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SCRANTON, JUNE 24, 1897.

The quickest way to settle this cruel newspaper war is for each contestant to admit what everybody already knows, that he has just been bluffing, and that it is The Tribune which leads the procession.

Our Allen Tax Law.

The bill to impose a tax of three cents a day on every alien employed in Pennsylvania, the tax to be subtracted by the employer from the alien's wages, which recently became a law in this state, is expected to add several hundred thousand dollars annually to the revenues of the various counties, ist how much cannot be estimated. enforced in Lackawanna county it ought to constitute a profitable source of income, as the average number of aliens employed within this county's borders has for some years been comparatively large.

In support of this new law it is urged that large numbers of aliens have come into the state and taken work at lower wages than natives were willing to accept; lower, in fact, than would feed the family of an American laborer; that such aliens have had the advantages of public institutions, including free schools and free text-books for their children-and all this without contributing a cent to lighten the burden of taxation. Being destitute of taxable property, and not intending to become citizens, there has been no way by which they could be deprived of their dead-head privilege and made to bear a portion of the cost of maintaining the government, whose benefits they shared equally with the taxed natives | age, and it stands to reason that if he and adopted citizens. It is further suggested that, if these aliens wish to rid themselves of this peculiar tax, they can exchange it for ordinary taxation by ceasing to be aliens.

"It must be admitted," says the Washington Post, "that there is some reason in the demand that the native and adopted citizens should not carry the whole load of taxation in communities where there are large numbers of aliens who are unwilling to give up their foreign allegiance, and who underbid the native and adopted laborers when they apply for employment. It is not strange that this state of things has occasioned dissatisfaction and complaint. When a state gives an equal chance with natives to all immigrants who want to become citizens, it can scarcely be accused of prejudice against foreigners. Our laws ought not to offer a premium for the kind of aliens to whom this new statute applies. But can a state afford to offer special inducements to such material to apply for naturalization papers and become voting citizens?"

The state cannot afford to lower the bars in order to facilitate naturalization; but if in consequence of the allen tax law there shall be increased effort on the part of aliens to qualify themselves for naturalization, the result will certainly be advantageous. The operation of this new experiment in taxation will be studied with interest.

Judging from the proceedings at Toledo there's nothing the matter with Hanna.

The Case for Hawaiian Annexation.

Frederick W. Seward, son of the late William H. Seward, and chief assistant of his illustrious father when the latter was Lincoln's secretary of state, has written to the New York Tribune a letter on the Hawaiian question which should be read by every opponent of annexation. It is so plain and clear, and it bears such historic indorsement as representing the views of the greatest American diplomatist of modern times that we reproduce it herewith.

"At last," writes Mr. Seward, "we are brought face to face with the question whether we will take the Hawaiian islands into the United States or will let them drift into the embrace of some other power. Hitherto we have been content to say that we preferred to let the Hawalians govern themselves independently. But they no longer wish to do so and in all probability they might soon find it impossible, even if they did wish it. There are certainly three, and probably four, great powers any one of whom would gladly accept the responsibilities that we seem to be afraid of. England, France, Germany and Japan, any one of these would cheerfully take the islands if we don't want them. We may inveigh, if we chose, against their "thirst for dominion," or their

'greed for territory.' But the truth is that each of those four nations is a great and growing power. Now, every great and growing power needs space to grow and be great in. It seems to them entirely natural and reasonable to go on extending their commerce, increasing their revenues, strengthening their defenses, and finding a foothold for their emigrants by planting their flag in new fields of

"All of these powers are our friends. No one of them is our enemy, or even wants to be. They recognize that we have a prior claim, because the islands are geographically nearer to us and are linked to us by ties commercial, political and religious more closely than to any of them. So the annexation of the islands to the United States would be acquiesced in, and when once accomplished no one would dream of contesting our rights there any more than in the Aleutian islands, or in Key West, or Nantucket. or Block island. During past years we have taken pains to notify them all that we should consider it an unfriendly act for them to interfere with Hawait. They have respected our pro-

test because they were friendly and because they recognized our prior claim. But if we formally renounce that prior ourselves, we cannot go on forever in saying that nobody else shall have them. It is recorded of the original' dog in the manger' that he kept the cattle at bay for quite a while, but ultimately he found his position un-

terable. So would our's be. "The Hawalians themselves would probably take this view of it. They want to be annexed to the United States, but if we forbid and refuse them they will be reduced to the alternative of deciding whether to maintain a feeble little state, exposed to aggression from abroad and revolution within, or to become an integral part of some great empire which can protect their shores, their resources, maintain their peace and increase their wealth. Which horn of the dilemma would they be likely to choose?

