

The Scranton Tribune

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The Tribune is pained to witness the warmth of temper which is beginning to characterize the relations of its esteemed afternoon contemporaries; and in the interest of peace and concord it feels constrained to suggest a reference of their circulation controversy to arbitration.

The Tax Receivership Bill.

The reconsideration of the Torrey tax receivership bill by the house at Harrisburg yesterday, and its postponement for the present, gives the supporters of this excellent measure another chance to bring pressure to bear upon the legislature in its behalf. The difficulty is that while this bill proposes a substantial benefit to every tax payer in a third-class city inasmuch as it would enable him to pay all his taxes to one receiver at one time, instead of to two or three receivers, in different places and at different times, thus causing confusion and annoyance as well as increased cost of tax collection, it is a measure in whose favor the people have taken no concerted action.

On the other hand, there is an active and effective opposition composed of office-holders whose positions are threatened, and this, working quietly, has been enabled to do much mischief. The situation may be explained still more plainly by saying that while there is nothing in the bill's enactment save for the people in gross, there is a good deal in its defeat for the few whose soft snags it threatens. That being the case, the bill is reasonably sure to expire unless the people bestir themselves.

If the present legislature undertakes to lock horns with Governor Hastings on an issue of extravagance versus economy, it will speedily discover that public opinion is on the side of the governor.

Defeated, but Not Dismayed.

The National Arbitration committee appointed by the National Peace conference, which met in Washington in April of last year, has issued an address to the people urging those who are friendly to the principle of arbitration to continue their efforts for the establishment of "a proper and permanent system of arbitration between this country and Great Britain." Such a result, it submits, would be "the most influential step toward the adoption of arbitration by all civilized nations."

In this advice the committee will have general sympathy and co-operation. The defeat of the Olney-Pauncefote compact involved only a temporary setback for the cause of arbitration in general. It is our belief that the senate had substantial reason for objecting to that treaty in its original form; but that it will at a future time approve an instrument properly drawn for the protection of American interests as certain as anything in the future can be.

The National Arbitration committee has shown the spirit in defeat which wins admiration and support. It does not give way to cholera nor pause to weep over the irrevocable; it takes off its coat (in a pacific sense) and goes to work. The duty before it is simply to keep the best influences of our national life in organization and co-operation. This in itself will force a re-opening of the recently interrupted negotiations, and with the experience of the earlier failure as a guide, American statecraft will not be likely to fall a second time into the pit.

That is an interesting report which says that General Maximilian Gomez, commander-in-chief of the Cuban army, is about to resign his command in favor of Calixto Garcia, accept the appointment of secretary of war and in that capacity pay a personal visit at Washington to President McKinley and Secretary Sherman, for the purpose of explaining to them the real facts concerning the strength of the insurgents, their progress in establishing a civil government and the outlook for Cuba as it appears to him. General Gomez would be warmly welcomed.

The Escape of Havemeyer.

The escape of the president of the sugar trust from conviction in the senate contempt proceedings, while the go-between, Chapman, is imprisoned, constitutes a situation which will require a great deal of explaining. It appears that Mr. Havemeyer got off on account of technical flaws in the indictment. The question which this circumstance suggests is whether those flaws were the work of ignorance or design.

We have seen how the gigantic institution over which Mr. Havemeyer presides could capture a national administration, as in the case of Mr. Cleveland's treatment of Hawaii and Cuba; and how it could twist to its purposes influential senators of the United States, as in the case of certain members of the present finance committee of that honorable body. The feat of capturing a sufficient foot-hold

in a district court to spare the president of the trust the ignominy of incarceration in jail along with common felons would be relatively easy. It is not difficult to predict one result of this kind of thing. It will make votes for Bryanism much more rapidly than the conscientious endeavor of the McKinley administration to do its duty toward the people in mass can unmake them.

The Wilkes-Barre contingent will doubtless do to keep Griffin's young men in practice until a real ball club comes along.

Reckoning Without Their Hosts.

The fact that the large syndicate of American and English capitalists financially interested in Cuba which recently approached the Spanish minister at Washington with a proposition for the purchase of Cuba's independence has not been disheartened by his curt rejection of their offer is noteworthy. Their representatives, Messrs. McCook and Smith, have again assured President McKinley of their ability to guarantee the bonds of the Cuban republic to an amount sufficient to reimburse Spain for the recognition of Cuban independence, provided the United States, pending the stabilization of the new Cuban government, will take charge of the island's finances; and they claim to have faith that notwithstanding Spain's grandiloquent talk to the contrary, the government at Madrid will yet be glad to accept a fair cash offer.

