

The Scranton Tribune

Tally and Weekly, 30 Sunday Edition. By The Tribune Publishing Company. WILLIAM CONNELL, President. New York Representative: FRANK S. GRAY CO. Room 4, Tribune Building, New York City. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: Daily, 5 cents a month. Weekly, \$1.00 a year. ESTABLISHED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA. AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

TWELVE PAGES

SCRANTON, JUNE 12, 1897.

We do not blame the Telephone company or any other company for getting what it can out of the councils. If the latter are willing to give the city away, why shouldn't the corporations take it?

Celebrate Flag Day.

The appropriate suggestion is made by the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution that on next Monday, which is Flag Day, the stars and stripes be displayed from every home in the land. During the 129 years which have elapsed since the Continental congress adopted the red and white stars with the thirteen white stars in a field of blue as the official emblem of the new-born nation the territory over which Old Glory floats has increased five fold; the population giving its allegiance has grown from 3,000,000 to 70,000,000; the number of sovereign states has been augmented from thirteen to forty-five, and on this hemisphere where then there was only one republic, there is today only one lingering remnant of tyranny, and that, we hope, will soon be extinguished, thanks to American influence and intervention.

These six-score years of democracy have not by any means been years of perfection in the working out of the problem of successful government, but they have been years whose annals give confidence in the principles employed and hope for the future. The American flag has survived two foreign and one civil war; it has witnessed the successful enfranchisement of an enslaved race; the assimilation of millions of promiscuously welcomed aliens representing every tongue and clime; the conquest of mighty wildernesses; the upbuilding of great cities; the harnessing to man's uses of the great forces and resources of nature, and the laying of the foundations for a commerce and a civilization of the like of which history affords no record. Nowhere else has such progress been paralleled; nowhere else, can such institutions be surpassed.

It can do us no harm, as appropriate occasion shall arise, to give passing thought to these things. This has been termed a practical age, an age when sentiment must be yoked to utility in order to gain an audience with the busy, hustling throng. But surely here is a sentiment which is of the highest utility, a sentiment without which these wonders in human accomplishment could never have been achieved. If a time should ever come when the sight of the flag will carry to the citizen of the United States no glorious message from the past, no exhilarating inspiration for the future, then indeed could it be said that we had reached the declining plane which leads swift and sure to national deterioration and ruin.

Some time ago an official of the Scranton Traction company promised to present an argument showing where in a T rail on Mulberry street would be more desirable than a flat rail. We are still waiting to hear from him.

A Cycle of Social Crimes.

Readers of the newspapers can hardly fail to have perceived in the past few weeks a very noticeable multiplication in the number of crimes against women. For a fortnight the number of assaults reported in the papers has averaged not less than three a day and if anything this average is growing larger. We do not possess statistics on this subject covering a period of years, but we hazard the guess that if such statistics are in existence they disclose a steady increase in these unmentionable offences against society. What, if any, reasons can be offered for such a re-occurrence of animalism in this supposedly civilized nation and age? The inquiry here indicated is manifestly too large for the limits of this article, but at haphazard we propose to jot down one or two of the causes which most readily suggest themselves.

In the first place, in the matter of literature we have for years been sowing the wind that foretells the whirlwind. Sensationalism in the press; the verging of writers steadily toward the forbidden line in descriptions of the risqué play, the flash picture, and the risqué play, the indecent ballet and the suggestive dialogue, spoken or written—all these things, together with similar manifestations of degeneracy in other directions which need not be recited, have lowered the level of social morality very perceptibly in the last few years and put into weak minds just those germs of corrupting suggestion that have developed into the mania now displaying itself in outrages and other gross personal crimes. The extent to which this demoralization in the use of ink and paper has proceeded will be the better comprehended when a glance is taken through the literature of fifty years ago, which, with all its faults, sounds a sustained note of respect for womanhood and of reverence for the sanctities of domestic life.

It is, we repeat, probable that the modern abuse of the printing press, which has saturated our time with a species of moral skepticism reflected no less in the crimes than in the published thoughts of the people, is the greatest single contributor to the prevalent wave of sexual insanity; but we regret to have to add that we cannot blot the women of our time wholly guiltless. Those of us who have inherited old-fashioned ideas concerning the sex, who have been taught to believe in the paramount purity and honor of the mission of wifehood and motherhood for women, have in recent times been

asked by certain militant females to surrender these ideals of the long ago, and to accept in lieu thereof absurd advanced notions of a manly destiny. It would be unjust to say that the new woman nonsense has spoiled any considerable number of the women of today; but it has gone just far enough in its influence upon feminine customs and masculine opinion to introduce a new irritant in the social problem, which, in our opinion, has contributed not a little to the phenomena noted above. Rightly or wrongly, it has for the moment weakened woman's hold upon man's respect; once the better half, she has lately appeared to be desirous of coming down to his unpoetic level, and until this foolish fancy shall pass out of her mind a sacrifice of her influence for good is inevitable.

