

The Scranton Tribune

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In this season of preparation for the holiday trade we beg leave to remark that the Tribune is pre-eminently the advertising medium of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Its readers are buyers.

Congress and Its Work.

The first regular session of the Fifty-fifth congress which is to begin one week from next Monday will be an important one to be expected; but it is easily possible for the public to entertain undue expectations concerning it. This should be guarded against.

The question of the tariff having been satisfactorily settled in its chief details in an extra session, and the committee on the house when it reassembles will have before it no predominant subject for debate save the resolution conferring belligerent rights upon the Cuban insurgents, and this ought to be put out of the way, either by its prompt adoption or by an equally prompt rejection of it soon after the session's beginning.

Currency reform in comprehensive manner being out of the question at this session by reason of the political complexion of the senate, there exists small reason why this subject should long occupy the attention of the house. Other matters of broad interest which it should consider include the additional restriction of immigration, legislation for the relief of the railway interests of the country, which have suffered greatly by reason of the Supreme court decision voiding traffic pools, the legislation recommended by the heads of the various executive departments for the better conduct of the business of their departments, and the regular appropriation bills. These comprise a programme of work entirely sufficient to occupy the energies of the house until time for adjournment.

In the senate the Hawaiian treaty stands easily first in interest and importance, and the public expects its early ratification. The arguments thus far elicited against such action have been without exception flimsy and captious, and the objections raised have been so trivial as to necessitate small delay in disposing of them. The senate will probably thresh over the subject of the currency with especial emphasis on the silver issue, and the chances in favor of the adoption of a measure, whereby the public business may be facilitated, are not bright; but the least that the senate can do is to ratify the treaty annexing Hawaii. That act will counterbalance much waste of breath in dilly dallying debate.

We observe that there is a renewal of the threshold accusation that congress in session is a menace to the welfare of the country. It is not so. The Fifty-fifth congress has demonstrated already that it is conservative in its impulses and business-like in its methods. It will possess in large degree the confidence of the nation, which it will repay by a prompt performance of duty and an early adjournment.

It is unlikely that patriots who withstand Weyer will succumb to Blanco and "the long green."

The Trenchholm Plan.

Ex-Congressman Trenchholm's scheme of currency reform rests on three propositions: (1) the fusion of greenbacks and Sherman notes into one form of paper redeemable in gold; (2) the legalization and government supervision of clearing house operations with a view to enabling banks remote from the central reserve cities to deposit securities in designated banks in those cities and then issue non-taxable circulating drafts to the amount of such securities on deposit, such drafts to be canceled and the securities back of them returned when redeemed; and (3) the conversion of the silver now in the United States into a reserve fund for the guarantee of outstanding silver dollars and the cancellation of outstanding silver certificates over and above the present value of the silver bullion represented by them.

The gist of this plan is to be found in proposition number two. That is an apparently feasible and simple way to cure periodical money famines in remote districts where banks are too small to be able to keep on hand a large amount of currency and too few and too widely scattered to enable themselves to adopt the clearing house idea directly. It is not clear to the layman how Colonel Trenchholm proposes to make it worth while for the banks of acceptance to set up as the savior of these remote drawer banks; a schedule of charges for this philanthropic service if incorporated in the plan would bring the matter down to a more definite business basis. But it is obvious that such an arrangement as he suggests would supply in large degree the call for a currency with the property of elasticity; there would however remain the question whether drafts payable to bearer by a distant bank would circulate with sufficient freedom in the community of issue to take the place of real money.

Of the two remaining propositions it is enough to say that they are of minor importance. The enactment by congress of a law authorizing the secretary of the treasury to cancel the greenbacks upon their redemption, subject to release in the form of a gold certificate, would avoid the necessity for further worry along that line; and the proposition to scale down outstanding silver certificates to the bullion value of the silver they represent would involve such a fluctuating basis of volume that it would be wiser in the end to call them all in; cancel them, and substitute therefore a treasury note, using the accumulated bullion to purchase gold for an enlarged gold reserve. Any way the subject is viewed, the government is in for a big loss in consequence of the depreciation in the market value of its stored silver bullion; and if silver is hereafter to be discarded as a money metal the best thing the government can do is to get rid of its uncirculated silver as soon as practicable and proceed to augment its reserve supply of gold.

