and that over all is spread a mantle of tropical vegetation in comparison with which the richest verdure of our temperate zone is but the garb of poverty.

The trade winds from the northeast prevail for the greater portion of the year, imparting a delightful freshness and vigor to the atmosphere, only occasionally interrupted by a south wind bringing moisture and heat. The ocean current settling down from Hering Sea surrounds the islands with a water temperature at least 10 degrees lower than that of other regions of the same latitude.

These causes combine to create an equable temperature. The exports of the islands, which in 1875 were valued at \$1,800,000, last year amounted to \$35,000,000, the growth having occurred chiefly under the stimulus of American enterprise. But this

growth cannot long continue unless there is an assurance of stability in the government of the islands. Says ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster:

In the changed relations existing in the Pacific Ocean, it is plain to the observant statesman that Hawaii cannot much longer maintain itself as an independent nation. Aside from the temptation which it offers to the nations contending for supremacy in the Pacific, it possesses within itself the elements which threaten the loss of its independence. The amiable and peaceable Hawaiians and the thrifty Portuguese, whose fatherland is so far away, cause no fear to the present rulers. But the Asiatics, whose countries are so near, are a source of great anxiety. The Chinese and Japanese now number about 10 per cent. of the population, and are already more than half of the male inhabitants, and the Japanese have doubled their number in the last six years, and they continue to come in increasing numbers.

In this view Mr. Foster is abundantly sustained. Admiral Ammen, who is thoroughly familiar with the political conditions of the Pacific, in a letter to a Congressional committee in 1890 wrote: "It does not require a prophet to foresee that those islands in the near future will be either American or Japanese." General Schofield, who was sent by the president some years ago to make a careful study of the islands, reported in 1875 that "they have not, and never can have, the power to maintain their own nationality, and now their necessities force them to seek alliance with some nation which can relieve their embarrassment." This testimony is uniform among students of the North Pacific problem and it raises the point whether the United States can as a matter of policy afford to permit this invaluable strategic point in the mid-Pacific to pass from its control.

Fifty years ago Mr. Seward predicted that the Pacific ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast regions beyond, would become "the chief theater of events in the world's great hereafter." This prophecy is fast nearing realization. Of such a theater the Hawaiian islands are destined by nature and commercial position to be, as it were, the center of the stage. The privilege is ours to occupy this central area. The government and controlling people of Hawaii desire to become a part of the American republic. They have enacted into their constitution that annexation with the United States shall at any time be a legal supplement to the present order of things and they have sent representatives to Washington to knock at the door of congress. We need not, therefore, seize that which would be a disintegrated province but simply accept a gift which destiny has placed within our reach. In the opinion of that statesmanship which looks to the future, the annexation of Hawaii is a necessary duty of American government.

The Tribune is not hawking its advertising columns about town for sale to the lowest bidder, but when you consider its superior circulation and the results that its advertisers receive from it, its prices are fair and square.

The Railway Problem.

A few fundamental facts need to be kept in mind by congressmen and others interested in the Supreme court's decision declaring railway combinations illegal. They are: (1) It is not to the advantage of the public that the business of the railways should be made unprofitable. That law which forces loss upon any legitimate enterprise within the bounds of its natural rights is unjust; that condition which does this is intolerable.

(2) An agreement among railroads which, within reason, equalizes freight and passenger charges but does not arbitrarily increase them is unobjectionable in fact and should be legalized, as an alternative against promiscuous rate-cutting; rank discrimination for which the shipper and the shop-keeper have no redress; enforced economies in operation, and a general demoralization of trade.

(3) But the power to decide when a "pool" is prejudicial to the public interest should rest with the government, and not with the railroads.

A bill embodying these principles is now before congress, having been introduced by Senator Foraker as an amendment to the interstate commerce law. It vents in the interstate commerce commission authority sufficient to protect the public, but legalizes pooling within the bounds of equity. The measure does not have the enthusiastic support of the railroads, for the reason that they would rather not see too much authority given to the commerce commission; but its main purpose receives the assent of the more broad-gauged railway managers and it certainly merits the support of fair-minded citizens generally.

