

The Scranton Tribune

By The Tribune Publishing Company. WILLIAM CONNELLEY, President. 24th York Representative. FRANK S. GRAY CO. Room 45, Tribune Building, New York City.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, JUNE 21, 1897.

The fact that the revolution in Cuba has injured our trade to the extent of nearly \$150,000,000 since it began, not to mention the \$100,000,000 of American investments in Cuba which it has greatly depreciated if not destroyed, is a substantial reason why even the commercial influence of the United States should be exerted in behalf of peace, and the way to have peace is to stop the war.

The Jubilee.

In the exercises of this week in London Americans will take a sympathetic interest. It is true that as a nation we have quite as many reasons to feel indifferent to England as we have for friendship. We owe no thanks to her that our life as an independent power has been spared. She tried twice to crush us by war and a third time sought to cripple us by the extension of aid to the forces of disunion. But we are not aware that the government of her majesty, Victoria, has ever met the government at Washington on a footing of fairness and disinterested amity; even in the negotiations prior to the signing of the Olney-Pauncefote treaty of arbitration the representative of Britain held out for terms detrimental to us.

Nevertheless the sentiment which pervades the masses in this country is not a sentiment of hostility to the English people, but rather one of admiration for their numerous good qualities coupled with a touch of distrust only where considerations of diplomacy are concerned. The American people recognize in the reign of Victoria an era of unparalleled development for the British empire, and also an embodiment of personal graces and social principles which they can applaud with unaffected sincerity. That 49,000,000 human beings situate in every clime should feel for their sovereign at the completion of her sixtieth year of rulership a depth of affection not due solely to throne or crown, but founded rather on personal admiration commingled with a broad sense of fairness and liberality; in administration, is a circumstance fit to appeal to human interest everywhere and calculated to outweigh whatever memory of defects the retrospect of her sovereignty may supply.

With all her faults, England is our mother. It was England which gave us the principles upon which our republic rests and it was very largely British brain and character which laid the foundations of American institutions. These are facts which can never be forgotten. They suffice to excuse any pride which Americans may take in the triumph of Anglo-Saxon enterprise, and to inspire in all of us a fervent wish for continued health and prosperity to the noble woman who now typifies the achievements of our kinsmen beyond the sea.

The international postage stamp is still a dream of the future, but like penny letter postage, it will ere long become a welcome reality.

An Unnecessary Delay.

The letter from Washington which we print elsewhere, and which cites tariff to prove that no other general tariff bill in the annals of American legislation was ever expedited so rapidly through congress as the Dingley bill is being pushed by the McKinley administration, ought to silence those critics who complain that the tariff debate is lagging. It is not lagging. It is breaking all records for speed. When we consider that the party which drafted this measure of industrial relief does not control the senate, in which body all the delay has occurred there remains absolutely no excuse whatever for fault-finding aimed at the responsible Republican leaders.

This leads up to a sensible comment in Saturday's issue of Leslie's Weekly, a comment which expresses precisely our own opinion on this subject. "Just after the election of last autumn," says that journal, "there was a silly effort made to persuade the people that the election of McKinley meant an immediate and permanent revival of business. We take satisfaction in recalling that we counseled against any false stimulation of hope, for we were persuaded that a 'boom' at that time would be a worse calamity than a 'boom' usually is—and a 'boom' is always fraught with danger. Seven months have gone by and this promised era of prosperity has unquestionably begun, but as there has not been a 'boom,' and as there is not likely to be one for some time to come, there are those who express much dissatisfaction. Some of these speak with wrath, some with despair, and some with despondency, and very many of them declare that McKinley and his administration are impotent to do what the country needs. And so in a great measure they are, for what the country needs more than anything else is to be let alone and be given at the same time some trustworthy assurance that this policy will be continued. Countries can be ruined by administrative methods and legislative enactments, just as a man can commit suicide by cutting his throat; but countries cannot be made rich and prosperous by presidents and congresses any more than a man can lift himself by his bootstraps.

