

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 22, 1897.

The Wilkes-Barre Times desires to be acquitted of the charge of fathering the Henry W. Palmer gubernatorial boom.

Th at Negotiat on V th Cerrco. An official statement has been made by the State department of the propositions laid before the premier of Canada and his colleagues by this government upon the occasion of their recent visit to Washington.

Concerning Prison Labor. The fact that a commission will report to the next Pennsylvania legislature the result of its investigations of the subject of convict labor gives interest to the assertion in an Albany dispatch that since Jan. 1 of this year the convicts in New York state prisons have made goods for state institutions and departments worth \$500,000, or \$300,000 more than the cost of their maintenance.

There are 1,400 Americans in Cuba who have secured relief out of the relief fund recently voted by congress, and 19,000 recently natives have, it is said, been helped from it on the sly.

It is reported that a son of ex-Minister Denby has authority from the Chinese government to offer valuable trade concessions in exchange for a loan of \$50,000,000.

It is the opinion of Congressman Dolliver, of Iowa, that congress ought to "avoid exposing the country's monetary system to a scheme of unadvised surgery."

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From the Wilkes-Barre Record. The Northwestern Railroad company has very justly been mulcted in \$1,600-\$22 damages for blacklisting a former employe, named Ketcham.

The case came before the courts in Chicago recently and was hotly contested, but the jury awarded Ketcham damages in the amount of \$1,600-\$22.

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by congress of Cuban belligerency would bring Spanish authority in Cuba to an end within ninety days; extricate Spain from a dilemma otherwise menacing alike to her and to us; lay enjoining claim to the gratitude of the Cuban patriots and fulfil the wish and trend of American history.

In Chicago the other day just as a prisoner was to be called up for sentence, it was discovered that he was not the man who committed the crime; and an investigation disclosed that the real culprit had hired a substitute.

Unhappily for this ingenious arrangement the court declined to sanction the doctrine of vicarious atonement.

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making provision for the future by taking out life policies is far more prevalent than among the thriftless and improvident. In the long run such a tax will be found to have cost the state more than it has brought into the treasury, for it will impoverish families that would else be provided for. It seems to us that such legislation as is proposed in Georgia is very much like killing the goose that laid golden eggs. It is, at any rate, a disposition to discourage one of the most beneficial of all business operations, a plan that has saved millions of widows and orphans from poverty, and has, indeed, tended to build up states and increase the value of lands, buildings, and other taxable assets.

It is true that occasionally a rich man insures his life for a large amount, but such cases are few in comparison with the number of small policy-holders. An act that, for the sake of reaching the money thus invested by one man of wealth, would strike at almost all small means, or rather at the families of the 99, would not be promotive of justice or far-sighted economy. A number of states in this country have enacted laws compelling plants from taxation for a term of years, and have found the results altogether satisfactory. The taxation of life policies would be a strange contrast with such exemption laws.

THE FAILACIOUS BOSS CRY. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. The American people naturally and wisely are averse to any manifestation of autocratic power in their government. They hold staunchly to the doctrine that every man is entitled to his own property, and that it belongs to him to do with it as he pleases. It is not for no man and on their demand under the constitution must be surrendered back into their hands to be otherwise disposed of. But the theory of party government many citizens seem to entertain would eliminate personal influence and leadership. Apparently they would depend entirely on the spontaneous, impromptu action of the voters. They are offended at the suggestion that any individual should be organized and directed with a view to bringing about definite results at an election. So soon as one becomes conspicuous as a leader he is stigmatized as a boss. Corrupt motives and purposes are imputed to him and he may be thankful if his reputation as a honest man and citizen is not irretrievably ruined.

As a matter of fact those who are most zealous in advocating abstract or spontaneous political action are as ready to fall in line behind a leader as those who are accused of being merely minions of such a leader. They are as amenable to the necessity and the power of personality in political life as any other class of citizens. It is not a question of individual independence and initiative at all, but simply which of several leaders shall be followed. If a man cannot himself be a leader the next best thing is for him to be a follower. As a citizen should not count at all in the scale of public affairs. As an individual, not a factor in any organization, he must be simply a cipher. This does not imply, however, a servile surrender of the right of opinion or revolt against any organization or leadership.