In the opinion of the Pittston Gazette, "it is reasonable to expect that a newspaper which freely gives support to its party candidates should receive from the members of that party the fullest measure of their moral and material support." And it might have added with equal justice that the alleged newspaper that sells out its party candidates and foments party mischief should not be touched by members of that party even with a pair of tongs.

Railway Supervision.

The National Association of Merchants and Travelers, an organization having its inception in Chicago and including in its membership some of the leading wholesale firms of the country, has put itself on record in favor of the enactment by congress of legislation to clothe with vitality the now almost inert Interstate Commerce commission and to suppress ticket-scalping.

Concerning the latter practice it is proper to say that while superficially it may appear to be to the public's advantage to secure from scalpers cut rates for passenger transportation, yet in the long run honesty in this matter as in all other directions would prove to be by far the best policy. The ticket scaler necessarily bases his business upon a foundation of dishonesty. There is dishonesty on the part of the passenger who takes advantage of special rates to secure a ticket which after partial use is sold to a scaler; and there is dishonesty again on the part of both the scaler and his patron when they plot to make the railroad company under the false representation that the purchaser of the unused coupons is the original party to the contract with that company. It is well argued by the association above referred to that if the practice of scalping were abolished, the regular passenger fares might be reduced, many vexatious ticket restrictions might be rescinded and excursion rates for associations or other purposes might be more easily granted and accompanied by less red tape.

As to the need of replenished power for the Interstate Commerce commission, if the principle of government supervision of interstate commerce is not to be abandoned instantly, that we take it is self-evident. Railway discrimination is now practiced almost universally. The large shipper profits at the expense of the small; markets are unsettled and railways that would deal fairly are prevented from doing so by the unscrupulous artifices of less scrupulous rivals. The only safe remedy short of government ownership and conduct of the entire business of transportation—a remedy which might turn out to be worse than the authority adequate for the public's protection.

Good cheer to Cuba's new president, Bartolome Maso, and may he soon be able to move his desk and belongings into a suitable executive mansion at Havana, with not a Spaniard in sight.

No Cause For Gratitude.

It is difficult for the average citizen of this country to find in Spain's release of the Comptroller prisoners any warrant for American gratitude, or any cause for a modification of the aggressive sympathy which Americans instinctively feel for the cause of the Cuban insurgents. The fact that the president is depicted in Washington dispatches as viewing with especial pride his success in getting these five Americans freed without bloodshed, after sentence of death had been pronounced upon them and after they had lain for 18 months in jail at Havana, is credible only as indicative of our government's marvelous patience and willingness to endure from Spain treatment that would be tolerated by no other nation.

The Comptroller was an American blockade runner caught in the act. She carried arms for the Cuban insurgents but as Spain holds that there has been no war in Cuba, the most that this offense amounted to was smuggling, for which a death penalty is unwarranted either in American or in Spanish law. The charge of piracy brought by Spain against the captain and crew of the Comptroller was not sustained by a shred of evidence even in the lop-sided court martial at which these men were tried at Havana, in May, 1896, in violation of the protocol of 1877, which guaranteed them civil trial with full opportunities of defense. Hence their original sentence to death constituted in itself an act by Spain which this government could rightfully have resented by a peremptory demand for the prisoners' immediate release. The fact that it took Spain nearly two years to realize this, and to reach a state of mind wherein she could offer amnesty in the hope of gaining benefits in return, clearly absolves this nation from any reciprocal obligations and merits instead our contempt. It is an instance not of honest desire to right a wrong but of disreputable craft. To ask the American people to stay their hand from offering aid to Cuba because Spain has done under slow compulsion an act of justice which we should have forced her to do more than a year ago is to add to injury a species of underhanded insult not at all to the relief of the Yankee character.

There has been on the part of the administration at Washington a gallant attempt to win popularity in Spain. Let us hope that its course in this matter will soon be revealed in such a light as also to justify equal and even greater popularity in the United States.

Before Sagasta can suppress Weyer he will have to reconstruct Spain.

The Old South Redivivus.