"But it is surely necessary for us to have established rational tariff and currency laws. Every sane man knows this. Major McKinley, feeling the truth of it very keenly, called an extra session of congress, so that these laws might be passed as quickly as possible. It is most unfair, under these circumstances, to begin to condemn the McKinley administration already. The election of McKinley saved us from a most dangerous socialism, and the repudiation of sacred national obligations. Let us be content with what we have, and await with what patience we can summon the further revival of trade when congress shall have finished its labors and the members shall have gone home."

The principal objection originally raised to the third rail—that of danger to the public—has," says Col.onel Heft, "been a theoretical rather than a practical one, partly because the currents employed are not such as are dangerous to life or limb, partly because it is not easy to obtain a serious shock without special effort, and partly because the employees and the public have been carefully warned to respect our right of way. As a matter of fact, not a single accident, for which damages have been claimed, has occurred on the Nantasket beach third rail section."

If the general introduction of this system of short-distance transportation shall have the effect, if only for a time, to deter children from playing on the tracks and trying to steal rides on the cars, it will be justified. The third rail road will naturally rival the trolley only in populous adjacent communities which it is desirable to connect by means of through cars going at frequent intervals over an expensive roadbed and charging low fares. A service of this kind would resemble the elevated road service in the large cities; but there would still be ample business for the trolley roads in performing the duties of feeders and in attending to the distribution of the local traffic at the terminals of the third-rail road. Evidently the trolley will be with us for some time to come.

Down in Lebanon county they thought they had your Uncle Gobin beaten at the primaries, and celebrations were held accordingly; but when the new county committee met to perfect an organization we notice it was a Gobinite who walked off with the chairmanship.

Minister Woodford's Instructions.

The forecasts of administration policy presented by Walter Wellman have hitherto been so accurate that we are disposed to credit his version of the instructions which General Woodford has received for the guidance of his labors as minister to Spain. According to Mr. Wellman Minister Woodford "is to convince the Spanish statesmen that manifest destiny is working for the separation of Cuba from Spain; that this is so strong a movement that no power on earth can stay it; that the president himself is powerless to avert interference on the part of the United States. He is to impress upon the minds of the Madrid leaders that if they take their stand upon the continuance of Cuba as a full colony of Spain they will only invite sacrifice of pride, of the lives of their soldiers and of money, because the American people are determined that Cuba shall be free, and this determination amounts to a mandate which must be obeyed."

To be more specific, General Woodford, according to this authority, is instructed to impress upon the public mind at Madrid these three vital points: First, the United States is not actuated by any unfriendly feeling toward Spain. Second, the United States does not desire to take advantage of Spain's troubles with her colony to bring about the annexation of Cuba to this country. Third, but unless Spain will herself make a move toward meeting the inevitable, towards giving Cuba freedom, the United States will be compelled to interfere, and in the case of intervention annexation might naturally follow.

Such a programme would unquestionably meet with approval in the United States, but whether it can be successfully negotiated at Madrid without bloodshed or violence is another question. There can be no doubt that the opportunity before our new minister to the Spanish capital is a brilliant one, an opportunity for adroit diplomacy such as has not been presented in our foreign service in a number of years. Yet we are skeptical as to the prospect that this Cuban problem can be solved peacefully. In it are all the elements of tragedy.

Senator Teller says Bryan is the "logical leader for 1900." Senator Teller appears to be entirely willing to let defeated William have an encore.

An Admirable Idea.

There seems to be a substantial common sense in the suggestion of Senator Hoar that a commission of five be appointed to investigate the subject of sugar production, with a view to reducing the volume of our sugar imports. That a country with the natural resources of the United States should purchase from foreigners nearly \$170,000,000 worth of sugar each year, or about \$2 worth for every man, woman and child, is certainly inexcusable if by proper effort we can produce the supply or most of it at home.

