the Scranton Tribune

ANTENED AT THE ECSTOFFICE AT SCRASTOR PA. AS FECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 22, 1897.

The Wilkes-Barre Times desires to be acquitted of the charge of fathering the Henry W. Palmer gubernatorial boom. Our contemporary is entitled to the benefit of its denial; yet the paternity would not be to its discredit.

Th at Negotiat on V' th Carado.

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. There were but two; the first, an offer that both pations agree at once to a suspension of all killing of seals during the next season in the Pacific ocean and Bering rea, the modus vivendi to go into effect Dec. 1; and the second an offer that representatives of the governments of the United States and Great Britain, including Canada, be designated to enter with as little delay as possible upon the consideration of all unsettled questions between Canada and the United States with the view to a settlement by treety, this to include the sealing question and any other matters which either government may choose to bring forward.

Our government made agreement to in arms against this arrangement be ditional upon Canada's acceptance of of convicts in state work robs fre of the Joint commission of seal excific for the present season was 38,700, catch this year is divided as follows: Taken by British vessels, 20,800; by American vessels, 4,760; by Japanese vessels, 3.800. The catch in Bering sea was 16,650 for the present season, nealnst 29,500 last season, a reduction of nearly one-half. Of the catch in Bering sea fifteen were taken by British-Canadian vessels for every one taken by American vessels

Sir Wilfred Laurier, since his return to Canada, has intimated unofficially the probability that the Dominion government will assent to both propositions; but before this willingness can be made definite the assent of the British colonial office must first be obtained. There is no particular reason to fear that this will be withheld; but if it should be, it would seem in that contingency to be the duty of the United States either to protect our seals by force, assuming all the consequences which this might imply, or utterly and thus get rid of an intolglicar. The time is at hand for a conclusion of this matter, one way or another.

Ore more year of unrestricted peaching will, it is estimated, exhaust the scal herds. The United States government should see to it that there is not another year of uncestricted peaching. even though it should have to do the necessary restricting single-handed.

One Who Knows.

Hannis Taylor is not a model diplomat, for the reason that he tells tales out of school; but it is nowhere denied that what he says in arraignment of Spain's incapacity to hold on to Cuba is said by one who has had excepgreat weight.

evening was an elaboration of his previous assertions of the utter hopelessextend her despotte sway over Cuba. istry he characterized as no better than attempts to revive the corpse of a murdered man after it was cold in death. That ministry, he conceded. deserves great respect and consideration, "At the queen's call," he said, "they have undertaken to face a desperate situation; to revive the fortunes of a fallen cause without adequate means. They have done all they could to remove the more revolting aspects shocked the world, and with that effort | acter of absolute moral purity, but the end. It is no fault of theirs that Cano- drawn to him as a victim needing his therefore all pending negotiations now. moonshine, hopeless illusions that should not attempt to longer tie their hands by assuming or asserting that pending negotiations give any hope of a peaceful situation whatever."

Some journals assuming to speak for the administration affect to resent these words; but we believe they misinterpret the temper of the people. Mr. Taylor is right. No cause is ever benefited by self-deception or by the temporizing process of building on false hopes. It is patent to all that Cuba is of heaven. The wildest and the roughlost to Spain; that the sudden consideration evinced by the Madrid government for the United States is a bit of death-bed penitence laying upon us no debt of gratitude in return; and that it is in America's power by quiet decision to expedite the end of the trag-Cuban independence. The recognition prototype of Dr. Houghton, the am-

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 enduring claim to the gratitude of the Cuban patriots and fulfil the wish and trend of American history. If this recognition is delayed because of executive pressure the occupant of the white house will assume a formidable responsibility.

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 hire 1 a substitute. Unhappily for this ingenious arrange ment the court declined to sanction the doctrine of vicarious atonement.

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 onvicts 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. In other words, by the plan of utilizing prison labor for the manufacture of state supplies, the authorities of the Empire state have afforded the convicts of that state healthful employment and have saved the taxpayers a large sum of money.

