

The Scranton Tribune

The Tribune's telegraphic news is from three to five hours fresher than that of any Philadelphia or New York paper circulated in its field.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

It is probably just as well that Uncle Sam's divers had the first peep at the wreck of the Maine.

Washington's Birthday.

At this period of unrest, when the wild alarms of war are liable at any moment to pass forth in terrible reiteration, the celebration of the holiday set apart to commemorate the birth of America's greatest warrior and statesman must have unusual significance.

The awful disaster that followed the sinking of a warship to Cuban waters to protect the interests of American citizens in a turbulent port indicates that it may be necessary yet for the descendants of the heroes of the revolution to exhibit their fighting qualities in order that the remnants of foreign despotism may be taught to respect the banner of the nation of the free.

What may follow the attempts to unravel the complications that perplex the American statesmen of today it were difficult accurately to foretell. In any event, however, this seems to be an occasion when the celebration of Washington's birthday should be entered upon with a will that shall banish any suspicion that the spirit of '76 has been slumbering for the past few months.

The administration may not have moved as rapidly as many have desired in the settlement of differences with Spain, but all will observe that there has been no disposition on part of the government to recede at any stage of the game.

Theories.

The report that divers in a preliminary investigation at Havana have found the forward magazine of the Maine intact is of obvious importance if true, since it will destroy what has been the most plausible and the most generally credited theory of those who decline to believe that the destruction of the Maine was designed. This theory cannot be better explained than in the words of a prominent naval engineer interviewed by the New York Sun. He said:

Another Mothers' Congress.

There had been so many congresses of women for purposes outside of woman's natural sphere and such a hubbalooboo and fuss concerning the vagaries and vain pretences of the so-called Affranchised Woman that when, one year ago, announcement was made that there was to be that novelty of novelties, a congress of mothers, the public took to it like a duck to water. The congress was held as announced; it was attended by many of the brightest women and some of the best men of the nation, and while there was nothing sensational in its work, nothing that the yellow journals could exploit under scare heads, the fund of information relating to motherhood and childhood was visibly increased. The papers read and the addresses delivered before the congress represented the best thought of the country upon the most vital human relationship, and their widespread publication did an amount of good not within the ability of any one to estimate.

These recollections are suggested by receipt of information that a second congress of mothers is being arranged for this one. It is expected, will be international in representation. The idea having within the year taken hold of the more progressive women of a number of foreign countries. It will be held in Washington in May, and will last six days. The first day, according to the prospectus, will be devoted to receiving delegates, distributing badges, hearing reports of national officers and five-minute reports from clubs represented, any club of not less than five members being entitled to a delegate. The second and third days will be devoted to questions bearing chiefly upon the relations of mother and child. On the fourth and fifth days subjects involving the duties of both parents will be discussed. The sixth day will be given to a discussion of methods to be employed—from the individual, social, municipal, and national standpoint—which shall give to the child both before and after birth such conditions as shall insure to each successive generation a higher type of humanity.

To this second congress of mothers the fathers and sons of the land will extend their most cordial greetings and their sincerest wishes for its success. In deciding not to admit to statehood at this time the territories of Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico congress has acted prudently. With Nevada staring us in the face as an awful example of misdirected enterprise it behooves the American congress to make new states slowly hereafter. Once made, a state cannot be unmade. Its creation is for all time.

A bill has been introduced at Albany to put a stop to the legal recognition of "common law" marriages. At present in New York state the woman who can establish that she cohabited with a man may lay claim to part of his estate, even though that man had had also an acknowledged wife whose marriage with him had been properly cer-

companies and their victims to the sense of the terrible risk taken.

Delegate Palma doesn't hesitate to express his belief that the Maine was blown up by a Spaniard, and what he knows about the Spanish character and methods entitles him to speak with authority.

Telephone Charges.

An interesting telephone war is in progress in Washington. The charges in that city range from \$80 to \$120 a year, according to the distance of the subscriber from the central office and the number of messages sent. For \$80 a year the subscriber has the right to send 999 messages within a circuit of 10 miles, and there is a sliding scale for longer distances and a larger service. All messages above the number given are charged extra at the rate of 7, 8, 9 and 10 cents each, according to distance, and when the subscriber signs a contract he stipulates that he will not permit the telephone to be used by any persons except the members of his own family or his employees.

Mention was made recently of a suit before the supreme court of the district of Columbia by which the Washington telephone company secured a decision making it possible for it to prevent the guests at a hotel from using the hotel's phone except for the transaction of business specifically connected with the hotel. According to the decision they may use the telephone to call a drayman to take their baggage to the station but they may not, without paying toll, telephone for theater tickets or any one of a thousand things commonly considered to be within their privileges as guests. The hotel men are consequently boycotting the telephone company, and a Washington letter in the Philadelphia Press adds:

The druggists of the city are now banding together for the purpose of ordering the instruments got of their establishments. The doctors are up in arms and are holding indignation meetings because part of the regulations of the company are such as to prevent their sending confidential messages. They have no privacy in their communications but a censor listens to the messages, and if these do not comport with the ideas of the terms of the contract they are stopped. The doctors are also forbidden to call up their own offices from the outside without paying charges at party telephones. There are a dozen other stipulations that are claimed to be unusual and onerous.