Whenever it is proposed to add anything to the United States there rises a cloud of visionary dangers, conjured up by the imagination of timid writers and statesmen. Like gibbering phantoms, with uplifted finger and shaking head, they warn us to beware of the expense, to beware of the distance, to beware of the climate and soil, to beware of incongruous elements of population, to beware of war and pestilence, of cyclones, icebergs and volcanoes! Those direful threats are mouthed at us so long as the annexation is under discussion. As soon as it is actually made the mocking phantoms one and all sink back into their graves and are never heard of more. Then it turns out that, every addition to our territory,instead of entailing expense, has brought wealth; instead of bulwark of strength: instead of bringing war has established peace. It was so with the Louisiana territory. It was so with Florida. It was so with Alaska, And so it will be with Ha-

The gravamen of Japan's grievance in the Hawalian annexation matter appears to be that Japan was not consulted. Well, she knows of it now.

Victoria and Abdication.

Rumor is busy with the report that Queen Victoria contemplates an early abdication in favor of the Prince of Wales. Wales is already 56 years of doesn't soon get the crown upon his head it will be too late. Only one sovereign in Europe, the King of Denmark, is much older than Wales, and the great majority of them are considerably his juniors. He has come as near to the years of discretion as he is likely ever to come, and if the good Queen wants to see her eldest son seated on the throne of his fathers now is the time to have the deed done It is probable that out of deference

to the mother, the English people would make no great protest against the accession of Wales under these circumstances; but it is by no means assured that they would be so complacent after Victoria's death. The fact of the matter is that the average of English moral sentiment has progressed very materially since it tolerated the innumerable debaucheries of George IV and passed over unchallenged the the legislature unaltered, these instituflaunting by William IV of notorious women at the social functions of the palace. When we remember that it ablest Irish parliamentarian of our time for a fault which is but as a fly-speck compared with the gross iniquities which blacken the record of the present English heir-apparent, it becomes clear that if Wales hopes to run the gauntlet to the throne, he had better do so while his venerated mother is alive to ward off some of the blows. Otherwise, he may reach the kingly chair in a sadly demoralized condition. if, indeed, he reaches it at all.

We do not think that this sentimental gush and clatter over the queen's jubilee has wrought much of a set-back to the democratic spirit in England. It may have, but we doubt

it. The chances are that after Victoria passes away the sturdy common sense of the British masses will proceed to tighten the reins on the heavilypensioned princelings of the royal family who spend the money of the people in idle vanity if not in social crimes. The prevailing respect for Victoria causes these masses to overlook much out of deference to her; but will this forbearance endure after Albert Edward is king? One thing in our opinion is absolutely assured. The future kings and queens of England will have to come up to Victoria's moral standard or else they will speedily find themselves deprived of their soft jobs.

At the instance of Senator Magee the Pennsylvania senate has tabled the whole subject of libel reform. We trust that Mr. Magee's experience as owner of two Pittsburg newspapers will not hereafter cause him to regret this step.

What Will the Banks Say?

John R. Dos Passos, of New York, has issued a pamphlet from a synopsis of his proposed American Credit Foncier, which explains one or two points not previously made clear. For example, he proposes to adopt the "amortization" or sinking fund principle which has been successfully applied in Germany and France. That principle is this: That the borrower is never called upon, unless by his own election, to pay the principal of his loan as a whole, at any one time, but by paying a small sum, each year, in addition to his interest, he establishes a fund, which ultimately wipes out the principal and sat-

isfies the debt. For illustration, a man owns a lot worth \$2,000 and wishes to make certain improvements. He goes to the Dos Passos Mortgage and Loan company ans asks for an appraisal of the property. The company sends experts to inquire into its value, and if they report that upon a conservative basis the lot is really worth \$2,000 the owner of the lot can borrow \$1,000 with the lot as security. The company will lend him this money for an interest charge of about \$46.50 per annum. In addition he will pay annually to it \$2.80 into the sinking fund, which applies to the liquidation on te principal of his lean; \$2.50 into the expense account, which pays the company's salaries, etc., and \$3.20 into an extra reserve fund for contingent losses, making a total yearly payment | cle

of \$55.00, or less then the 6 per cent interest now charged by the banks, and this payment. Mr. Dos Passos estimclaim by refusing to take the islands ates, will in fifty-five years clear off the entire debt.