From the standpoint of American and English capitalists there is nothing out of the way in such a proposition. Those men own property in Cuba which is being depreciated by war. They want peace. They are willing to pay for it. To guarantee the bonds of a government owning so fertile an island as Cuba, under the sanction of a power so influential as the United States, involves only a slight risk, compared with the risk to which their property is subjected by the present conflict. It might cost them the trouble of advancing some money for interest payments on the bonds, with the certainty of getting it back again in good measure; but that is all. The bonds themselves would be a mortgage on the island upon which they could any time realize by means of a forcible seizure of the Cuban custom houses, after the example set by Great Britain at Corinto.

When we come to consider this proposition from the standpoint of the leading citizens of Cuba, however, it presents a decidedly different aspect. Here are men who for more than two years have braved death, starvation and continual discomfort in behalf of their country's desire to be independent. Many of them have endured the tortures of the inferno in the cause of Cuba libre. They have seen their fertile island turned by war into a wilderness; they have sacrificed their plantations, their homes, their income on the altar of patriotism; and now to ask them, with victory in sight, to shoulder a big war debt on top of all the other burdens which the conflict has imposed upon them, merely in order that the departure of the Spaniard may be hastened, is to ask what any American, similarly placed, would unhesitatingly pronounce unreasonable.

It is one thing for syndicates remote from the scene of hostilities to draw up theoretical plans for the achievement of peace in Cuba; but it is quite another thing to put those plans into operation. The freedom of Cuba must be won by the sword. That is freedom's only sure price.

Another expedition is about to start for the north pole, which means a wanton increase in the number of widows and orphans.

Unjust Criticism.

The habit among American newspapers of discrediting the United States senate has occasional excuse, but in the main it is without justification and tends simply to create vicious prejudices among the people. We expect the supercilious Mugwump press to scold whenever the senate does anything robust and candid; but we are surprised to observe ordinarily judicious papers like the Chicago Times-Herald engaged momentarily in the same shrewish practice.

Just now the latter journal is in ill humor because the senate passed the Morgan resolution. It calls Senator Morgan names, it howls jingoism and demagogism, and it tries to leave the impression that the senate in this matter flew directly counter to public opinion. As a matter of fact, it must know better. If it has any knowledge whatever of the state of popular feeling with reference to Cuba, it is well aware that the extreme anxiety of the executive department, heretofore and now, to avoid ruffling Spain's feathers is viewed by the great body of Americans as an exhibition of conservatism which, instead of helping along a solution of the problem at issue, simply gives Spain a wrong conception of us, makes her feel that we are cowardly and abject, and encourages her in the very directions in which she needs to be suppressed.

The Venezuelan message of President Cleveland showed in the case of a much stronger power than Spain the whole effect of plain speaking. The Guiana boundary dispute had been under consideration by Great Britain and the United States through the soft processes of conciliatory negotiation for years without visible result; but one vigorous blast from President Cleveland clarified the entire situation and, though using the threat of war, ended the matter in a few days, and in one day to assure peace than had been achieved by the arbitration societies since the dispute began.

The lesson of this incident applies to Cuba. It is not jingoism nor fire-eating nor appealing to the galleries to insist upon a vigorous and uncompromising assertion of American prestige and influence in an international matter in which we are intimately concerned, but instead, the wisest and most truly peace-making statesmanship. It is by our own continual vacillation and superstitiousness in matters of this kind that the Spanish people and a good many other people in different parts of the globe regard us with contempt and feel free to offer indignities

to Americans the like of which they could not be induced to offer to subjects of a power such as Great Britain. By our irresolution, procrastination and unmanly solicitude for the interests of the stock exchange we have, during a period of years, fairly earned their contempt; and the only way to dispel it is to awaken from our stupor and go forth when they give us cause as they would go at us were the tables reversed.

The senate may have exhibited a lack of consideration for the president; but in any event it is a co-ordinate branch of the government, and as such is fairly entitled to its opinion. Its action is a notification to Spain that its doom in Cuba is approaching; and if the president is heedful of public opinion, as we have every reason to believe that he is, he will recognize in the emphasis of the senate's course an index to what will be expected of him when the time shall arrive for him to discard the passive for the active mood.

The proposition to place another mill of taxation on personal property is probably the easiest way out of the dilemma into which extravagant and reckless legislation covering a period of business depression has plunged the commonwealth; but the fact remains that what the legislature should do, instead of increasing taxation, is to cut down its expenses.

William E. Curtis, the man whom Secretary Blaine appointed chief of the bureau of South American republics, is a busy apologist for Spain, and surpasses even Senator Hale in the dissemination of anti-Cuban literature. What would Blaine think if he were alive?