The federal department of agriculture has performed a valuable service in collecting information about the beet sugar industry in other lands. The fruits of this research are now available without cost to all who care to apply to the department. Such an inquiry was necessarily limited. A commission, if composed of the right material, could go over this ground much more thoroughly and bring in a report covering every phase of the sugar industry. Such a report would be of incalculable value.

Another thing could be done by a commission of this character which needs to be done, and that soon. The commission could make a systematic, impartial and thorough investigation of the alleged corrupt participation of the sugar trust in politics and legislation, and ascertain if it really is true that the trust is more influential with certain senators of the United States than are the people who elect them. This is a field of investigation which the senate itself seems disposed to shirk, but it obviously is one which calls for attention.

Commissions as a rule are superfluous luxuries, but a sugar commission could be appointed so as to constitute a brilliant exception.

Japan should not permit her self-appreciation to expand faster than the facts warrant. Above all, she should take care not to monkey with the Hawaiian buzz saw.

Third Rails and Trolleys.

The conveyance of electricity for motive purposes by means of a third rail placed midway between the rails upon which the cars run, has, as most of our readers know, been converted from a dream into a fact. The New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad is now running cars by electricity between Hartford and New Britain, a distance of ten miles, by means of a third-rail road. This road is a continuation of an experiment first brought to a successful issue at Nantasket beach. The ten mile run is made without stops in fifteen minutes, whereas it takes the frequently stopping trolley car nearly fifty minutes to cover the same distance.

Colonel Heft, chief of the electrical department of this company, has been comparing the two systems of power transmission very carefully and closely, and he unhesitatingly pronounces the third-rail plan superior. In the overhead system there is a considerable waste of power and a large repair expense, caused by the continual burning out of trolley wheels and other apparatus. But no such waste or repair cost attends the third-rail system.

The principal objection originally raised to the third rail—that of danger to the public—has," says Colonel Heft, "been a theoretical rather than a practical one, partly because the currents employed are not such as are dangerous to life or limb, partly because it is not easy to obtain a serious shock without special effort, and partly because the employees and the public have been carefully warned to respect our right of way. As a matter of fact, not a single accident, for which damages have been claimed, has occurred on the Nantasket beach third rail section."

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The Debs Programme.

The platform of the Social Democracy of America, Eugene V. Debs' latest contribution, "inaugurates the universal brotherhood of man," calls for: First—The public ownership of all railroads, telegraph, telephones and means of transportation, communication, water-works, gas, electric plants and all other utilities. Second—The public ownership of all gold, silver, copper, lead, coal, iron and all other mines; also all oil and gas wells. Third—Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production. Fourth—The undertaking of public works and improvement for the employment of the unemployed, the public credit to be utilized for that purpose. Fifth—All useful inventions to be free to all, the inventor to be remunerated by the public. Sixth—The establishment of postal savings banks. Seventh—The adoption of the initiative and referendum, the imperative mandate and the proportional representation.

The public understands each of these articles of creed save the "imperative mandate." Does that mean that what Debs says must go?

That Great Britain has the best diplomatic and consular services in the world is not only because she declines to change the personnel of it every four years, but because she also pays for it on a scale sufficient to sustain the best service. It is pointed out, for example, that in China her expenses in this direction are from eight to ten times as much as are those of the United States, and a similar ratio obtains in most other countries. The British embassy at Peking costs \$224,070 a year; our \$29,425. England, in these matters, does not save at the spitgot only to waste at the bung-hole.

Memorable Reign of Queen Victoria

From the Philadelphia Press. It is a memorable event, and quite unparalleled, when a sovereign, and particularly a woman sovereign, completes and crowns three score years of unbroken rule on the throne of a great power, and finds herself on that unprecedented jubilee still in the possession of her faculties, blessed with the ever-increasing love and devotion of a mighty people and with the reverent homage and veneration of the whole world. When we remember that her scepter extends over 375,000,000 people, occupying 10,785,000 square miles, or one-fifth of all the surface of the globe, this event is all the more worthy of commemoration.