> That is how the plan would affect the borrower, according to its author, but how will the company itself fare? Mr. Dos Passos is confident that it, too, can derive benefit from the transaction, He estimates that on the paid-in capital of the concern a profit of 5 per cent, can be realized through ordinary banking operations; while on the loans a profit of one per cent, is assured in this way: When a loan is made a bond is issued based on the land mortgage as security and bearing 3.65 per cent interest. The borrower, however, pays 4.65 per cent. interest for the use of the money; the tion of the party, and we think it is endifference is the company's profit. On titled to a representative in congress once in a while at least. Mr. Robbins' nominal profits a second of the party. the asumption that the company's leans will amount to four times its capital this arrangement pays a 6 per cent. dividend on the capital and also allows for a 3 per cent. reserve fund to be held for emergencies.

All this looks very simple in theory. but the pertinent inquiry which Mr. Dos Passos appears to have overlooked is, What will the banks do? Does he suppose that they would permit an enterprise such as he has outlined to take from them their real estate loan business, as it surely would do if conducted on the foregoing lines? Inasmuch as the banks now average 6 per cent. interest on this business, it is exceedingly improbable that they would sit passive while Mr. Dos Passos and his colleagues undertook to step in and do the same business at an interest rate of 4.65 per cent.

The election of Congressman Burleigh in Maine by the customary plua source of weakness has proved a rallty of 8,000 or so doesn't offer encouragement to the theory that there has been a revulsion in sentiment since last November. That theory, like many of the Bryan hypotheses, consists wholly of wind.

England's War Record. Speaking of the arbitration with Eng-

land, the following record of Victorian wars would seem to show that England needs to practice arbitration a while before she will be fit to travel in our class: Afghan war, 1830-40; first China war, 1841; Sikh war, 1845-6; Kaffir, 1846; second war with China, second Afghan war, 1849; second Sikh war, 1848-9; Burmese war, 1850; second Kaffir war, 1851-2; second Burmese war, 1852-3; Crimea, 1854; third war with China, 1856-8; Indian mutiny, 1857; Maori war, 1860-61; more war with China, 1860 and 1862; war at Bhootan, 1864; Abyssinian war, 1867-68; war with Bazotees, 1868; third Maori war, 1868-9; war with Looshais, 1871; second Ashanti war, 1873-4; third Kaffir war, 1877; Zulu war, 1878-9; third Afghan war, 1878-80; war in Basutoland, 1879-81; Transvaal war, 1879-81; Egyptian war, 1882, Soudan, 1884-5-9; third Burmese war, 1885-92; Zanzibar, 1890; India, 1890; Matabele wars, 1894 and 1896; Chitral campaign, 1895; third Ashanti campaign, 1896; second Soudan campaign, 1896.

In the last two years, Lackawanna hospital received from the state \$25,000; the West Side hospital, \$4,000, and the Carbondale hospital \$12,000. If the bills reported yesterday at Harrisburg pass tions will receive in the next two years \$30,000, \$7,000 and \$10,000 respectively-a gain to the county of \$9,000. The needs drove into retirement and to death the of each institution call for a much larger sum, but in view of the scarcity of revenue it is doubtful if these allowances can be increased.

Gossip at the Capital

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, June 23. Washington, June 23.