The editor of the Atlanta, Ga., Commercial, Benjamin M. Blackburn, in announcing his candidacy for congress, frankly says: "I believe in a Democrat having some ideas of his own, and I favor a great many things that I believe to be fruitful of good results to my people that are not to be found in any platform. I am in favor of lynching brutes for the usual crime, because I believe that it is our religious duty to keep Southern bones pure and undefiled. I believe the South was right in the sixties, and that the senti-

ment of her people will sustain me today. I am opposed to any system that gives brutal and cowardly psychopaths the right to shoot down innocent labor as was lately done in Pennsylvania."

These words are a trifle more radical than were the utterances of the New Orleans editor who, in an interview had with a reporter in New York, recently asserted the determination of the people of his state to deprive the negro of any hazards of the rights of citizenship conferred upon him by the Constitution of the United States. But they point in a similar direction. If "the South was right in the sixties" it follows that slavery is wrong in the nineties, that slavery ought to be restored, in fact if not in name, and that regardless of the fundamental laws of the nation, which Editor Blackburn, if elected to congress, would have to take oath to uphold, the colored man must be kept down.

We dare say Blackburn's platform is a winner in his community. And yet we call Spain uncivilized!

It is unfortunate that as the day for congress to assemble approaches there is an increasingly active effort to drag the Cuban problem into party politics. We call this unfortunate for two reasons: first, because matters involving a foreign policy should be considered whenever possible on a plane superior to that of domestic partisanship, and secondly because if indefinitely continued inaction and delay are to be accepted as distinctively the Republican policy with reference to Cuba, the administration will place its party following at a disadvantage.

One of the current reports in relation to next year's gubernatorial battle asserts that there is a growing disposition among Republicans in the northwestern part of the commonwealth to rally assertively around the candidacy of Hon. Charles W. Stone of Warren. If true, and it probably is, the report is to their credit. Charles W. Stone is a Republican in every way fitted to be governor of Pennsylvania.

One can sympathize with that New Mexico judge who, when a jury acquitted a notorious murderer, discharged it, saying: "Gentlemen, I find it entirely useless to prosecute crimes in this county. You may go home." There are occasions when his remarks seem almost to have a local application.

The Chicago woman who hid \$8,000 in a barrel and hid it in a coal-truck, when she gets anything to eat, is a woman who has been clear but it has also been effective.

Talk of election contests is cheap.

To Provide Work For Idle Miners

From the Wilkes-Barre Times. Some time since the Times noted a suggestion that the large mining companies whose coal deposits underlie large areas of land in the northwestern part of the commonwealth should be required to employ a certain number of men on their lands, at a low sale price. This suggestion has been adopted by a coal company in Luzerne county, which are to be sold to the miners at the rate of \$2 an acre, that they may make for themselves home farms. The company will furnish to trustworthy miners lumber from its sawmills wherever to build homes and lend such other assistance as may seem desirable.

The Shawmut company employs more than a thousand men and will attempt to become the largest coal operator in the state. If it succeeds it will bring about several wholesome results and may prove a factor in the solution of the problem which has confronted both the coal operator and coal miner, namely, the disposition of the overplus of labor in the coal fields. If the mine is worked, and which the offer it will tend to make of them an independent and self-helpful lot of men, for they will be able to do things do not do right in the mines subsistence can be had from the farm, and that it is not necessary to go to the workings except under such circumstances as are rare. Moreover, the community will enter upon a new period of prosperity. The miners that have gone to the collieries to buy food for the two or three thousand people there will be kept in the pockets of the men who earn it or put into the improvement of their places. Their corn and potatoes and eggs and butter and flour will come from their own acres, and their meat will be taken from the henyard and the meadows. Instead of buying butter and eggs they will sell butter and eggs to their neighbors who work in other mines.

Other companies in this state and particularly in this region are nearly as well equipped as the Elk county concern to assist their miners and, at the same time, themselves. Many thousands of acres in the Wyoming region capable of being farmed in a small way are allowed to lay idle and unproductive. Nearly every large company has some land which it could improve in this way. Not many companies can make such a low price for land as \$2 an acre, but most of them can put a reasonable price on a small piece and enable the miner to get it. The example of the Shawmut company points out the way to settle labor troubles, for it shows how to clear away the idle man when there is nothing for him to do in the mines. It is one of the most important industrial departments of many a year, and it is to be hoped that nothing will interfere with its full measure of success.

