

The Scranton Tribune

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The chances are that if the legislative junketeers had to do their "investigating" on the own account, they would do it at one-fifth of the expense which they unblushingly propose to saddle upon the state.

Some Expense Accounts.

The publication of the expense accounts of the various legislative junketeers authorized by the present Pennsylvania legislature makes interesting reading. For "investigating" the Eastern penitentiary a committee of eight members, including Representative Farr, wants just a few dollars short of \$15,000.

For investigating the capitol fire a bill of \$1,700 is presented; to "probe" the state treasurer's and auditor general's departments cost almost \$2,000; to find out how many of our jail birds are alienated necessitated a bill of costs of \$1,900; for the "oleo" probes a bill of expense amounting to \$7,000 was prepared, but at the last moment two of the eight members concerned in that enterprise declined to take mileage from the state in view of the fact that they traveled on passes, and thus the total was somewhat reduced; and to carry the legislature to New York to the Grant monument dedication took \$11,000.

But the worst item in the list is yet to come. The two committees which "investigated" the mining regions of the state want in round numbers \$12,000 apiece—for what? We have before us the report of the committee which patrolled the anthracite counties. In addition to a mass of familiar figures which could have been collected by any good mining authority in about half a day at a cost of not to exceed \$25, the report offers six recommendations, and the legislature is asked to value them at \$2,000 apiece. They are: First, to abolish company stores; second, to do away with store orders; third, to enact a new compulsory semi-monthly pay law; fourth, to appoint a state board of nine examiners; fifth, to enable the courts upon petition to appoint inspectors of coal; and sixth, to restrict immigration. Is there one of these propositions that is not misdeeded with long urging?

Charities are to be cut, public education crippled and needed improvements of state institutions suspended, but the junketeer must have his "pap," though the heavens fall.

We were told during the "Lexowing" of Philadelphia that there were numerous private citizens anxious for the privilege of paying the Andrews committee's expenses. Now is a good time for them to step to the front.

Initiative and Referendum.

At a special election soon to be held in Omaha an interesting question will be submitted to a popular vote. The last Nebraska legislature passed a law authorizing voters in cities and towns to adopt at their option the initiative and referendum. If Omaha by a two-thirds vote shall adopt these two principles the effect will be as follows: Fifteen per cent. of the voters of Omaha may thereafter by petition propose ordinances, and twenty per cent. of the voters may compel the city government to submit proposed ordinances to a vote of the people. For the referendum it is provided that ordinances passed by the city council shall not go into effect for thirty days, and if in the meantime five per cent. of the voters petition for the submission of an ordinance to popular vote the same shall be submitted, and must be approved by a majority to come into effect. If ten per cent. of the voters petition, then the ordinance shall be submitted at a special election held within twenty days. Ordinances relating to the immediate preservation of the public peace and health, and items of appropriations for current expenses not in excess of those made the previous year, are excepted from the referendum rule.

The effect of an arrangement of this character, it is obvious, would depend largely upon the interest taken by the people generally in municipal affairs. If they were indifferent, their government would reflect it just as at present; and if they were vigilant, the proposed submission of separate questions to popular vote would be rendered almost unnecessary by the trustworthy character of the men who would in that event be elected to municipal office. So that in either case the experiment appears well-nigh superfluous and would also be likely to prove, for a time, confusing, and all the time expensive.

It is possible, however, that upon rare occasions, as, for example, when a valuable franchise is to be disposed of, it would be worth while to the public to have the privilege of the referendum. The people, to be sure, deserve little sympathy if they don't try to elect honest and conscientious men to councils; but in communities where the controlling votes in councils for one reason or another is held by one or two large corporations through the medium of employees elected to that body, under control from the management, it might upon the whole, straighten things out a little if it were known that a majority of the common people, voting by secret ballot, could, when they chose, check a councilman's "fix-up" or squelch a corporation "grab." For these reasons the proposition would seem to warrant an experimental trial.