We believe that the present ebullition of sexual abnormalities will soon cease. It must. Society can no longer tolerate such a peril to its very existence. But it is well to consider what has caused it and to take steps for the prevention of its repetition. It was a wise precaution to introduce at Harrisburg an inheritance tax bill avoiding the constitutional objections raised by Judge Hanna. We think these objections could have been answered and consider that the original law had a good chance of being sustained by the Supreme court. Still, the matter involved a risk which a new law will avert. Under the circumstances, with the state revenues \$3,000,000 below the probable expenditures, it is wisdom to make sure of every possible dollar of available income.

What Next?

After great uproar, caused by inordinate greed for tariff advantage, the sugar trust has been beaten at Washington and a sugar schedule is adopted in the senate, which, by general consent, is honest and approximately fair. The reputation of the party is saved; the president is extricated from the dilemma in which he would have been placed had the tariff bill reached him for signature or rejection with the Trust's schedule inserted therein, and for the present all is well. But shall the matter end here?

Let us review the facts. So far as known, they are that the American Sugar Refining company has for years been in the habit of contributing to the campaign funds of both the political parties so as to be in position to negotiate for legislative favors from either. In 1892, after Cleveland won, it insisted upon writing the sugar schedule of the Wilson bill, and succeeded so well in pressing its claims upon the Democratic party managers that a schedule drafted by Mr. Cleveland's secretary of the treasury, Mr. Carlisle, was sent to the house ways and means committee with the administration's endorsement. This schedule gave the trust what it wanted. Last year, the other party won, but the trust appeared on deck just the same. It did not this time try to capture anybody in the cabinet or in the ways and means committee of the house. It knew better. But through some means not yet made known it gained the favor of the senate sub-committee on finance which considered the Dingley bill after it passed the house, and but for the storm of public censure which this suspicious intimacy excited, it might have put another pet schedule through.

Momentarily the trust is baffled, but shall that be its only punishment? Is the spectacle tamely to be endured of a giant corporation having in its control a monopoly of the production of a prime necessity of life and willing to buy legislation which will enable it to extort money from the people? Have the consumers of sugar in this country no redress? Thus far it must be admitted that the trust has had things pretty much its own way. Cabinets, courts and legislatures have treated it with a degree of consideration probably beyond its just deserts. A point must come, though, when the people will rebel. Has that point pretty nearly been reached?

We have much respect for the erudition of the Philadelphia Record, but when it contradicts the assertion of Consul General Lee that under our treaty stipulations with Spain an American citizen arrested on Spanish soil must not be kept more than seventy-two hours "incommunicado," we shall pin our faith to Lee.

"Soft Snaps."

The phrase "Soft Snaps," generally considered slang, has by long and general usage almost become incorporated into legitimate Anglo Saxon. The words forming it have by themselves always been found in our "Unabridged." Together they form a very expressive phrase and are generally used to indicate an easy job or way to make money. That the phrase is an expressive one no one will deny, and we think all will agree that it contains the germ of much evil. It expresses fully the tendency of the times—that tendency toward luxury and ease, that desire to gain money without the sweat that alone can make a man energetic, manly and self-reliant and give him power to fight his own way to high positions in business and statesmanship. It expresses forcibly the danger that is creeping so rapidly into our social and political systems.

Among the serious dangers to future generations none is greater than the treatment parents often accord their sons. The father has been successful in life by hard work and business judgment. He has accumulated wealth. The son steps over the threshold of manhood and may be just out of school or college. Immediately the father looks for a soft snap for him. He must not struggle as the father did—he is too deserving for that—and straightway a position is found with a large salary and the boy is launched with his hand on the tiller of the good ship "soft snap." Perhaps as an excuse the father will go through the form of giving him a few weeks' work where under business principles years might be necessary, and then the boy is lifted and set down in his easy chair. Henceforward his career is supposed to be assured. But is it? While the father lives all may go well. His business judgment stands behind and his money can make good a mistake. But when he dies? The world is full of the unfor-

tunate results of "soft snaps," for ease in gaining a livelihood through other influences than one's own efforts degrades judgment and self-reliance, and when the prop is cut away the whole thing tumbles.