Senator Morgan frankly says he wants a war with Spain because he believes it is inevitable anyhow and that the sooner it is endured and concluded, the better for all concerned. A good many persons think this who lack the candor publicly to say so.

The claim is now made that Governor Black's starched civil service system is unconstitutional. Then why are its opponents so all-fired mad?

If Spain could only fight as bravely as she can talk, it would soon be all up with Cuba.

Gossip at the Capital

Special Correspondence of The Tribune.

Washington, May 27. There have been some interesting developments in Washington during the present week and some especially significant in their character. The Republican senators have shown their opposition to the tariff bill with all possible speed, while the Democratic senators have shown themselves entirely at sea in the matter of policy upon the important question. Both parties have held caucuses to determine their action in regard to the tariff bill, and the contrast between the developments of the two conferences were strongly marked. The Democrats found themselves entirely at sea, unable to agree upon any course with reference to the important feature of the bill, while the Republicans emerged from their caucus a thoroughly united body determined to present a solid front to the enemy whom they know to be in control of the senate.

That the senate of the United States is not a Republican body everybody knows. That the ability of the Republicans to pass a tariff bill depends upon the strength of the pro-vice president and the Democrats are in the minority in the senate. To pass the tariff bill they must either have the support of one or more Democrats, or one or more members of the Democratic and Populist parties must omit to vote against it. There is reason to believe that the bill will receive the support of at least one Democrat and probably two Populists, if Senator Kyle is to be classed as a Populist. He is put down in the Congressional Directory as an Independent. Senator Jones, of Nevada, who has been classed as a Populist for the past two or three years, will, it is understood, support the bill, and it is probable that Senator Kyle will do so, or at least, not vote against it. Senator McEnery, of Louisiana, has indicated clearly his intention to support a protective tariff. It is under these circumstances that the Republican minority in the senate will be able to solidly vote to pass their bill. They have, as above indicated, the advantage of presenting a solid front in support of the bill, while the other parties are unable to solidly vote upon any features of the measure. Their caucus showed that, upon the numerous questions at issue, not only were they not united, but that they could not unite. The Republicans, on the other hand, in their caucus, determined to put aside personal preferences in regard to the various items of the bill, each man submitting his proposed amendments to the finance committee, and afterwards, if necessary, to the caucus committee upon this subject.

They further agreed, much as they might desire to enter upon a general discussion of the tariff, to forego that undertaking for the sake of economy of time, and to press at every turn for active energetic work upon the schedules of the bill with the purpose of getting final action upon it at the earliest possible moment. Not a speech, aside from the explanation, which Senator Jones offered in the opening day of the debate, is to be made by the Republicans, other than the brief responses made necessary in reply to the attacks which it is expected that the Democrats will make upon the schedules of the bill as the discussion progresses. Thus the public may understand that if there is delay in the passage of the bill through the senate, the responsibility will rest with the Democratic party. If the Republicans could control the action of the senate, the bill would be passed through that body within a fortnight and be upon the statute books certainly by the end of the fiscal year; they cannot, the fault will be with the Democrats, if the Republicans are able to carry out their programme, the first four months of President McKinley's administration will witness a heretofore unheard of occurrence in the history of the country—the meeting of a congress within fifteen days of the inauguration of a new president. The framing of a great tariff bill and passage through the house, its consideration by the senate and conference committee, and enactment into a law—all within four months. If this fails to happen, the public will understand that the failure is because of delay offered by the Democrats, who recognize the fact that every day's delay is a postponement of business activity and prosperity, and that by this process only are they able to create the dissension which they hope may result to their advantage in the coming elections.

Much interest has been felt in the course of the house of representatives upon the senate resolution recognizing the Cubans as belligerents. Whatever delay occurs in this matter will be because the administration is not yet ready to act in the matter. It is absolutely necessary that a new administration, which found on coming into power its only sources of information those created by a party adverse to its interests and methods, should have time not only to study the situation, but

to study it through men selected by itself. Any step looking to the recognition of the Cubans either as belligerents or as an independent nation must be a grave one and is liable to bring about serious complications with one or more European nations. It is easy for men who have not this responsibility upon their shoulders to insist upon immediate action and to talk glibly about the ability of the United States to whip any nation, but the man who recognizes that his action, unless carefully considered, is liable to plunge nations into a sacrifice not alone millions of money but perhaps thousands of lives, must feel that the responsibility is a very grave one. Human life, whether in Cuba or in the United States, or upon the high seas, is sacred, and a president who could or would take action liable to create such complications as to endanger the lives of his own people or the people of other nations, without the most careful consideration, would be unworthy of the confidence of his country. Those who understand the responsibility which rests upon President McKinley in determining what the attitude of this government shall be toward the Cuban revolution, will take course in desiring ample time for a study of this question in the light of such information as he can obtain through his own representatives selected for that purpose. It is not through any desire to temporize or to delay action further than the time necessary for this examination that leads him to care so much for the delay in passing, or that leads the house of representatives to decline to vote for him to act before he has obtained this information upon a resolution whose adoption might be fraught with such serious consequences, and might injure the interests of the United States as well as other countries. The people of the United States need not suppose that President McKinley is unnecessarily delaying action. He does not. He fully realizes the gravity of the situation, the importance of action, but he also recognizes the equally important step of making that action just to his own country, to the Cubans, and to humanity at large.