From present indications Representative E. E. Robbins, of the Twenty-first Pennsylvania district, is not going to have a walkover for a renomination. He will be a candidate to succeed himself, but there will be others. The Twenty-first is rather a peculiar district. It doesn't always give its representative in congress a second term as many other districts in

second term as many other districts " the state are in the habit of doing. Repre-sentative Heiner, who was honored with two terms, was the exception to the rule. His predecessor, Hon. George F. Huff, of Westmoreland, was turned down for a renomination at the cicse of his first term. So was his predecessor, Hon. Alexander K. Craig, of Jefferson, who was the first representative from that district as it is now constructed. There are now four countles in that district—Indiana, Jefferson, Armstrong and Westmoreland. The latter county was for many years in the district composed of Fayette, Greene and Westmoreland. The other three counties were in what was then known as the Twenty-fifth district, composed of indiana, Jefferson, Armstrong, Clarion and Forest counties. Indiana was then the favored county, as it contained more Republican votes than any other county in the district. In those days, however, the Republican nomination did not mean elecon, as it does now, in both districts. The emocratic nominees were just as often lected in those districts as were the Republican candidates. In fact the district (the old Twenty-fourth) in which Westmoreland was then located, was for many years Democratic. The other (the old Twenty-fifth) district was always a close

After 1876, when General Harry White (now Judge White, of Indiana), was last elected, the old Twenty-fifth district did not send a Republican to congress until it was divided between the present Twenty-first and Twenty-eighth districts. General White was first elected to con-gress in 1872. In 1874 he was again the Re-publican noming, but was defeated by Hon. George H. Jenks, Democrat, of Jer-ferson county. ferson county. Again, in 1878, General White was the Republican standard bear-er, but he was defeated by Hon. James A. Mosgrove, of Armstrong, the Greenback candidate. In that year there was a three-cornered fight. James M. Guffey, the Pittsburg oil operator, was the Dem-ocratic candidate. He then resided in Clarion county. The Greenback craze was then in the senith of its glory in Western Pennsylvania, and their candidate, Mr. Mosgrove, was elected. In 1880, however, the Republicans regained the district by electing Hon. A. C. White, of Jefferson. In the following congressional campaign, in 1882, the Democrats, assisted by the remnant of the old Greenback party, re-captured the district and elected John D. Patton, of Inciana. Mr. Patton had, un-til 1880, when he voted for General Hancock for president, been a Republican. In 1884 and 1886 the Republicans were victo-rious. In the latter year they elected James D. Moffett, of Clarion.

The legislature of 1887 redistricted the state. Since then the old Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth districts have been Republican. The Twenty-eighth district, into which were thrown Clarion and Forest counties, which were formarly parts of the old Twenty-fifth, has alternated between the two old parties-first, in 1886, election than Fratton, Republican, of

Clearfield; in 1888 electing James Kerr, Democrat, of the same county, and in 1890 and 1892 electing George F. Kribbs, Demo-crat of Clarion. In 1894 and 1896 the Re-publicans elected their candidate, Hon. W. C. Arnold. Since the formation of the new Twenty-first district Indiana county has not been honored with a Republican nominee, although it has always had a candidate at the conferences. Next year, however, it will insist upon being recog-nized, and will go into the conference with the full determination of having its candidate nominated.

"Our county was juggled out of the nomination last year," said a leading Re-publican from Indiana who was here this week, "and we do not propose to subm! to the domination of Armstrong and West-moreland any longer. We will present a good man to the conference, and we will use our best efforts to have him nomin-ated. Indiana county has never wav-ered in Republicanism since the formanation last year was the result of a deal between Congressman Heiner, of Arm-strong, who was a candidate for a third term, and the friends of the present representative. When Heiner found that he could not get the votes of Jefferson an Indiana he withdrew in favor of Rob-bins with the understanding that the lat-ter and his friends would support him for United States attorney for the western district. The Indiana conferrees then voted for Robbins under the promise that he would not be a candidate for renomi-nation, and that he would see that West-moreland would vote for our candidate in 1898. From what I can learn, however Mr. Robbins has forgotten that promis and intends to be a candidate for renom ination. Well," concluded this gentle man, "we will see about that later. More than one can play at the same game. Judging from the reports throughout the district, especially from Westmoreland, Mr. Robbins' home county, he will have his hands full in capturing the delegates from that county to the next district con-ference. You can say that Indiana wil have a candidate next year and a good strong one, too."