The boy who commences life by appearing at the breakfast table at 8 o'clock in the morning and by sauntering to his business at 9 or 10, and who is unwillingly taught that "the old man" is behind him, nearly always drops when the old man "pegs out." This is one reason why so many of our young men fail and the names made by their fathers so soon fall away. The laws of nature are immutable and the one laid down ages ago that by the sweat of our brows shall we earn our daily bread is the only foundation of true success. We do not mean in this article to deny the practical right of a man to do with his own as he chooses, but the future is heavy, and the responsibility great. The danger that the boy will become imbued with this growing idea of "soft snaps" is more serious, we think, than is fully comprehended. Put him in charge of your coal mine, or your store, or your factory if you will, but before you do it make him learn by long work the responsibilities attendant on the positions. Don't send him rolling to his work in a carriage with a coachman and a pair of horses, and don't let him get the idea that because he is the son of his father he is better than the son of some one else.

Another evil does this "soft snap" idea encourage. Discontent among our masses is on the increase. The earnest, intelligent, hard working young man, often of greater ability and just as often of greater moral character, than the "soft snapper," sees a chap put in his easy chair. He wonders if after all the natural laws are not asked and he becomes morose, dissatisfied and eventually dangerous. Whereas if he sees a young fellow working earnestly to fit himself for a position kept in waiting, he simply feels that that young man is working along the lines of honest endeavor, and if he succeeds in so fitting himself he deserves the position and is only the more fortunate. From all this it can be deduced that parents make a fatal mistake in going to the nearest furniture store and buying the good easy chairs, that so many do, for their boys to rest in.

The talk in Harrisburg is of a horizontal increase in taxation; but before that is made the legislature must not forget to make a horizontal cut in unnecessary expenses.

The circulation editors of certain of our esteemed contemporaries are clearly overlooking themselves.

Outlook for the Anthracite Trade

From the Philadelphia Press. The condition of the anthracite coal trade at this time is a matter of more than usual interest, as it reflects for the first time the results of the policy of those who have lately acquired full control of that trade. It is more than ten years since capitalists who had more or less interest in the production of anthracite coal and in the shares of the great carrying companies inaugurated a movement to purchase practically all the New Jersey Central, Reading and other companies, which latter proved to be a most tedious task. With the conclusion of the late arrangement with the Lehigh Valley company, the anthracite carriers passed into the control of the Morgan interest, and accord in the management of all the properties practically practically about. This step was necessary to the business of bringing order out of the chaos that had existed for years.

There was no difficulty after this was accomplished in agreeing upon a programme as to the conduct of the trade. All interests united in a tacit agreement—there were no writings and no meetings—to keep the production of coal down to the demands of consumers. For many years, while the producing companies were at odds competitively, coal had been taken out of the ground and sent to market without the slightest regard to the demands of consumers. In 1886 more than 46,000,000 tons were put on the market, and in 1888 some 2,500,000 tons less. In no other two years of the trade was the production so large, and it is not necessary to say that in the condition of manufactures and of the country at that time the output was far above consumption requirements. The result was demoralization, which culminated with the close of the full season last year.

Since the first of January there has been strict attention to the volume of the product of coal and it has been restricted to the wants of those who use it. The output has been at the rate of a little more than 2,500,000 tons per month, or about 15,000,000 tons for the last year. This restriction has been accomplished at some sacrifice to the producing and carrying interests. From the present point of view it was a necessary measure, as consumers never buy coal in the first half of the year, and the coal consumed during that period is that which is marketed in the previous year. No successful restrictive programme has before been put in force owing to the strong competition which existed between the carrying companies and the jealousy with which they guarded what they considered their long-suffering rights. A great deal was accomplished, therefore, when it was developed this year that all the interests were living up to their agreements at the expense of earnings for months. The restrictive process has been accompanied by economies, and it is somewhat remarkable that, though the companies have carried 2,500,000 tons less coal than in the same six months of 1896, their monthly reports in some instances show an increase in net earnings over last year, and no company shows any important loss.

The result is that from a producers' and transporters' point of view the anthracite business is in a better position for a profitable year's business than ever before. It is believed that the market will take 46,000,000 tons of coal at least in 1897, and this estimate seems reasonable, as it is more than 3,000,000 tons less than was actually mined and apparently marketed last year. If this is true there remains to be shipped at least 4,000,000 tons each month during the last half of the year. If there is some restriction on this amount in July and August, and if the usual light tonnage is allotted to December, the monthly output in the other months will be about equal to the capacity of the mines. In any event, all engaged in the anthracite trade have the promise of fuller work during the next six months than in any other similar period recently.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

From the Springfield Republican. Four years ago, at the time of the Chicago fair in celebration of the discovery of America, we Americans were very busy absorbing the realities of our own greatness. "Here we are," said all Americans, "the greatest of the world." It is the year of Queen Victoria's jubilee, or the imperial coronation of the royal lady's sixty years' reign; and the contemplation

of their progress made during the Victorian era is likewise absorbing the attention of British subjects. They, too, have reason to be proud. Their history and development are marvelous. Greater Britain today is probably the most powerful and efficient combination of forces, either in peace or war, the world has seen. In the Napoleonic wars England was the one power to whom more than any other the downfall of France was due; yet now her strength is tenfold greater. And not the least astonishing part of it is that to many minds the future of no other nation seems more stable and secure.

