

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, AUGUST 14, 1897.

"Scranton," remarks Secretary Atherton, "has an abundance of good sites." True, and a superabundance of bad sights which ought to be made good.

The First Bloodshed

It appears that a court at Pittsburgh has restrained the striking miners from assembling in numbers on a public road and from marching along the road toward the entrance to the Plum Creek mines of the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal company. In consequence of the refusal of the miners to obey this order, and despite the protests of the sheriff and his deputies, a scuffle yesterday ensued, during which one of the miners was cut over the eye, causing the first bloodshed of the present strike. This is one of the versions offered in print, but we shall await the text of the injunction before passing judgment upon it. It is not credible that any court in this country would undertake to restrain a body of American citizens from walking along a public road for peaceful purposes and in an orderly manner. As was the case in the first report of Judge Jackson's new celebrated rule of court, this order has doubtless been misunderstood.

The foregoing circumstance is significant chiefly as an indication of the growing tenacity of feeling among the men on strike, a condition rapidly becoming critical. Up to this time the strike has been unique for the orderliness which has marked its progress. It is not possible to recall a single earlier labor movement of corresponding magnitude that presented a finer example of moderation and self-control. Could this magnificent record be continued, it would unquestionably win for the men so vast a measure of sympathy from the people as to render certain their ultimate success. But to expect such a thing would be to hope for almost the impossible. The strike is really a war, and in a war it is rarely practicable long to maintain peace standards. Passion once aroused in the ranks means violence, do what the leaders may to try to avert it. It seems within bounds to say that nothing short of a miracle can keep back the tide of recklessness and of indifference to restraint if this strike continues a fortnight longer.

Should a clash ensue, upon whom would the responsibility fall? We know where it ought to fall—upon those operators who have so greedily grabbed for business by price-cutting that they have forced the bituminous trade into a hole and literally driven other and innocent men to lower wages in turn until nearly all wages in the soft coal regions were depressed below the point of endurance. If blood be shed in any seriousness hereafter, we believe that it will in the sight of heaven be on these heads.

The best way to deal with the apostle of assassination is to give him his own medicine.

Silver as a Future Issue.

Senator Chandler, viewing the continued decline of silver and the simultaneous rise in wheat, refuses to be convinced. In his opinion it is only a question of time when monometallism will work such disaster to the human race that there will be an uprising of the masses and the money changers will be brushed aside like chaff before an autumn gale. These are not his words but they represent his idea as outlined at length in a letter to the Washington Post. Now that the tariff issue is disposed of for some time the senator advises the public to take up this other issue of monometallism vs. bimetallicism and study the fundamental principles of it so as to be prepared for the re-argument of it which he regards as inevitable in the next presidential contest.

In an academic sense the advice is good, for as a means of mental discipline few subjects are comparable with it. When we reflect that experts who have made a life study disagree quite as radically and with almost as much emphasis as do the tyros who have gone no further into the problem than to read current newspaper editorials and the common campaign literature, something of its intricacy begins to impress us. But if we are to view Senator Chandler's suggestion from a political standpoint, it is open to the question of whether popular understanding of a great political issue is essential or, from the point of view of the professional politicians, especially desirable. The greater the ignorance of the masses the better, it would seem, would be the chance of the party leaders to twist and juggle, and the easier the representation of white as black, and vice versa. We had last fall something of an illustration of this marked disposition of one class of campaign educators to refer to the opposition as "plutocrats" and "monopolists," and of the other class to retort with cries of "anarchists" and "repudiationists." This kind of talk was not only much easier than solid argument but also, with too many of our population, apparently more effective.

We are not, however, so sure as Senator Chandler appears to be that this issue will take a formidable place in the political controversies of the future. It has had its day in court. The advocates of a change from the present monetary basis presented their case and asked for a verdict. Upon the case as they formulated it, namely, that the United States should, by itself, resume the free coinage of silver at a ratio giving to silver more than double silver's market value, the verdict was adverse, and adverse by so plain a majority as to offer little inducement for an appeal for a new trial. Since then, vast fields of gold have

been discovered, the prices of food stuffs have rallied and silver has kept on falling until now it is at a lower point than ever before, all of which constitutes circumstantial evidence tending to confirm the wisdom of last autumn's finding. It is well to study this question, of course, as a means of exercising the mind, but we don't expect that there will be much political call for such investigation three years hence.

The Canadian papers now advance the argument that if Americans abrogate the bonding privilege whereby Canadian railways, built on subsidies, are enabled to underbid American trunk lines for transcontinental traffic, they will cut off their own nose to spite their face. But if that were true, why should Canadians object? The fact is, their arguments in behalf of the continuation of the bonding privilege are entirely too thin, and the privilege will have to go.

Mr. Powderly and the Anarchists.