History is eloquent in its story of the potency of personal influence and leadership in every movement of mankind. To despise or ignore it is not only unphilosophical but fatuous. To the masses a personality represents something tangible. A man who does and dares comes to be an embodiment of ideas worth working and fighting for. It is difficult to arouse popular enthusiasm over a convention or a platform, but the people will often go wild in their devotion to a man who represents the platform or the convention.

FOR CUBANS TO DECIDE. From the Philadelphia Press. The persistent effort to associate the United States with approval or disapproval of the revolution in Cuba, and to Cuban autonomy shows a singular misapprehension of the duty and responsibility of our government toward the internal administration of Cuba.

Cuban autonomy is not a question which President McKinley is called upon to decide either in one way or the other. This country has no responsibility with reference to Cuba, but the form of government on the island is not one of them. We have a right to insist on peace in Cuba, for our trade, if war exist or hostilities are in progress, we have a right to demand that it be carried on with humanity and without injuring American obligations as a neutral we are bound to maintain, and when the time comes, if it comes, we have a right to demand that it be accomplished by fighting on either side, we have a right to propose mediation, and more than mediation, if our interests require and our power justifies action.

But Cuban autonomy lies altogether outside of these duties and responsibilities. It is a question for Cuba, not for the United States. Why should President McKinley express an opinion on an issue which does not pertain to his official responsibility in any way whatsoever? Let Cuba decide. The United States wishes the utmost freedom on every square league of the western world, but this country has always held that it was for each country to decide its own form of government, its own national relations and its internal administration. There is not the slightest reason to imagine that President McKinley will depart from this sound and salutary policy.

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Colonel Fitzsimmons appears to have a whole alarm clock full of election contest wheels in his head.

Perhaps Mr. Amerman's successor was named on "Schedule A."

It is proposed to assess such policies at their surrender value, and it is claimed that such a tax would put a large amount of money into the state treasury. This claim may be, and probably is, well founded, for many of the policies have large surrender value. In some cases that value is nearly as much as the face of the policy, and if state, county, and city assessments were levied on them, the tax would be about as hard to carry as the premium.

But while it is conceded that this would for a time be an easy way to raise revenue, it is by no means clear that it would be sound public policy. One inevitable result would be the abandonment of a large percentage of policies, for the burden would be so great that it could not be borne. Most of the insurance are persons of moderate means, and they strain every nerve to meet their payments in order that their families may have some provision in the event of death. It has always been deemed good policy for a state to encourage life insurance, and it may be asserted as a known fact that it constitutes a good field for thrift and intelligence, the custom of

TAXING LIFE INSURANCE. From the Washington Post. In looking over the field for available sources of revenue, some of the Georgia legislators have hit upon life insurance policies, and a proposition is pending to lay a tax on that species of property. It is proposed to assess such policies at their surrender value, and it is claimed that such a tax would put a large amount of money into the state treasury.

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We are headquarters on all of the Bear Brand Yarns, such as Saxony, Germantown, German Knitting and Spanish.

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Also a choice line of Silk Comfortables. Wholesale and Retail.

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We are offering a regular 113-piece Haviland China Dinner Set in five different decorations for \$27.50.

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THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO., 422 Lacka. Ave.

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Beware of paying too little for your clothes; a form of economical extravagance which will cost you dear in the end.

"Cheap" is the one argument advanced by four-fifths of those who want to sell you clothes.

The market is literally flooded with so-called "Custom-made" clothes, backed up by advertising which is an insult to the intelligence of the community.

Don't be tempted by these offers, which your common sense should tell you will never be fulfilled.

There Is No Reason AN OIL OR GAS HEATER

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING KINDS: Standard Oil Heaters (2 sizes.) Majestic Oil Heaters (2 sizes.) Oil Radiators, Blue and White Flame, 1, 2 and 3 Burners. Banner Lamp Stoves. Gas Radiators, nickel and bronze finish.

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Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Smokeless and the Repugno Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

Entire Fuse Caps and Exploders. Rooms 212, 219 and 214 Commonwealth Building