Why is the British empire today the most formidable factor in the world's equilibrium? Here is the thing: The English are going to celebrate. It is not the fact that their queen has worn the crown for sixty years, but that their nation has made such prodigious progress that excites them to these demonstrations. This progress, so far as it coincides with the last half century, has been peculiarly peculiar to Great Britain. Other nations have been developed wonderfully, but the progress of Great Britain has been more favorable than any other nation. She was already the center of mercantile exchanges and controlled the markets of the world. She emerged from the Napoleonic wars with an undisputed supremacy on the sea, and her isolated geographical position afforded her immunity from attack by land. Thus protected and thus girded for the race it was natural that the English should have been foremost during the sixty years that followed the coronation of the queen.

Great Britain's foremost place among the nations was won long before Victoria came to the throne. And how she won it is a most fascinating chapter of her history. Was it due to the overwhelming superiority of the insular Britisher as a man over the Spaniard, the Frenchman, the Dutchman, the Sicilian? Seeley in his "Expansion of England" lays bare the truth when he writes: "In one word, out of the five states which competed for the new world success has fallen to that one, England—not which showed at the outset the strongest vocation for colonization, not which surpassed the others in daring or invention or energy—but to that one which was least hampered by the old world." Again he writes: "And further we have ventured to doubt that the vastness of the empire necessarily proves some invincible herolism or supernatural genius for government in our nation. Undoubtedly, some facts may be adduced to show natural aptitude for colonization and a faculty of leadership in our race. But though there is much to admire in the history of Greater Britain, yet the pre-eminence of England in the new world was not won by sheer natural superiority. In the heroic age of maritime discovery we did not greatly shine. We did not show the genius of the Portuguese, and we did not produce a Columbus or a Magellan. When I examined the causes that enabled us after two centuries to surpass other nations in colonization I found that we had a broader basis and a securer position at home than Portugal or Holland, and that we were less involved in great European enterprises (wars, etc.) than France and Spain. In like manner when I inquired how we could conquer, and that with little trouble, the vast country of India, I found that after all we did it by means mainly of Indian troops to whom we imparted a skill which was not so much English as European, that the French and the Dutch discovered absolutely without impulse from the British Isles. As a colonizer England was not in the early days abreast with the French. The Dutch and the French explorers in North America were penetrating almost the heart of the continent before the English began settling on the Atlantic coast. The Dutch first settled New York and the French Canada. And so in India it was a daring Frenchman who first explored how to conquer, by employing and training native troops, and from him the English learned the secret.

Captain Mahan has shown that England finally won both America and India from France by superiority in sea power, as she had already overthrown the Dutch by the same weapon. That is very true, but why did England have superior sea power? Why has she nearly always had it since the Spanish armada? Professor Seeley answers the question. England's superiority in sea power has been her great rivals from the wars and complications of the continent and that freedom gave her additional strength on the sea. When France and other nations have had their energies absorbed by struggles on land they have been weakened at sea, while upon her navy England has been able to concentrate all her powers. Captain Mahan says that France should have looked across the sea for her empire rather than in Europe and should have built up her navy at the expense of her army; but situated as she was geographically it was perfectly natural that France should have shared the convulsions of the continent. The division of her strength between land and sea so weakened her in the latter that in all the great crises in contest with England French dominions over the ocean fell easily before English supremacy in naval warfare. So what does the greatness of the British empire finally rest upon? If we follow Professor Seeley and Captain Mahan it rests in the last analysis upon simple geography. A singular position brought sea power, sea power brought empire, and empire and sea power combined gave England an incomparable start when the world entered upon the wonderful material development of the nineteenth century, with which the Victorian era largely coincides. But in pointing out these truths we have no desire to disparage the genius of the English people or to underestimate their great energy. While favored with vast demonstration of greatness from a very early leadership—opportunities embraced to the full.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrologic Cast: 1:11 a. m., for Saturday, June 12, 1897.

A child born on this day will be of the opinion that it is about time the ice man had his industry. The anxiety to get something for nothing is so strong in some persons that they are willing to take the measles. Judging the world by the standard of one's own morality often makes a man blind to his neighbor's faults. If it were not for the Sunday newspaper, tomorrow might be indeed a day of rest. The world is wide but some of the people in it are very narrow.

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From the Springfield Republican. Four years ago, at the time of the Chicago fair in celebration of the discovery of America, we Americans were very busy absorbing the realities of our own greatness. "Here we are," said all Americans, "the greatest of the world." It is the year of Queen Victoria's jubilee, or the imperial coronation of the royal lady's sixty years' reign; and the contemplation

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