This agitation in Washington has spread to other cities, notably New York, where the annual charge is \$240 a year. The Tribune of that city has been investigating the matter and it finds that in Detroit a company is giving first rate telephone service to 4,800 local customers who average 34,000 connections daily at a charge of only \$25 a year for residence phones and \$49 for business places.

An attempt will be made in Washington to get congress to take action in the matter. The committees in charge of district of Columbia affairs have before them a bill cutting the charge in half and making regulations sufficient to protect phone users. It is to be hoped that the bill will be enacted.

Horatio S. Rubens, counsel for the Cuban junta, corroborates the report that the Cuban republic would be willing to pay Spain a reasonable sum to evacuate Cuba before all property there is destroyed. Spain had better grab at this offer while she has the chance.

Torpedo's Effect Upon a Big Ship

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS. IN THE large number of cases in which vessels have been blown up and sunk by torpedoes in the past forty years there is, as far as we know, no single case in which the magazine was exploded. This does not prove that a torpedo is a submarine mine might not explode a magazine, and until evidence is obtained no final judgment can be reached, but it puts the burden of proof on the view that the magazine of the Maine was exploded from outside by a mine or torpedo. The treacherous introduction of explosives must exclude from within. The Aquidoban, a Brazilian battleship, is one of the largest vessels yet destroyed by a torpedo, and, with two exceptions in China, the only one approaching the Maine in size. The Brazilian vessel was 4,950 tons against 6,825 tons for the Maine, thirty feet shorter, five feet narrower and drawing two feet less; her armor belt was an inch thinner and she had nine instead of ten-inch guns. In May, 1894, she was struck while under way, with steam up, in action, and hence with magazine doors open, shell hoists in operation and her own torpedoes charged and ready in the low compartment, with a Schwazer torpedo charged with 175 pounds of gun cotton, as powerful an explosive as is in use for this purpose. The torpedo took effect in the bow, below the water tanks at the water line. The very detailed description given by the English engineer from a Brazilian correspondent, evidently a professional engineer, reports that the blow tore a hole through the stem of the vessel from side to side. The hole on the side where the blow was delivered measured eleven feet ten inches by four feet eight inches. The hole on the other side was smaller. The deck plates, about three inches thick, were blown away, were scarcely bent and were uninjured. The water tanks were not opened. The first and second compartments, in action, so that it is probable her main magazine were closed. Her size, 3,500 tons, was a little over half that of the Maine, and she was only two-thirds the length and three-fifths the breadth. She was struck, according to the official reports, by five Nordenfeldt torpedoes out of seven. The charge is not stated, but it was not live. The Chinese Yuen and Chi Yuen, cruisers of 2,300 tons, and the fifth a smaller vessel. While all these were sunk while lying in harbor, the Japanese torpedo boat Kotilla running in on the nights of Feb. 4 and 5 no one of the vessels exploded. During our own war the Tecumseh was sunk in Mobile Bay by a submarine mine; but no explosion took place. Of five other vessels torpedoed only one, the Houston, was sunk. The new ironclad, against which a gun powder torpedo was exploded, was practically uninjured. The Albemarle was sunk while at anchor by Cushing with a six-inch torpedo, but the explosion was blown in, and no explosion followed.

The popular idea of a torpedo or submarine mine explosion is of course that it tends a ship in twain. This looks pretty in a picture, but, like the picture, it is imaginary. The calculations indicate, though they do not prove, that the blow would shatter the double skin steel hull of a modern battleship 12,000 pounds to the square inch. If we accept the formula for the force of explosives deduced from General Abbott's experiments at Willet's Point, a ground—that is, anchored—torpedo with 300 pounds of dynamite at five feet from a vessel ought to exert a pressure of 40 pounds per square inch, or five times the blow needed to break a hole. This blow decreases rapidly at a distance, being only 2.54 pounds at fifty feet, or a mere shak. The Maine was in 26 to 35 feet of water at mean low tide and therefore about 16 to 18 feet from the bottom. The blow of a submarine mine or torpedo would un-

oubtedly sink her, but evidence is needed, either in view of past experience or of received calculations, to show how a mine, and much less a torpedo, could blow a hole through her and explode the magazine. This is possible. It is also possible that explosives were introduced on board. But it is plain that great caution is needed in reaching a conclusion, and a suspended judgment is indispensably necessary until all the facts are known.

BOILER-PLATE JOURNALISM.