A Washington dispatch says: "The Hon. Y. Powderly, the new commissioner of immigration, will signalize the opening of his administration by seeing that the United States is not made an asylum for the red-handed anarchists, now being driven from France, Spain and Italy by concentrated action of the great continental powers. Mr. Powderly says he will adopt every remedy under the law to exclude Planas, the leader of the Spanish anarchists, who has been conducted to Harve by French officials and shipped to New York. The immigration office will notify their officers at New York and all large seaboard ports to be on the lookout for anarchists headed this way. It is expected also that the United States consul at Harve will give specific information as to the ship on which Planas and his compatriots sail." The dispatch further says:

"Europe should keep her own criminals and her own paupers," said Mr. Powderly, with emphasis. With a copy of the exclusion law in his hand, Mr. Powderly pointed out the steps to be taken, and also showed the need of strengthening the law, so as to deal with the anarchist class. The law permits the exclusion of "persons who have been convicted of a felony or other infamous crimes or misdemeanors involving moral turpitude." It also excludes "persons likely to become a public charge." These are the only provisions which, even indirectly, can be applied to anarchists, and the bureau will be compelled to resort to them in emergencies like the present. After the Barcelona anarchist agitation, the French government sent to our state department a list of anarchists expelled from the country and expected to come to the United States. The list was sent to our immigration officers at New York, Philadelphia, Boston and other ports, with instructions to apply the two provisions quoted against the anarchists named on the list. None of them were apprehended, however, as they either did not come or were smuggled in by way of the steamer. Mr. Powderly will again make the two sections of the law against this new tide of anarchists, and he is hopeful that it will exclude them outright or discourage them from turning this way.

The commissioner was asked if he favored strengthening the law, so as to specifically exclude anarchists and those who hold the propaganda of assassination. "I most assuredly would favor a law excluding from the United States every criminal, incendiary and anarchist," answered Mr. Powderly. "There is no trouble in fixing the status of the man who has been convicted of a crime, but the term anarchist has not been clearly defined, so that it is extremely difficult to ascertain who the anarchist is." Mr. Powderly went on to show the difficulties in the way of defining "anarchist." The latter claims to be a philosopher, seeking an ideal state of society. To this end he advocates the abolition of all law and the substitution of individual effort. Mr. Powderly points out that it is only when the anarchist holds this philosophy to an advocacy of assassination or incendiarism, that the law can deal with him. It cannot deal with him as an abstract philosopher.

It is possible to reach most anarchists in two ways; first, as Mr. Powderly says, by making it a crime to advocate incendiarism and assassination, and secondly, by a strict exclusion of paupers and those unable to show that they are unlikely to become a public charge. It is believed that nine out of every ten professional anarchists would stumble over one or the other of these rules. Freedom of opinion and freedom of utterance are priceless possessions, to be safeguarded with diligent care. But it is not freedom in any true sense which incites to murder, riot or destruction of property and the law even of America, freest of all the free nations of the world, may well lay the hand of repression on that maluse of American freedom which boldly avows a purpose to destroy government and reduce society to chaos.

If Mr. Powderly shall pursue with vigor the purpose outlined by him, until either the end is gained of keeping these human vipers out of this country or the inadequacy of the present laws upon the subject is so clearly shown as to cause them to be amended, he will perform a service for law and order that will entitle him to be held in additional esteem.

The Philadelphia Ledger calls Senator Durham and his friends "discredited political adventurers." By whom discredited and when?

A Governor in Error.

Governor Atkinson of West Virginia recently pardoned a man who had been convicted of shooting his wife's paragon; and in the message accompanying the pardon he took occasion to express regret that the injured husband's bullet had not proved fatal. This having provoked criticism the governor now makes public a letter in which he reviews the facts in the case, showing them to point to an especially heinous offense on the part of the man shot, and adds: "I again say that any man who has a heart in his body and wife and children cannot but feel the same in the same manner."

Let this be granted. Could not the governor of West Virginia have signed that pardon without any accompanying rebuke of the legal offense of shooting with intent to kill? We will concede that in this particular case the facts were such as seemingly to justify the husband in the course he took to avenge the wrong done to him; and what therefore the governor made what will be regarded by nine men out of ten as a justifiable use of the pardoning power. How would the governor feel if during the next few weeks a dozen jealous husbands in West Virginia should accept his glorification of pistol practice on parsons as an invitation to open fire on men whom they morbidly suspect of wrong-doing but

against whom they have not the clear proof of guilt which was possessed by the husband referred to above? If these men, after their arrest and conviction, should apply to him for a pardon, could he with good grace deny their appeal after having in so public and emphatic a manner endorsed the taking of summary and violent vengeance on invaders of the sanctity of the home?