The railway business in this country may properly be regulated by law to prevent manifest abuses, but it cannot be crippled without sending immediate injury throughout the commonwealth. Those persons who wish to see private ownership of railroads discouraged by adverse and inequitable legislation forget that while such legislation may pinch the railroads, it is at the same time hurtful to the whole body politic. Now that the power of the government over combinations in trade is established beyond question, let it employ that power, not rashly and with unconcern for the consequences, but carefully, judiciously and with constant regard for the best interests of the greatest number.

If President McKinley's consular appointments are proportionately as good as his nominations for the chief diplomatic positions, our representation abroad will certainly be all that can be desired.

Senator Quay has decided to take next week off for the purpose of communicating his ideas to legislative friends at Harrisburg. They evidently need a bracing up of some kind.

In order not to disorganize the flag, it might be decided to make two states out of New York about the time that Nevada's statehood is canceled.

Let us trust that Judge Day will let in the wholesome daylight on the Cuban darkness.

Those persons who are denouncing ex-Senator Ingalls for having reported a prize fight should not overlook Charles Reade, Lord Lytton, Thackeray, Dickens, Stevenson and Conan Doyle. Nor should they forget to censure every historian who pens narratives of the Mexican war, an interminable bit of fatigues about a war, morally, with the Carson scrap, although not nearly so felicitous.

Although the senate is severely criticized these days, we perceive no shrinkage in the popularity of senatorial indorsements.

"Tell the truth" is the cry of many opponents of liberal reform, yet that is just what rogues always fear.

Gossip of the Capital

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Washington, April 2.—Now that the tariff bill has been gotten through the house the interest of members of that body is centered upon Speaker Reed's committee appointments. His list of appointments is the object of the extra session is the passage of a protective tariff bill which will also furnish the government with sufficient revenue to meet its expenses. It is when this is accomplished there should be an immediate adjournment, and that no other legislation should be enacted. For this reason he has pertinently refused to appoint the house committee, and he has declared to his close friends that unless the senate shows a disposition to prolong its deliberations on the tariff bill, and postpone indefinitely final action on it he will refrain from naming the committee until the closing days of the session. On the eve of adjournment he will announce his list of appointments. This will relieve him of pressure at the opening of the regular session, and at the same time enable the house at once to get down to business without any delay whatever.

Pennsylvania in the last congress had as good committee representation as any other state. Its members were not re-elected, and for that reason many changes will necessarily be made. John Dalsell, who has served with distinction on the ways and means committee for several years, has been reappointed to that committee, as well as to his old place on the committee on rules. General Bingham, in the last congress, ranked second on the committee on appropriations. He has made a very creditable record, and will be reappointed. Colonel Stone, of Allegheny, has been a member of both the appropriations and judiciary committees, serving in the last congress on the former committee. He expects a reappointment. C. W. Stone, of Warren, who was chairman of the committee on coinage, weights and measures in the Fifty-fourth congress, has been slated by Speaker Reed for another term as head of that committee. The house gossips are busy discussing the report that the speaker will not put out "Silver Dollar" Dick Bland on the coinage committee, where his talents as a free coinage agitator were given such wide range in previous congresses. The spectacle of Bland as a member of the committee on war claims or, indeed, as a member of any other committee, is not on a par with that of coinage, weights and measures will be, to say the least, a very unusual one.

Adams, who is Pennsylvania's diplomat in the house, is down on Reed's slate for reappointment to a place on the committee on foreign affairs. Hill, of Illinois, has been chairman of that committee with General Draper, of Massachusetts, the second member and Adams the third. General Draper was not re-elected, and has been appointed ambassador to Italy. If Reed follows precedent, and there is every reason to expect that he will, Adams will become second in rank to the chairman. Arthur, of the Maryland district, who was a member of the Pacific railroads committee, will likely be allowed to stay there. Coddling, of the Bradford-Susquehanna district, in the last congress, was on the committee on elections No. 2. Johnson, of Indiana, was chairman of the committee, and Coddling was one of its most active members. There are comparatively few contests in this congress, and it is understood that Reed, instead of appointing three committees on elections, as was the case in the last house, will appoint but one. Coddling will be a member of this committee. Brumm will likely get his old chairmanship of the committee on claims. Adelson, who was very much dissatisfied with his committee appointments last congress, is making an effort to get Reuben's place, on the committee on rivers and harbors, one of the most important committees of the house. Pennsylvania has had a place on this committee for several years, the late Colonel Tom Bayne being at one time a member of it. Adams seems to be the only candidate, he will likely get it.