But the greatest thing, after all, is public sentiment, and that that is im-

proved hopes based on changes in methods of government will be doomed to disappointment.

The opponents of Hawaiian annexation have fabricated another scare crow in the report that Japan has flatly and peremptorily warned us off. As a matter of fact, Japan has done nothing of the kind, but if she had it would certainly not cause us to abandon Hawaii to Japanese control. The president who should permit this key to the Pacific to fall into the hands of possible enemies of the United States would go out of office a worse exorcised man than Benedict Arnold, and his offence would have fewer extenuating circumstances than Arnold's had.

Very Properly Condemned.

The short-sighted action of the trustees of Brown university in censuring its president because he had exhibited the courage of his convictions on the silver issue receives universal rebuke. The general opinion was well expressed by President Harper of the University of Chicago, who, in his baccalaureate sermon delivered the day after the trustees had acted, took occasion to say: "Even in the sacred circle of the university, where, if anywhere, there should be opportunity to think and express one's thoughts, not infrequently is felt the iron hand of authority, moved by suspicion and self-interest. In free and fair New England, the ground on which the struggle for freedom of opinion was fought out, an old and established institution only yesterday censured its head because, forsooth, he had the courage to think for himself, and still worse, to speak what he thought. This censure, ordered to be administered by a committee of trustees, is a blot upon the history of that honored college which a century of prosperity will not wipe out."

Similar disapproval is uttered by the Springfield Republican. Radical though it is for gold monometallism, which President Andrews opposes, it is nevertheless moved to remark: "In the case of President Andrews the bitterness among Rhode Island manufacturers happens to be extreme, and we see a reversion to an archaic form of intolerance and bigotry. But let him be forced to resign, and the proof that the world has moved will at once appear in the storm of protest and the severe blow to its influence and standing which that institution will suffer." Persecution for opinion's sake is un-American, no matter in what cause it is put forth. We cannot believe that the opposition to free coinage needs to employ coercion to establish its argument in the favor of the people.

General Woodford requests the public to make note of the fact that he isn't saying a word. He did his talking twenty-seven years ago.

Ohio Republicans on Cuba.

Considerable interest naturally attached to the outlying of the Ohio Republican convention on the subject of Cuba, both because that convention may fairly be supposed to reflect the administration's sentiments and because it was recently reported that Senator Hanna wanted the subject to be ignored. The result is satisfactory. Senator Hanna's friends were in control, but Cuba was not ignored. The Cuban plank adopted at Toledo was as follows:

The Republican party has always been the friend of the downtrodden and oppressed, and has always deeply sympathized with the struggle of any people for independence. We extend our sympathy to the patriots of Cuba in their efforts to achieve our freedom from Spanish cruelty and oppression, and hope that the day of their deliverance is near at hand. We commend the course of the president and express our confidence in his speedy and patriotic disposition of the Cuban question in accordance with wise statesmanship and a firm and vigorous foreign policy.

This is not a radical plank but it covers the ground. Its tenor was foreshadowed in the opening address of General Grosvenor, who, coming to the convention directly from Washington, said: "The American people sympathize with the struggling masses of down-trodden people in Cuba, and no man of the Republican party feels more deeply for and sincerely sympathizes with them than does the president of the United States; but he owes a duty to the laws and constitution of the country, and our treaties with foreign nations are a part of the law, and so the president, omitting no opportunity that could be justly acted upon, will not fail to respond to the cry of relief from suffering Cubans, but he will not plunge this country into war until the means of peace and diplomacy have all failed to vindicate the honor of the nation."

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that the leading Cuban advocate in America, the New York Sun, has ceased to prod the president and is evidently in possession of information which leads it to await in patience the development of the policy upon which the executive's choice has fallen. What that policy will be has already been indicated in The Tribune. It will completely satisfy the best American opinion.