Yet, we are teld, the labor unions are

the second of these propositions con- cause they allege that the employment the first; and very wisely, too, for the labor of its just portion. Does it? Is reason that if there were no provision the state under any obligation to head for a close season during the sittings this protest? To all men who think it of the arbitration commission there must be self-evident that an idle man might be no reals left alive by the time in fall must be supported by somethe commission had reached the end body. Since it is very true that the of its labors. The necessity for prompt burden of maintaining society rests action to preserve the few remaining largely upon the men who work, it reals is clearly indicated in the report | follows that the idle jail bird is a load on the free toller's back. Remove that perts made public within the past fort. load and the free toffer is benefited night. From this it appears that the in two days. He is not taxed so heavtotal earch of scals in the North Pa- ily and his energies are freed for more direct results. It therefore is directly against 73,000 hast year. The total to the free laborer's interest to have the convict put on a self-supporting basis. The element of competition is a slight consideration; opportunities for profitable employment to competent workmen are so numerous that the effects of prison labor entering into restricted competition will not be sensibly felt by any individual.

But prison labor helps the free toller in another way. It is a means of reformation tending to reduce crime, abbreviate the stay of criminals in durance and reduce the costs of the entire puritive system. Unless we are ready to affirm that a large per centage of the population ought to be locked up and kept idle so as to give the remaining per centage apparently a better chance,-but only apparently, since all they would gain by reduced competition they would afterward lose by increased taxation-there can be no tenable argument advanced against the employment of convicts in labor calculated to make them self-supportelse to abandon them to destruction ing. The notion that it is beneficial to society to keep convicts idle belongs among the vagaries of an age of semibarbarism and is preposterous in this era of general enlightenment.

The Philadelphia Press, in an editorial elsewhere reproduced, contributes a same word to the Cuban discussion when it reminds the public that it is not for President McKinley to decide for the people of Cuba what form of government they shall accept, Neither is it his duty to put obstacles in the way of their getting it, as he is now doing by withholding recognition of the Cuban republic.

"A Man of God."

It is a pleasing and a cheerful fact that in that vortex of worldliness and tional opportunities to ascertain the undisguised materialism, New York truth of the matter. As an expert wit- city, the death of a man like Rev. Dr. ness his words are bound to carry Houghton, for nearly half a century rector of the Little Church Around the His lecture at Ithaca last Friday Corner, did not escape suitable public notice. On the contrary, the manifestations of popular esteem elicited by ness of Spain's present effort to re- his death and funeral go far to establish that estentation and humbug are The manocuvers of the Sagasta min- not the surest methods of producing an impress upon American society,

Everybody has heard at times of Dr. Houghton; the man who dedicated his life to the proposition that not the elect but sinners were most in need of salvation. But it is helpful as well as instructive to read of him, in the eloquent words of the Sun, that "in his church doctrine and discipline and ordinance he was unyielding, but his Christian charity was unbounded. He of a method of warfare that has hated sin with the aversion of a chartheir power for good has come to an greater the sinner the more he was vas lost Cuba to Spain forever before loving succor. Dr. Houghton went they came into power by the substitu- about his priestly duties as a veritable tion of Weyler for Campos. The fatal soldier of the Cross, and no dangers step made reconciliation impossible, could dissuade him from them, though for many years he had been physically looking to that end are the veriest feeble, living always on the brink of death, as he believed, and never had should mislead no one. True, it would been a man of rugged health. No place be very hard for the president to gay was too high and none was too low for so in so many words to the Sagasta him to enter it as a minister of reministry without grave offense; he ligion, and, no matter how vile the would not be expected to do so. But if surroundings, he never drew back with he owes that kind of courtesy to the dread of smirching his cierical robes present Spanish ministry, he owes in or tarnishing his spotless character and a greater degree perfect candor to the reputation. In the discharge of his congress of the United States. For his | duty he was absolutely fearless of the own sake and that of the country he contagion of disease of moral corrupshould not try to make them believe tion. Dr. Houghton was a man of great that he is the victim of illusions; he refinement of appearance and gentleness of behavior. No one could have seen him without detecting at a glance the elevation of his character. Even if he had not worn the clerical garb he would have been recognized everywhere as a man of holy life. It is no wonder that he could enter the vilest premium and the most turbulent abodes in the pursuit of his ministry, for he was as safe from harm as would have been an angel of mercy clothed in the robes

manding purity." In the contemplation of such a career we must not make the mistake of assuming that it has had few parallels. There is probably not a communedy and to pave the way for peace with | ity in the country which lacks its local

est and the most depraved stood

abashed before that figure of com-

called civilization distinguishes itself by a relatively larger product of them. there is room for debate as to its sufficiency.