It can hardly be held by any thoughtful person that the penalties provided by law for the alienation of a wife's affections and for adultery constitute an adequate punishment or afford the slightest reparation for the injuries thus wrought to the husbands and children affected. But can the matter be mended by inviting the principal sufferer himself to disregard the law and to constitute himself an armed committee of one to murder his enemy? It appears to us that Governor Atkinson has in this matter permitted his sympathies to run away with his judgment. We do not say that his sympathies are discreditable; but as the executive head and chief symbol of law and order for the commonwealth of Virginia, it is his duty to weigh problems of this kind carefully and judicially, to the end that the greatest good shall be conserved for the greatest number.

In Montgomery county it costs about 7 cents a day a man to feed the prisoners in the county jail while Luzerne, for no better food, spends 20 cents. This is why Controller Lloyd refuses to approve Warden Boland's bill. The controller alleges that the county is paying \$10,000 a year too much for the maintenance of its prisoners. If he can establish this fact to the satisfaction of court and public it will go far to excuse some of his earlier official mistakes.

The Toronto Globe informs us that "it would be a good thing if self-respecting Americans could take some means of showing their disapproval of the habit of discussing international questions after the manner of a tavern brawl." And it would also be a good thing if self-respecting subjects of England should take measures to prevent the government of her majesty from exhibiting in its attitude toward other nations the characteristics of a tavern brawler.

Does the Philadelphia Times really think that the Pennsylvania Democracy should have no convictions on national issues, or that it merely opposed to the expression of an opinion?

If this Klondike boom is a manufactured affair, as is now claimed, it certainly speaks well for the ingenuity of the manufacturer.

Question for debate: Is there a paper in all England so aggressively English as the New York Evening Post?

Comparisons That Are Interesting

Walter Wellman in Times-Herald. Conversation at a London club: Present, four Englishmen, lawyers, professors, etc., and one American. An Englishman—Over here the writings of your Theodore Roosevelt are much admired. We look upon him as one of the greatest writers on sports in the world.

The American—Glad to hear you say so. He is not only a clever writer but a good fellow. An Englishman—But I have heard that he fights with everyone. The American—If you mean that he is quarrelsome that is not true. As a member of the police commission in New York he had a good many tussles, but he was always fighting for the right.

An Englishman—Such a man is in a decided minority in New York and America, is he not? [Laughter by all the Englishmen.] The American—Undoubtedly; and in that respect his nature is pretty much the same the world over—even in London and Great Britain.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Aiacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrology Cast: 1.31 a. m., for Saturday, August 14, 1897.

A child born on this day will "blow" his money and have a good time, and will not put it in a jar for some one to find after he is dead. This talk about love in a cottage is all right, but the up-to-date girl prefers a steam yacht to a mud scow for a voyage on the sea of matrimony every time.

The race is not always for the slow. If it was the fellow who do not believe in advertising would be decorated with medals instead of cowbells.

The victim of the bogus mushroom is a fellow who did not know it was "toasted."

Breakfast Chat. Octavia has a face like a dream. Yes. Sort of a nightmare.

OUR PRESIDENTS.

George Washington first of all presidents stands. Who, then, to John Adams his high office. Thomas Jefferson next, beloved of the nation. The man who first drafted our great Declaration of Independence. Under Madison war with Great Britain did cease. And Monroe ushered in a new era of peace. Now in John Q. the Adams have their last inning. And with Jackson, Democracy has its beginning. Then Van Buren, then Harrison, who very soon dies; Then Tyler, the first of vice presidents to rise. Polk, commanding, saw Mexico massed as our foes. And Zach Taylor then on the war's crest arose; Millard Fillmore then came, when the great fighter died. And then Franklin Pierce and Buchanan were tried. Great Abraham Lincoln fame's flaming hand. To the immortal Washington's family a second; Andrew Johnson was seated when Lincoln was killed. And it cannot be said that the chair was quite filled. Ulysses S. Grant, who had made war to peace. Came next, with his olive branch: "Let us have peace." Next the well-meaning Hayes, so kindly in face. Then Garfield, and Arthur, his vice, held the place; Then Cleveland, of whom as "an accident" speak: He was put in the place by a clerical freak. Ben Harrison next had the place for a while. And then we gave Cleveland a thorough trial. On this second inning he panned out quite thinly. And the people turned in and elected McKinley. J. S. Briggs, in Rochester Chronicle.

An Englishman—Are you Americans really going to annex Hawaii? The American—Of course we are.

An Englishman—Then I suppose you will want Cuba and the Bahamas, the Bahamas, and everything in sight? The American—Never. We shall not want your toes. We do not want the Bahamas or the Bahamas. But it is a strange thing that you English prick up your ears at the first suggestion that the United States is going to annex an island. For many years you have been roaming around the world, gobbling up all the inhabited and uninhabited lands you could get your claws on, until you make your jibes about the extent of your possessions, and just as soon as a little dot of an island down in the Pacific asks us to take her in that she will be saved from Asiatic domination lift your hands in horror at the greediness of these Yankees.