The Sabbath Defender is one of the latest journalistic ventures of the Electric City that is deserving of cordial support. The Sabbath Defender is a neat eight-page paper, published by the veteran preacher-editor, Rev. F. A. Dony, and its avowed mission is the stimulation of a spirit that will lead to a better observance of the Lord's day of rest in this vicinity. Its contents are well edited and interesting, and give evidence that the publisher and his supporters are thoroughly in earnest in the good work before them. The Sabbath Defender is worthy of the patronage of all good people. Its success will indicate that our community is growing better. It has The Tribune's best wishes for continued prosperity.

It has been decided by the Indiana Supreme court that because a man owns a large quantity of natural gas is no reason why he should waste it. Unfortunately Jerry Simpson and Bryan do not live in Indiana.

The leader of the marine band at Washington, under the orders of the assistant secretary of the navy, has been reprimanded for his breach of discipline in refusing to permit a popinjay lieutenant puffed with brief authority

to dictate to him what kind of music the band should play on Memorial day. But if the navy department wants to see complete justice done it will now order that officious lieutenant to be soundly spanked and put to bed.

It is argued as a reason against Hawaiian annexation that Thomas Jefferson wrote to Madison in 1809 that nothing in way of new territory should ever be accepted by the United States if it required a navy to defend it. The coast line of Jefferson's own Louisiana purchase needs a navy to defend it and so does any other territory contiguous to navigable water. Thomas Jefferson was a wise man, but he occasionally uttered oracular platitudes that do not sustain investigation.

The Chicago Times-Herald speaks in terms of eulogy concerning the "intense national feeling" which animates the British people, and which has been in unexampled evidence in London this week. Does our contemporary realize that this feeling is "jingoism" of the most ultra type? If so, why does it admire British "jingoism" and yet deplore the same spirit when manifested toward better ends by patriotic Americans?

The Liberal party in Spain proposes. It is said, to go before the people of Spain on a platform of honest reform in Cuba; but to make sure, the next reform programme in that island will need to have the guarantee of your Uncle Samuel.

The adoption by the legislature of the bill to punish citizens who don't vote was a bit of balderdash which offers a fine opening for the governor's veto ax.

Senator Quay failed to carry his point on the wool schedule in the senate, but he will probably meet his opponents in conference.

If Lieutenant Peary shall get away on his proposed North Pole search it will be because the fool-kicker has neglected his duty.

Rich People the Slowest to Pay

James G. Cannon, vice president of the Fourth National bank of New York, made the statement in an address before the national association of "credit men" that the wealthy class give the most trouble in retail credits. He had consulted a large number of merchants in various parts of the country and found it almost invariably their complaint, and that these customers are those who could most easily pay cash; it is almost impossible to collect from them. This, remarks the Springfield Republican, is the most creditable to the class in question as it is surprising. It not only sets a vicious example of unconcern for obligations fairly incurred, but it is a most profitable to have such an example become contagious, but it works positive injury not alone to the tradesman, but to those of his patrons who do not pay. It betrays the existence of a servility of demeanor on the one hand and of a superior indifference on the other, which is creditable to either party and not helpful to business equality and exactness.

It would be a surprise to his audience, Mr. Cannon said, to learn the names of those standing high in business and social circles who are dilatory in paying their bills. He named one, a well-known merchant of New York had lately expressed to him his inability to understand why so many rich people "allowed their bills to run so steadily slow." If the merchant protests these delinquents usually affect to feel very much insulted and quite generally transfer their patronage to another store—often without settling the long-due balance at the other. They cannot apparently bring themselves to realize, says Mr. Cannon, that a debt contracted in this way is a just one.

He gave a few cases that had come under his own observation. One was where a poor dressmaker worked \$10 worth for a wealthy woman who paid \$50 and then went on a long European trip, not paying the remaining \$90 can least. If the merchant protests these delinquents usually affect to feel very much insulted and quite generally transfer their patronage to another store—often without settling the long-due balance at the other. They cannot apparently bring themselves to realize, says Mr. Cannon, that a debt contracted in this way is a just one.