NO TRANSACTION.

From the New York Sun. We don't want to buy Cuba. We have no offer for it. We have not asked the price of it. There was a time, some forty years ago, when Spain might have sold Cuba to us, and got the cash for it; but the situation has changed since then. The revolutionary Cubans are not anxious for us to buy Cuba. They are anxious for us to buy Cuba. They have never made any proposition to Spain for its purchase. They believe they can gain possession of Cuba without paying a penny who has no legitimate claim upon it. They say that the Americans did not pay England for their country, and that each of the colonies of Spain as parted from her in other times got off without paying her anything. It is by driving off the robbers that the Cubans expect to get what belongs to them. There are people who think that if Spain were to become convinced that it would be best to sell Cuba to the Cubans, this country would help both parties by the case by guaranteeing the payment of the purchase money to Spain, perhaps to the amount of \$20,000,000. These people are mistaken. We have not the money to engage in that kind of business. Thus the whole thing is very plain. Spain says she will never sell Cuba. The Cubans say they do not desire to buy it. The Americans also refuse to buy, refuse even to give a guarantee of payment to Spain in case she should change her mind and sell Cuba to its rightful owners. There is no transaction. Meanwhile, Cuba is marching on.

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. If the report is true that the Lykens Valley bed of coal has been found of workable thickness at Tamaqua, and if it should be proved that the discovery is a mere local deposit, the discovery is of great importance to the coal trade. The Lykens Valley bed—of which there are two of them—were the first of the anthracite series deposited. They underlie all the beds from which the hard coal of commerce comes, and their product is a semi-bituminous, burning almost as readily as bituminous, but with the clear glow and smokeless flame of anthracite. It is much higher price than any other coal except a few fancy brands. Although they are supposed to underlie the Lykens Valley, they are as far east as Tamaqua opens a possibility of a greatly enlarged supply of a very profitable product and a large addition to the business of the Schuylkill miners and coal dealers.

EUROPE AND CUBA.

Interview with Henri Rochefort. Europe may not be afraid of Greece, but she is mortally afraid of America. Certainly no European power will send warships into Cuban waters to help Spain or in case war is declared between the United States and Spain they will not send a single ship to be torpedoes at the mouth of New York harbor.

SPOKE FOR MR. WILLIAMS.

Wash. Dispatch in Phila. Inquirer. Congressional Council, of Scranton, on Wednesday last had a talk with the President and put in a good word for ex-State Representative John T. Williams, of Scranton, who would like to become consul to Cardiff, Wales.

EXERCISING THEIR CHOICE.

If there were only small boys in town we wouldn't need sidewalks. "Why?" "They always walk in the gutters."

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Alacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 2:28 a. m., for Friday, May 28, 1897.

A child born on this day will be liable to grief itself to death if afternoon results at the base ball park cause happiness down in Wilkes-Barre.

It begins to look as though Scranton could furnish the largest newspaper circulation bluffs "outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh."

The discovery of strange birds in tall trees by Green Ridge citizens looks bad for Prohibition work in that part of the city.

John H. Blackwood and Colonel Fitzsimmons's belief to be the only true Mahatmas of local politics.

It is evident that Johnny Farr's "labor bill" made the legislators tired.

Remember that it costs from \$2.50 to \$5.00 to steal a ride on a railroad; but if one can steal the road he will be considered a financier.

THE BOOKMAN BERTHA GALLAND IN JUNE COSMOPOLITAN. Beldelman, The Bookman 487 Spruce Street, The Rotunda, Board of Trade Building.

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Our store will remain open until 9.30 Friday evening for the special accommodation of our many customers, on account of being closed Saturday, May 29, for the observance of Decoration Day.

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Of all sorts of Ladies', Gents' and Children's Fixings are upon our programme for Friday. No. 40 All Silk Taffeta Ribbons in all the new shades, 12 1/2c per yard for Friday only. No. 60 All Silk Taffeta Ribbons in all the new shades, 17c per yard for Friday only. We have just received a full line of Roman Striped Ribbons which are so fashionable for Neckwear.

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