If the report is true that the president will urge congress to give the secretary of the treasury authority to cancel greenbacks when redeemed, subject to reissue only upon a deposit of gold with him equal to their face in other words, to make it hereafter impossible for any speculator to drain gold out of the United States treasury for purposes of profit in export, the common sense of the country will cordially approve it. This is not the opening of an interminable discussion to no practical purpose but a specific and simple step toward insuring for all time to come the integrity of the gold reserve. It is the blow that would cleave Bryanism in two.

In a recent case before a Massachuetts tribunal the court, in imposing the maximum penalty prescribed by law, held that the high social standing and previous good reputation of a criminal intensify rather than palliate his crime, and the doctrine is sound where crime committed by such a peron is deliberate and without extraorlinary excuse. Society has a right to expect of its better educated members exemplary conduct; otherwise public ducation at public expense would have no warrant for its continuance.

There are 1,400 Americans in Cuba who have secured relief out of the relief fund recently voted by congress, and 10,000 starving natives have, it is said, been helped from it on the sly. To this stretching of the letter of the law we fancy few Americans at home will seriously object.

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 \$80,000,000. Any person having \$50,000,000 to loan will please hold up his hand.

It is the opinion of Congressman Dolliver, of Iowa, that congress ought to "avoid exposing the country's monetary system to a scheme of unfinished surgery." As usual, Mr. Dolliver's head is level.

At Circle City, Alaska, a roast of beef, sufficient for one meal for two persons, is quoted at \$129. Of a truth gold is the cheapest commodity that the Klondike possesses.

One Verdict That All Can Approve.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record The Northwestern Railroad company has very justly been muleted in \$21,696.-33 damages for blacklisting a former employe, named Ketcham, This man was a conductor in the employ of the Northvestern at the time of the great strike of railway men, and attended some of the meetings of the strikers in the inter-est of the American Railway union. He was promptly discharged. The only charge against him was his sympathy with the strikers. Ketcham accepted his smissal from the service of the com-ing with a good grace, not doubting a ability to secure employment on some ther road. He did succeed, but soon and that some of the Northwestern oflisted" him. Again and again he secured ituations on various roads, only to be oon discharged without cause. Having scertained to a certainty that officials of the Northwestern were the cause of all his troubles he brought suit against that corporation for \$25,000 damages.

The case came before the courts in Chicago recently and was hotly contest-ed, but the jury awarded Ketcham damges in the sum of \$21,666.33. The evi-ence showed very clearly that Ketcham mpany wherever he went who, by repreentatives of the Northwestern Railroad ompany wherever he went and by reprenting him as a dangerous agitator, made it impossible for him to retain a situa-tion. If this case is as represented then there has never been a more righteous verdlet than that of the Chicago jury Corporations have an undoubted right to discharge employes either with or without cause, but to follow up a discharged employ by "black listing" him, so as to make it impossible for him to earn a living for himself and his famlly is infamous and deserves to be punished as the Northwestern Railroad com-pany has been in this instance.

"Black listing" competent and honest nave participated in or sympathized with a strike, and endeavoring to prevent hem from securing employment else-where, deserves to be branded as an inan and heartless crime, and courts d juries should show in every such se that comes before them that they not countenance such oppression of he weak and humble by the rich and owerful. The Chicago case has attract-I wide attention throughout the coun d wide attention throughout the coun-ry and been watched with the deepest interest by the labor organizations and corporations. The precedent established by the verdict for Ketcham will not be without a wholesome effect, and may end to put an end to the infamously heartless practice of "black listing." It is said that the Northwestern company eated other employes as it did Conduc-r Ketcham, and that there are a score for Ketcham, and that there are a score of railroad men in Chicago who have been unable to procure employment on account of the system of persecution pursued against them by the same corporation. Every one of them should bring suit for damages and make the lesson an effective one that will be heeded by other corporations and firms.