These are simple examples of a practice quite general among the rich. Their dilatoriness in some cases is due to carelessness and an indisposition on the part of the tradesman who enjoys their patronage to remind them at frequent and regular intervals of their obligations. In other cases, it is to be feared, the neglect is more deliberate and grows out of a self-assumed superiority to vulgar grocers' bills and disgusting little meat accounts and indifference to the obligations they imply. In some few cases there is a manifest disposition to maintain an expensive style of appearance and living with an much cost to others as can be put upon them.

This is all wrong, and the only remedy for it is more exacting of the merchant to become less fearful of losing to that wealthy customer and to insist upon prompt payments from this class as he would from any other. Some pressure on this line applied by the stronger merchants in a locality would ere long correct what is largely only a habit. We have been going through a period of inconsiderate personal extravagance all around, and unlimited credit at the stores is no little cause for it. The practice of cash payments is not only wholly corrective of this, but beneficial to the merchant as well in the end. His customers may not buy so much now or at one time, but in the long run they will. There is little good reason for the salaried or wage-earning person ever to ask credit except on a matter of humanity. He may bring back some specimens which he can use to advantage in his lecture tour. He may likewise bring back the members of his party if he is lucky and if the relief and rescue expedition starts in time. But he will add nothing to the sum of human knowledge. He will unearth no material that can be turned to the slightest use. In a word, he will return from this expedition—if he returns at all—just as he did from the others—loaded to the gut-walks with apology and explanation and equipped with a thousand specious arguments in favor of another fool's errand to the pole.

THE JUBILEE'S REAL MEANING.

From the Washington Post. In the midst of all the gush and acclamation current in connection with the "diamond jubilee" it may seem ungracious to interject a word of common sense and fact, but the truth remains that the magnificent progress of the past sixty years is due not to Queen Victoria or to any other magistrate or monarch in existence. It is due to the people themselves, to their pride, their sturdy love of liberty, to their growing intelligence, and their indomitable and devoted aspirations. So far as Great Britain is concerned, its greatness, its strength, and its happiness have been wrought by Englishmen. It is Victoria's honor and glory

that she has offered no obstacle to the onward movement of her country. She could not have checked that movement any more than she could alone have initiated and conducted it. Her sovereignty is purely fictitious. Her power is the merest form of speech. The strength, the splendor, and the growth of England are the fruit of English genius and courage. They are the product of the people's brawn and brain and energy.

That she has been a sympathetic, approving representative of all this splendid evolution it were folly to deny. That she has set an example of all the personal and domestic virtues of the world, that she has thrown a ray of light upon the moral, intellectual, social and political growth of Great Britain to any cause that she has ever had, and that the people would be to challenge the facts of history and to convict one's self of ignorance. The British monarchy is a tradition, and the only one that remains. Freedom has reached its highest and most wholesome development in that splendid empire upon which the sun never sets, and the glory of the Victorian era is really the glory of the Anglo-Saxon race. We make the queen the ostensible object of our criticism. Her prerogative, it is true, and truth, we are celebrating the splendid people to whom she owes all her eminence and exaltation.

VICTORIA THE SOVEREIGN.

From the Times-Herald. Several popular errors prevail in respect to the place of the sovereign in the English constitution. As a rule among us the queen is looked upon as a sort of show figure, which Englishmen are willing to pay for simply for the purpose of looking at. We often smile pityingly upon them, and wonder how they can be so foolish and so wasteful of the public money. Another common impression is that "the queen reigns but does not govern," meaning that she is powerless to direct her policy or to sway her people. Queen Victoria has not the power of Elizabeth nor even of her grandfather, George III., but nevertheless she is not a figurehead by any means. The "royal influence" is an enormous power. What it exactly is no one can say with precision, but that it permeates the constitution, that it influences the action and the conduct of statesmen, that it sways the public mind, and that it frequently makes or mars a political policy.