An Englishman—We should have a good deal more sympathy with you if you had concluded the treaty of arbitration with Great Britain. The feeling over here is that that would have strengthened Great

Britain before the world and would in time have strengthened you.

The American—The people of the United States want a treaty of arbitration with England, and as soon as certain political changes can be brought about we will make such a treaty. But with or without a treaty you people should recognize the right and the manifest destiny of the United States to assume leadership among the western nations, to extend our political power and perhaps, our territory. Our efforts will be wholly confined to America. We have no objection to your gobbling up all you can get of Asia and Africa, but you ought not to make faces at us if we go ahead on our side of the water.

An Englishman—It is too bad that your diplomats are so rude. Your Bering sea note was positively uncouth. If such a note had been sent by one European government to another it would have strained their relations. Explanations would have been demanded and apologies. But we don't quite hold you Americans responsible for the Bering sea note.

The American—We are willing to be held responsible, however. The trouble with you English is that you overlook the merits of the question and complain because we are not polite. You admit that we are in the right in our contention, but still complain because we are uncouth. Repair the wrong and you will have no occasion to complain of our manners.

An Englishman—But why be so snarling about it in your diplomatic notes? The American—Because we have learned through experience that you English are too busy with your South Africa, your India, your Turk, and your many and mighty affairs throughout the world to pay any attention to us unless we give you a shock. When we poke you roughly in the ribs you make up an atrocious set of matters in good spirit. It was so with Venezuela, and it will turn out so with the seals.

MAN'S DANGEROUS AGE.

From the Albany Times-Union. It is a singular fact, yet one substantiated by statistics, that most crime is committed in this state by men 29 years old. This is not only true of the lesser but also of the graver crimes, although a man is presumed to be at that period of his life not only in the zenith of his physical, but also in full and complete possession of his mental powers, with a complete appreciation of right and wrong and their respective consequences. This condition is a problem which has not been solved by the student of criminology, and one which is made more complex by the fact that the ages of 21, 27 and 45 years nearly equal it, with the intervening years showing a far less percentage of crime.

It is indeed peculiar that the criminal tendency should be so strong at 29 with no such inclination, so far as criminal statistics show, in as great a degree for the succeeding sixteen years, and then another outburst of the animal in man. This condition is found to be true by actual figures, and as all statistical conditions are sought to be determined are arrived at by this method, so may the student of this subject, as well as the insurance company who bases his rates on the general average of losses in proportion to the risks taken, and does so with full safety, employ it in solving the problem before him. Charles K. Baker, chief clerk to Superintendent Lathrop, has made this subject one of close study and will soon have completed a table showing this to be true. He has already completed one relative to murderers serving life sentences in the penal institutions, and its figures bear out the general conclusion. He offers at this time no explanation for this, but hopes after he has exhausted the subject, so far as the presentation of figures are concerned, to be able to set forth reasons why these years should be productive of the most crime.

The following figures show how old the various murderers who are serving life sentences were when they committed the act for which they are serving time, and the American: 1, twenty-one; 2, twenty-two; 3, twenty-three; 4, twenty-four; 5, twenty-five; 6, twenty-six; 7, twenty-seven; 8, twenty-eight; 9, twenty-nine; 10, thirty; 11, thirty-one; 12, thirty-two; 13, thirty-three; 14, thirty-four; 15, thirty-five; 16, thirty-six; 17, thirty-seven; 18, thirty-eight; 19, thirty-nine; 20, forty; 21, forty-one; 22, forty-two; 23, forty-three; 24, forty-four; 25, forty-five; 26, forty-six; 27, forty-seven; 28, forty-eight; 29, forty-nine; 30, fifty; 31, fifty-one; 32, fifty-two; 33, fifty-three; 34, fifty-four; 35, fifty-five; 36, fifty-six; 37, fifty-seven; 38, fifty-eight; 39, fifty-nine; 40, sixty; 41, sixty-one; 42, sixty-two; 43, sixty-three; 44, sixty-four; 45, sixty-five; 46, sixty-six; 47, sixty-seven; 48, sixty-eight; 49, sixty-nine; 50, seventy; 51, seventy-one; 52, seventy-two; 53, seventy-three; 54, seventy-four; 55, seventy-five; 56, seventy-six; 57, seventy-seven; 58, seventy-eight; 59, seventy-nine; 60, eighty; 61, eighty-one; 62, eighty-two; 63, eighty-three; 64, eighty-four; 65, eighty-five; 66, eighty-six; 67, eighty-seven; 68, eighty-eight; 69, eighty-nine; 70, ninety; 71, ninety-one; 72, ninety-two; 73, ninety-three; 74, ninety-four; 75, ninety-five; 76, ninety-six; 77, ninety-seven; 78, ninety-eight; 79, ninety-nine; 80, one hundred.

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