Ermentrout, of the Berks-Lehigh district, one of the three Democrats in the delegation, will, it is thought, take the place of Wooster on the military affairs committee. Hicks was on the committee on public buildings and grounds in the last congress, but as Reed shut out all of the bills which that committee reported favorably, including the one appropriating \$100,000 for a public building in Harrisburg town, Altoona, the Blair county statesman is looking around for a new field in which to exploit his talents. He has asked the speaker to give him the chairmanship of the committee on invalid pensions, made vacant by the defeat of Pickler, of North Dakota, who Reed dubbed the "Sivigliani" of the house, and who is now endeavoring to hypnotize the president into appointing him commissioner of Indian affairs or to "something equally as good." Hicks will not get it because of the influence of New Hampshire, who head a bass drum in the Salvation Army before he broke into congress, and who now declares he is ready to fight, Reed and the speaker, and who with rights, is making a strong play for that chairmanship. Sulloway was a member of that committee in the last congress and will be the ranking Republican member.

There will be an interesting contest for "bank" Robinson's place on the committee on naval affairs. His successor, Barber, and James Hankin Young have both applied to Reed for the appointment and each is using every influence at his command to secure it. Barber, who was elected as "gold" Democrat and who is elected by himself, also wants to go on that committee. As there were no Republicans on the committee in the last congress, one Republican and one Democrat, McAleer will likely make the landing. His cause is strengthened from the fact that he was a member of that committee in the Fifty-third congress.

Representative Conell is talked of for a place on the committee on mines and currency. Morgan B. Williams, of the Luzerne district, wants a place on the committee on public buildings and grounds, and Olmsted, of Harrisburg, would like to be a member of the committee on railroads and canals. Robbins, of the Westmoreland district, Sturtevant, of Erie, and Benner, of Gettysburg, have not expressed their preferences. "Farmer" Kulp, of the Columbia-Northumberland district, who is a member of the committee on public lands in the Fifty-fourth congress, wants to be transferred to the committee on agriculture. Stable, of the Pennsylvania representative on the committee on naval affairs, who was not re-elected, and Kulp will likely get his place. Mahon will probably be reappointed chairman of the committee on war claims. He is much interested in the Border Raid claims which have been pending in congress since the

TAKE A LOOK AT VENUS.

From Storms and Storms. Venus, the bright shining star in the golden west, will be within one degree of the new moon, on Sunday evening, April 4th, and will present a beautiful sight, all those who are fortunate enough to be where clouds do not obstruct their vision. This will be your last opportunity, for on the 5th Venus will sink out of sight, and will not appear again for some weeks; when she does she will be seen in the east instead of the west. Where does she go, and how does she get to the east without us seeing her?

There will likely be a great many surprises when Speaker Reed announces his committee appointments. The Republicans await with great interest the list in the last campaign and who occupied positions on important committees in the last house will likely be punished for disloyalty to the Republican platform.

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ARISE!

For an empty sepulcher, But a grave, where Christ had lain, Brave men went forth to war, And the flower of the earth was slain. Now the bones of the great knights dwell, In that strange and tragical land, Long locked in the stony hill, And blown with the desert sand. But the barbarous infidel Turk Lives on, with his terrible sword, And again at his deadly work, He slays the sons of the Lord. By steel and fire and shame The mothers and daughters die; And oh! that we feel no blame, When to heaven and us they cry!

We are safe, far over the sea, In the wide abundance of peace; The children play on at our knee, And the songs of our maids never cease.

With Saladin the brave We fought with might and main, 'Twas for an empty grave, 'Twas for an empty grave. Now, the children of Christ are slain! While gay on the pulsing tides, With guns in battle array, Our great White Squadron rides, And idles the livelong day. Rise! knights of the old crusade, Knit bone to bone again, For there is none to aid, While the children of Christ are slain! —Louise Palmer Smith, in the New York Independent.

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