A fact not less noteworthy is the growth which has characterized these sixty years. The territory covered by the British flag and the population protected by the sword of her majesty have increased in like measure. But mere material magnitude does not measure true greatness. There has been equal growth in the spiritual realm. Education has been promoted, restrictions have been removed, knowledge has become universal and the world has gradually grown up a literature not less substantial than the material. Science has been constantly achieving the impossible, has been perpetually distancing itself, and the progress of science has been substantial to the happiness of human happiness. The triumphs of medicine and of surgery would alone enable this reign to pre-eminence. The discovery of anaesthetics and the introduction of antiseptic treatment have revolutionized surgery, have relieved mankind of innumerable tortures and have effected the saving of numberless lives. The pauper, the tramp, the convict of today has such treatment as the crowned ruler of sixty years ago did not enjoy, and did not even conceive.

The moral growth has kept pace with the intellectual. Before the queen's accession immorality reigned in the high places and could plead the countenance of those who sat upon the throne and who were legally the head of the national church, in whom lay the appointment of the high religious officers. No sooner had William IV ascended the throne than he made it his first business to provide places and titles for his ten illegitimate children, the oldest of whom was made an earl. The general advance of morality among those of elevated station has been great. The most prominent Englishman has been a Puritan in his private and domestic life.

The laws were hideous in their oppressiveness. Thousands of debtors were confined side by side with malefactors. In the year preceding the queen's accession a lad was sentenced to death for breaking the window of a confectioner's shop and stealing some candy (though we believe the sentence was not executed). The laws have been mitigated, the number of capital crimes has been reduced to one, and imprisonment, while not serving to pamper the criminal, is yet conducted with a view to his reformation. The organization of working people, which was forbidden, is now fostered. Strikes are averted, or are closed by arbitration. The hours of labor for women and children are abridged and the law demands that the employed in mills and in mines every possible provision for safety, comfort and for modesty. The Earl of Shaftesbury was the good genius of the

pit-women, the costermongers and the ragged children.

Liberty, that was thought dangerous, has been proved to be a pillar of safety. The one constitutional country in Europe has stood erect while others were rocked with revolution. The nation across the channel has undergone two, or perhaps we should say three, revolutions during the reign of the queen, and these its exiled rulers have sought refuge in the island empire, which has patriots and liberals of France and Italy and Austria and Germany and Russia, and, unless reports be very misleading, the occupants of thrones have wisely anticipated a stormy day by investing their wealth in London and by making the Bank of England the guardian of their treasures. Well might Macaulay write in 1848, while Europe was rocked by revolution: "Europe has had liberty where these nations had despotism, therefore we have quiet while they have disorder."

And the queen's reign has been characterized by the growth not only of justice but of mercy. Philanthropy has grown perceptibly more tender of heart, larger and more far-reaching in its aims. The world has not become perfect, but the crimes that were committed without a second thought at an instant of nunciation from press and pulpit and platform, missions to the ignorant and suffering at home, to the people of White-chapel and to the Indian and Chinese with missions in India, Africa and in the islands of the sea; two bishops of the national church have received the crown of martyrdom at the hands of those whom they sought to benefit.

Of course, much of this progress has been independent of the ruler, while, however, it cannot be forgotten that it was the personal character of the queen's greatness, his job-headed obstinacy, which was greatly the agent in depriving Great Britain of her most flourishing colonies, which have now become a nation of 25,000,000. But not a little of what has been achieved has been the result of the queen's personality. Her sex and her youth created a sympathy of loyal charity, to which, no doubt, the throne owes something of its stability. That she a woman, proved herself one of the best sovereigns that England has ever had, gave a great impulse to the elevation of women all the world over. When it was urged by frugally endowed conservatives that women could not be trusted with responsibility, that they were the votaries of fashion, satisfied with a doll and a ribbon, the one sufficient reply was—Victoria a woman of noble and daily with the mighty tasks laid upon her with conscientious fidelity, and whose head was clear and whose heart was right, even when veteran statesmen blundered.