The queen can control the appointment of popular ministers in her cabinet, and to that extent, at least, can control the cabinet. The prime minister is bound to transmit to her authentic information of all the most important decisions made by the cabinet, and the more important votes in parliament, and she has a right to complain if she does not know of every great act of her ministry, not only before it is done, but while there is yet time to consider it. Her power in this respect was notably exerted in the negotiations between Great Britain and the United States growing out of "The Trent Affair," and she did much to modify the tone of Lord Clarendon's dispatches, and thus avert unnecessary causes of irritation.

Lord Palmerston, when he first became prime minister, was disposed to carry things with a high hand and ignore his royal mistress, but the queen taught him that she knew her rights and duties and intended to maintain them. In a celebrated memorandum addressed to him in 1851, at the time of the Napoleonic coup d'état, she said: "The queen requires first, that Lord Palmerston will distinctly state what he proposes in a given case, in order that the queen may know his reasons for what he is giving royal sanction. Secondly, having once given her sanction to such a measure, that it be not arbitrarily altered or modified by the minister; such an act she must consider as falling in sincerity toward the crown, and justly to be visited by the exercise of her constitutional right of dismissing that minister. She expects to be kept informed of what passes between him and foreign ministers before important decisions are taken, based upon that intercourse; to receive the foreign dispatches in good time, and to have in sufficient time to make herself acquainted with their contents before they must be sent off."

The queen was but 32 years old when she sanctioned if she did not pen this memorandum. It brought Lord Palmerston to terms, and no prime minister since that has ever attempted to carry matters without first making full explanations to the queen. The sovereign in a constitutional monarchy like Great Britain has ever had a power and influence upon the policy of the government, and with Victoria it has almost always been a power and an influence for good.

WOMAN, REVEAL THYSELF.

From the Butte (Mont.) Miner. Occasionally a gleam of intelligence penetrates the discussion of the marriage "game" and a suggestion is made which commands the respect of common sense comes from the tumult and confusion of the controversial lunatics. In a recent issue of the New York World a number of communications on the subject appeared, but the following seems to be the most pertinent: "Our poor women must live somehow. If we keep ourselves morally clean and try to fit ourselves to be good wives and mothers we are doing our best precisely as the boys are in trying to learn trades or professions. Our trade is to be good women, good, loyal, industrious wives, and good, loving mothers. If young men cannot afford to marry us, when we must learn some other trade. What do the young men propose that it shall be?"

The girl who wrote that letter should not hide her identity. She has struck the right road. She says that the right kind of girls are trying to educate themselves to be good women, good, loving mothers, and good, loving mothers. If that girl is in earnest, and if she is practicing what she preaches, by all means let her throw the cloak of secrecy, step out where she can be seen and appreciated, and show the wild, uncontrolled, new-fashioned, loud-talking, breeches-wearing, man-hating Amazonian freaks how the real woman, who aims for the highest and noblest plane within the reach of the girl, sets for the model to be followed by men who are able and willing to maintain comfortable and inviting homes.

And yet, if it should transpire that the letter which contains the indefinite signature of "Young Woman" was written by some degenerate, tobacco-chewing, knock-kneed, muscled-up brute of a New York World, what will the wild waves say? The sentiments are beautiful, but it is necessary that the young woman should give her name to the public in order that she may be appreciated.

PEARY'S POLAR JAUNT.

From the Washington Post. We predict that Peary will discover nothing of value to science or humanity. He may bring back some specimens which he can use to advantage in his lecture tour. He may likewise bring back the members of his party if he is lucky and if the relief and rescue expedition starts in time. But he will add nothing to the sum of human knowledge. He will unearth no material that can be turned to the slightest use. In a word, he will return from this expedition—if he returns at all—just as he did from the others—loaded to the gut-walks with apology and explanation and equipped with a thousand specious arguments in favor of another fool's errand to the pole.

WE DON'T ENVY IT.

From the Rochester Herald. From some points of view, England's record of conquest and colonization, of liberty, of courage, of savagery, of a proud one; yet Americans, as a rule, will not envy it. There are different kinds of greatness, and the kind that every justly be ascribed to the United States wears a different brand.

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