The last Cleveland administration was noted for its heartlessness. One of its first acts was to turn out of the pension office Miss Elizabeth Harwood Key, a granddaughter of Francis Scott Key, the author of "The Star Spangled Banner. Miss Key had been an employe of that de-partment for many years, had grown old in the service and was unfitted for any other form of work. She was the only support of her aged and infirm mother, Miss Key was unable to secure suitable employment, and until a few days ago she and her mother were dependent upon the charity of their friends. She now has employment in the agricultural depart-

A statue of General Logan will be erected in Iowa Circle, this city, in October. The bronze pedestal is to be im-ported, and is a fac-simile of one Mrs. Logan saw abroad and admired. It is to be placed upon a mound which is to be grassed over, and will be unlike anything n this country.

Lieutenant Peary, of the navy, who has been granted five years' leave of ab-sence to prosecute scientific investigations in the Arctic regions, is now on a visit to this city with Mrs. Peary and daughter preparatory to his visit to the frozen north. According to his present plans he will leave Boston July 10 for Newfound-land, where he will make arrangements for a vessel to carry him and his party as far as Whale Sound.

far as Whale Sound.

Lieutenant Peary is confident of being able to reach the goal of his efforts this time. He intends to establish a base of supplies in the neighborhood of Independence bay. He will buy a vessel and load it with concentrated provisions. The crew will be the smallest which can work the ship, and every effort will be made to have the expedition as compactly equipped. have the expedition as compactly equipped as possible. The expedition will proceed to Robinson channel and Sherarrd Osborne fjord. From there, when the ice is firm, the sup-

plies will be carried forward in sleds and buried along the route, in reserve for their return. Lieutenant Peary's plan is amilies with him. They will establish villages along the way, twenty miles Lieutenant Peary expects to reach the eighty-fifth parallel with comparative lit

tle difficulty. Then he will make a final attempt to reach the north pole. In case of fallure there will be a retreat and another attempt made the following year. He has had scores of applications from men and women who desire to accompany the expedition.

There is much speculation as to when congress will adjourn. Gusses vary from July 6 to August 1. There are still others who believe it will be nearer September than August 1 when the gavels in both hou is will fall.

The compressed air motor for propelling street cars doesn't yet seem to have reached that perfection which insures its success. On Monday a car on a local street rallway became unmanageable and ran away. As a result a car hauled by horses and the air car were badly wrecked. One pasenger was injured. The motorman and conductor escaped by jumping off the runaway car. The officials of the Air Motor company claim the grease on the tracks or something else other than their invention was responsible for the accident. The badly frightened passengers are of the opinion that the underground electric and cable systems are much safer roads on which !

RETURN TO THE DINGLEY BILL

From the Washington Star. Two gccd reasons exist for returning to the original Dingley bill. (1) It was framed with care, and it passed the house precisely as framed. No patchwork was necessary. The ways and means committee was not rebuked by the Re-publican majority of the house. It was not obliged to change its work in any essential feature. (2) It is possible to tell how much money can be raised with it, and experts declare that it will prove en tirely satisfactory on that score. Here, then, is ample justification for letting the senate's lasty and irregular work slide, once conference has been reached, and re-turning to work which bears the stamp of care. consistency and order. The Dingley bill redeems the Republican par-ty's pledge to the people, and insures the government all the money it needs for its comfortable support. Let us have the Dingley bill, or a bill very much like it, as the final result. The sugar trust will object, but the people will like it and in-

OUR MODERN TORIES.

From the New York Sun. The jublice of Queen Victoria has afforded Englishmen occasion for the great-est jingo demonstration in all English history; but the Mugwumps and the other pusillanimous sorts hereabouts who ob-ject to Jingoism exclude the English va-riety from their animadversion. English jingoism is all right in their eyes, only the jingoism which expresses American pride and manliness meets with their disfavor. Except for that American jingo-ism, the jubilee at London yesterday would have been more jubilant still. The national American spirit that grates so harshly on emasculated Mugwumpery as intolerable jingoism deprived England of the opportunity of celebrating British do-minion extending over the American con-tinent. In the days when that jingoism mpelled the An erican colonies to cast off English domination. Mugwumps were called Tories, and the jingoism to which the breed then opposed their cowardice and treachery was known as patriotism.

AS GOOD AS IT HAS EVER HAD.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. Scranton has its new postmaster, and his name is Exra H. Ripple, a man who will give that city as good administration in its postal service as it has ever had. He is a thorough business man and will conduct the affairs of his office on a of | square business basis.



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