THE ONION AND DRAMATIC ART.

From the Times-Herald. Several weeks ago a bark in Shipshewanna, Ind., was visited by burglars, who blew upon the safe and secured a large sum of money. A famous pack of bloodhounds was brought from Indiana and turned loose upon the robbers' trail. The man hunt lasted only a few minutes. Suddenly the burglar began howling diabolically and refused to go farther. It was impossible to continue the chase. A prisoner now in jail at Lionport, Ind., has turned state's evidence and has told the police all the facts concerning the bank burglary and the subsequent escape of the men. He says the bloodhounds were thrown off the scent without any trouble by rubbing an onion on the shoes worn by the burglars. He adds that the bloodhounds can be induced to follow an onion trail. If this discovery is verified, what is to become of the terrible man-hunt which ever since the days of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" have figured so extensively in our fiction literature? What is to become of Eliza and that wonderful trip on the floating log? Who henceforth will be shrilled by the blood-curdling howling of the hounds? Is it, E. P. who knows that Eliza could easily bid de-

fiance to pursue by using a lowly but self-assertive onion? The play must be revised. The river of ice may as well be left out altogether. Just at the critical moment when the approaching hounds are in full cry Eliza and the new Eliza—shall open a lunch basket, take out an onion, wave it triumphantly and cry "Saved!" If the stage hopes to keep abreast of the age it must pay attention to those realistic details which, continued, make perfection in dramatic art.

MUNCHAUSEN NOT A MYTH.

The fact that the German people have just completed a celebration of the centenary of the far-famed Baron Munchausen, the paragon of harmless liars, affords the New York Sun a chance to direct attention to the circumstance that Munchausen really lived. He belonged to the Sun to one of the most ancient families of Germany, and his descendants gave to Hanover and Brunswick many distinguished statesmen. He was born in 1733 in the magnificent domain of Bodenwerder. He was educated with the care, like all the young nobles of his time, which he was to receive in the Duke of Brunswick. He determined character and singular intelligence made him prominent. The Duke of Brunswick was charmed with him, and when he was in the Russian regiment of Russian cuirassiers, of which the Empress Anna afterward made him the colonel, Munchausen was an excellent officer. He was conspicuous in two campaigns against the Turks, wherein he displayed brilliant military qualities and unquestionable bravery. At last he got married to a charming Lithuanian lady named Jacobine von Danton. Thereupon he abandoned the military career and retired to his country seat.

It was then that his reputation became legendary. Rich, honorable, and a passionate hunter, he made his house the rendezvous of all the country nobility in the neighborhood of the Weser. In company with his friends, smoking his pipe and drinking his punch, he liked to tell of his adventures. He was a man of prodigious and his wit was never exhausted. Everybody listened to him with pleasure, because he was comical and good natured. His companions were always interested by his fabulous stories, which, of course, were never presented in their true form. He was a man of feeble-minded and fancied that he was really the hero of the marvelous exploits which he used to launch at years before. In that way he lived for several years with his amiable and good wife, surrounded by a society of friends who listened to him with delight, flattering his vanity and glorifying his exploits.

Then fortune abandoned him; his stories were turned against himself. An Englishman among his guests took it into his head to gather up all the nonsense that he used to talk about. He published it in a volume which was full of satire. The little book had an enormous success. Five editions of it were published in London in two years. After that it was translated into German and reproduced with numerous and memorable editions in his own country. Naturally enough, the baron did not like the fame that was given to him in that shape. He approached chronicles and legends with which his ill-natural historians surrounded him; and when his good wife died he was foolish enough to marry for the second time, in spite of his advanced years. This was a new misfortune for the baron. His second wife was a faithless coquette who covered the old man's forehead with shame and almost completely depleted his coffers. He had to go to law with her in order to get rid of her. Soon afterward he died. The stories that he used to tell to amuse his guests were the cause of all his trouble.

Munchausen was always popular in Germany. His old domain at Bodenwerder still preserved as a place of pilgrimage, and his marvelous adventures are more read and more enjoyed than ever. They have inspired many artists, and the German people have found good material in those original compositions. They were translated and adapted into several languages. In France, for example, everybody has read the "Adventures of M. de Crac," which has had such glorious success in our juvenile literature. It is ironic to note that an adaptation of the "Adventures of Baron Munchausen."