TAXING LIFE INSURANCE.

from the Washington Post. In looking over the field for available urces 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. This claim may be, and probably is, well founded, for many policies have a large sufrender value. In some cases that alue is nearly as much as the face of the policy, and if state, county, and city assessments were laid on them, the tax would be about as hard to carry as the

But while it is conceded that this would or a time be an easy way to raise revenues, it is by no means clear that it would be sound public policy. One in-evitable 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 insured are persons of moderate means, and they strain every nerve to meet their payments in order that their families may have some provision in case of their death. It has always been deemed good policy for a state to encourage life in-surance, and it may be asserted as a known fact that, in communities noted for thrift and intelligence, the custom of

bassador of Christ who fulfils His teachings, not gaudily but with true than among the thriftless and ignorant. need of such men is far greater than the supply; and until the mechanism brought into the treasury, for it will impoverish families that would else be pro-vided for. It seems to us that such legis lation as is proposed in Georgia is very much like killing the goose that laid golden eggs. It is, at any rate, a propogolden eggs. It is, at any rate, a proposition to discourage one of the most beneficent of all business operations, a plan that has saved millions of widows and orphans from penury, and has, in so doing, tended to build up states and increase the value of lands, buildings, and

other taxable assets. It is true that occasionally a rich mar insures his life for a large amount, but such cases are few in comparison with the number of small policy-holders. At act that, for the sake of reaching the money thus invested by one man of wealth, would strike at 500 men of small means, or rather at the families of the 500, would not be promotive of justice of far-sighted economy. A number of states in the south have exempted manufacturing plants from taxation for a term of years, and have found the results alto-gether satisfactory. The taxation of life policies would present a strange contrast with such exemption laws.

THE FALLACIOUS 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 authority is derived from and responsi-de to the people. It belongs of right to no man and on their demand under the onstitution must be surrendered back to their hands to be otherwise disposed of. But the theory of party government cany citizens seem to entertain would diminate personal influence and leadership altogether. Apparently they would depend entirely on the spontaneous, im-promptu action of the voters. They are offended at the suggestion that any indi-vidual shall plan, organize and direcwith a view to bringing about definite re omes 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 an hor rable man and citizen is not irretriev-

As a matter of fact those who are most tenacious in advocating abstract or sport taneous political action are as ready to are accused of being merely minions of political bosses. 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 fo him to become a follower, unless he de sires that his weight as a citizen shall 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

History is eloquent in its stery of the potency of personal influence and leader-ship in every movement of mankind. To despise or ignore it is not only unphilosophical but fatuous. To the masses a personality represents something tang-ible. 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 con vention 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 th United States with approval or disar proval of the reported plan of Spain fo Cuban autonomy shows a singular misap prehension of the duty and responsibility of our government toward the interna administration of Cuba.

Cuban autonomy is not a question which President McKinley is called upon to dede either in one way or the other. This country has its responsibilities with ref-erence to Cuba, but the form of governnent on the island is not one of them. We have a right to insist on peace in uba 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 nterests more than is inevitable. Our obligations as a neutral we are bound maintain, and when the time comes, if it comes, when it is clear that nothing 13-4 Gold Medal Blanket 7.50 can be accomplished by fighting on either side, we have a right to propose media-ion, and more than mediation, if our interests require and our power justifies

But Cuban autonomy lies altogether outside of these duties and responsibili-ties. It is a question for Cuba, not for the United States. Why should Presiient McKinley express an opinion on an ssue which does not pertain to his official responsibilities in any way whatever? Let Cuba decide. The United States wishes the utmost freedom on evry 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 re-lations and its internal administration. There is not the slightest reason to imagine that President McKinley will de-part from this sound and salutary policy.

BY AUTHORITY?

From the Dunmore Pioneer. Hon, Joseph Scranton will run for con gress next year whether Hon. Willian Connell runs for governor or not.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope D:awn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Nov. 22, 1897.

A child born on this day will notice that the Free Press election contest howl repeats itself weekly with no variation There are lots of jokes floating about in the local papers that would doubtless be very funny, if the writer would only nudge a fellow when it is time to laugh "Apparitions" that according to our Democratic contemporaries threaten Re-publicanism are also outlined upon mud. The effort to discover what the public wants has ruined many men of promise. Colonel Fitzsimmons appears to have a whole alarm clock full of election contes wheels in his head.

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

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