Both America and England have occasion to mention her name with gratitude because of the influence which she and her husband, the good prince, exerted at a most critical moment in averting war between the two great English-speaking nations, a war which would have been the calamity of the centuries and which would have turned back the shadows upon the dial of waste human progress, no one can say how many degrees.

The empire has passed through many crises, affecting foreign relations and internal policy. The repeal of the corn laws was of the nature of a peaceful revolution; the industrial revolution of Great Britain with the loss of the larger half of her empire; the civil war in America, with the cotton famine, brought great suffering to millions in England; but the empire has been unshaken, largely because the queen had the wisdom to choose good advisers, and especially the man who so loyally and affectionately stood by her side, husband and counselor, for twenty-one years. The domestic life of Great Britain and of all the English-speaking people owes a great deal to the queen, the mother of nine children. Immorality has ever felt itself under the crown of the pure matron monarch. In elevation of character, in weight of judgment, in personal influence as in extended experience, she must be regarded as the premier among the rulers of Europe. History will not fail to reckon the years of her reign as the golden age of Great Britain.

WORTH A DOZEN SHIPS.

From the Philadelphia Press. Of all the arguments against the annexation of Hawaii that that asserts that consequent upon the annexation we shall have to develop a great Pacific fleet is perhaps the silliest. With Hawaii we shall have an outpost that first must be taken before San Francisco can be attacked. Without it, the attack on our Pacific ports will be direct and all the more formidable since the enemy will have Hawaii as a base of supplies. If we are to be the anti-annexationists, we must assert so glibly, although but recently they assured every one that war was merely a fancy of jingoism, we need Hawaii as a base of supplies for our navy as a dozen battleships. As an economic naval programme Hawaiian annexation means a saving of millions for defense.

RESTRAIN THE TRUSTS.

From the Washington Star. Congress should take some action with regard to trusts. The combinations should be put in restraint and made to conform to methods in harmony with the general welfare. Precisely how far it is possible for congress to go, and not interfere with the legitimate rights of capital, is a nice question. The country is not asking for the perpetuation of capital, or for the restraining of men of business enterprise and genius from any legitimate exercise of their gifts. Such gifts, when properly employed, develop a country and rank among its safeguards. But when they are employed to enslave the people and corrupt the currents of legislation, steps should be taken to correct the evil.

THE GENERAL JUDGMENT.

From the Times-Herald. The people of this country will give a hearty welcome to the territory of Hawaii, soon, we hope, to be a state of the Union. It brings new wealth and power to us, and we in return extend to it the blessings of free and stable government. The heart of every true American will beat with pride at the thought of the flag flying, not for an hour or a day, but forever above the white buildings of beautiful Honolulu.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast 128 a. m., for Monday, June 21, 1897.

In the opinion of a child born on this day Captain Morris will have a very large contract to fulfill in writing political editorials calculated to please the three new proprietors of the Sunday World.

The Philadelphia Press demonstrated that Queen Victoria is not blind. She is simply "out of sight."

This will be the longest day of the year to all ex-convicts who are obliged to work evenings.

Ajacchus' Advice. It is not always well to act the part of oppressor. A stick of dynamite is harmless until jumped upon.

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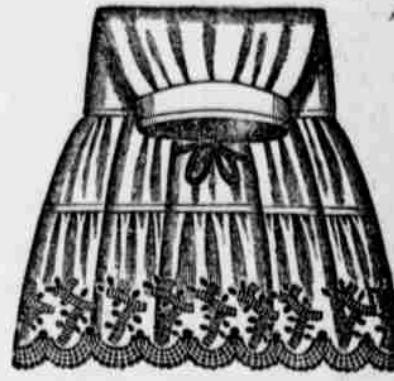
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