TELEGRAPHING WITHOUT WIRES.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. The Marconi system of telegraphic communication without the aid of wires was first proposed by Professor Le Adee in a first of a series of university extension course lectures, at the Free Academy last night, before an interested audience. Professor Adee was greatly handicapped by several unfavorable conditions which confronted him in his experimental work: both in having to make use of a crude apparatus, and also in the depletion of the liquid battery, and the necessary substitution of a dry battery for his receiver. The transmitter consisted of a Leyden jar, a strong electric spark, and the zinc plates being set in motion the electric wave is started. Like a wave of sound or light, it creates a strong electric current, and reaches the receiver. The receiver, which is connected with a battery, consists of a small metal tube called a coherer, containing brass and silver filings. Under ordinary circumstances, metal filings are not good conductors, but when they are subjected to a radio wave, they constitute a most sensitive conductor. The waves created by the transmitter crowd these filings together. Then it becomes necessary to adjust the "tuning" of the receiver so that it makes the same number of vibrations per second as does the transmitter. On the receiver an ordinary telegraph relay operating an ordinary sander is used.

Owing to the fact that the apparatus was not perfected, through Professor Adee's inability to obtain certain parts in Rochester, and also on account of the failure of the battery for the receiver, it was necessary to place the receiver much nearer to the transmitter than would have been the case under more favorable conditions. The signals were clearly repeated at a distance of 35 or 40 feet, however, and the practicability of the method was demonstrated in a manner that dispelled any doubts that those present may have possessed.

Several weeks ago a bark in Shipshewanna, Ind., was visited by burglars, who blew upon the safe and secured a large sum of money. A famous pack of bloodhounds was brought from Indiana and turned loose upon the robbers' trail. The man hunt lasted only a few minutes. Suddenly the burglar began howling diabolically and refused to go farther. It was impossible to continue the chase. A prisoner now in jail at Lionport, Ind., has turned state's evidence and has told the police all the facts concerning the bank burglary and the subsequent escape of the men. He says the bloodhounds were thrown off the scent without any trouble by rubbing an onion on the shoes worn by the burglars. He adds that the bloodhounds can be induced to follow an onion trail.

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Unbleached Table Linen, 54 inches wide, 22 cents a yard. Half Bleached Table Linen, 62 inches wide, 30 cents a yard. Old Bleached Homespun Table Linen, 40 cents per yard. Unbleached Table Linen, 72 inches wide, 50 cents per yard. A Fine All Linen Bleached Damask, in seven designs, 62 inches wide, until Thursday only, 50 cents. Beautiful designs in 72 inch Bleached, Double Damask, such as Clover, Lily of the Valley, Carnation, Ribbon, Sweet Pea and Whortleberry. Napkins to match at very low prices.

Bleached Cotton Huck Towels, fancy border, 12 1/2 cents per pair. Hemmed Huck Linen Towels, 18x36, 20 cents per pair. Damask Knotted Fringe Towels, fancy border, 25 cents per pair. Hemmed Huck Linen Towels, 20x40, 30 cents per pair. Hemstitched Damask Huck Towels, 50 cents per pair. All Linen Fancy Border Towels, 25x52, the largest made, 50 cents per pair. New line of Large Plaid Towelling in Red, Pink, Blue and Green, 18 inch, 10 cents; 20 inch 12 1/2 cents, for cushions, etc.

Store closed Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. Watch Thursday's papers for announcement of our Friday Afternoon Hourly Bargain Sale.

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For this week we quote the following low prices:

- Cotton Blankets. 10-4 Columbia Blankets 75c 11-4 Silver Queen Blankets 75c 11-4 Gloria Blankets 98c 11-4 Arcadia Blankets \$1.35 Mixed Blankets. Borders—Red, Blue, Pink and Lemon. 10-4 Kingston Blankets \$1.75 10-4 Oxford Blankets 1.98 10-4 Welland Blankets 2.25 11-4 Oxford Blankets 2.45 11-4 Welland Blankets 2.75

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Don't Be Tempted

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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.

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

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