Editor of The Tribune— Sir: Your recent criticism of boiler plate journalism may not be altogether inappropriate and will, no doubt, hit hard in many of the quarters where John Wanamaker's checks are still kindly remembered, but so far as the editor of the Wilkes-Barre Times is concerned, you should have made some sort of an allowance. No man in all Wilkes-Barre worked harder for the cause of Frank Wheaton and Sam Morgan, two out and out Quay delegates to the state convention, than did Mr. Liddon Flick, the brainy and sterner of the Times, and the appearance of the boiler plate article in question, roasting Senator Quay as a bloated bondholder, had better be mercifully overlooked. Possibly it may have been a mistake of the foreman.

The present bill refuses to recognize an irregular social relationship as involving any hold upon the property of the man, and it is obviously just. If the law does not protect marriage nothing else will.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution making the terms of members of the house of representatives four years instead of two, as at present, has been favorably reported to the house from the committee on election of the president, vice president and representatives in congress, but it will probably proceed no further. Constitutional tinkering is not popular.

The president of the New York Bar association is credited in the press with having asserted that in half the cases tried in the courts nowadays there is deliberate perjury. If this or anything like this is true, the lawyers as a class must be cognizant of it and if they are true to their oaths as officers of the court they will see that the greater part of it is stopped.

Owing to other events of greater interest, M. Zola is not receiving the amount of advertising on this side of the pond that would have been accorded had his trial occurred at almost any other time.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Aiacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 12:01 a. m., for Tuesday, February 22, 1898.

A child born on this day will doubtless refer to the event as the anniversary of "me and George." "The father of his country," it is stated, wore a No. 15 boot. No wonder he left bold footprints in the sands of time! It began to look as though once journalism in Scranton was confined exclusively to the 60-minute-hour train editions. Why not turn Messrs. Kirby and Heust loss on Spain, and end the affair at once?

Aiacchus' Advice. If you hear that the Viscaya has blown up Linden street bridge, do not worry. It will simply be an illustration of the enterprise of the fellows who have papers to sell.

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JOURNALISM IN SCRANTON.

From the Sunday News. There are 75 union printers and it is estimated that four persons are dependent upon each printer. This means 300 persons. Two hundred boys are engaged in selling papers in this city. They bring home their pennies to 400 needy fathers and mothers. This means, at least, 200 persons interested. There are 53 writers on the press of Scranton, which means, according to an accepted average, 265 persons who depend upon the local papers. There are 22 persons who own printing establishments who support 100 printers, at least. A running investigation into the conditions which their efforts in journalistic work are contributing to the support of that many families. The number benefited by the industry is, however, much larger. Engravers, local dealers in white paper, etc., reach 15. Five hundred and ninety persons are dependent upon them for a livelihood. Summarized the number interested in local newspapers is 3,087.

ANOTHER PRECEDENT.

From the New York Sun. The proposition that a state is responsible to a foreign state for injuries inflicted by the private citizens of the former upon the private citizens of the latter was enforced by England in the celebrated case of *Dorset*. The British subject, whose house at Athens was plundered by a mob in 1847 because it was believed that he had induced the Athenian police to prohibit the Easter custom of burning Judas Iscariot in effigy. The British fleet laid an embargo upon Greek shipping, and thus compelled the payment of an ample sum by way of indemnity.

THEY'RE UP-TO-DATE.

From the Scranton Truth. There is no longer any provincialism in the matter of newspaper-making so far as the furnishing of reliable information from all parts of the world is concerned, and certainly not in the newspapers of Scranton.

Two Advantages.

"'Tis better," said the sentimental young man, "to have loved and lost than to have loved at all, or something of the sort."—*Indianapolis Journal*.

"Also," said the elderly man, with the string around his forefinger, "it is cheaper."—*Indianapolis Journal*.

Haviland China...

WE ARE CLOSING OUT FOUR OF OUR OPEN STOCK CHINA PATTERNS. WRITING DESKS, LOUNGES, DRESSING TABLES, WORK TABLES, FANCY TABLES, EASY CHAIRS, CRYVAL GLASSES, GILT CHAIRS, PARLOR CABINETS, INSLAND CHAIRS, MUSIC CABINETS, ROCKERS, CURIO CABINETS, SEATING STANDS, BOOK CASES, FIDELITYS, FANCY BASKETS, TABOURETTES.

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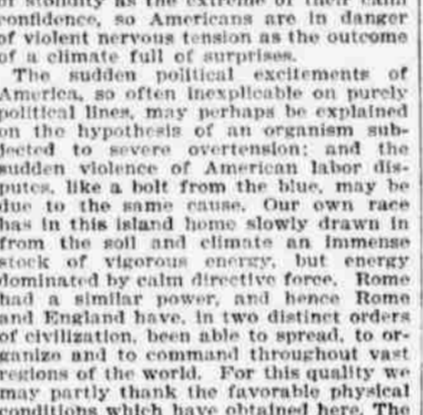
Editor of The Tribune— Sir: Your recent criticism of boiler plate journalism may not be altogether inappropriate and will, no doubt, hit hard in many of the quarters where John Wanamaker's checks are still kindly remembered, but so far as the editor of the Wilkes-Barre Times is concerned, you should have made some sort of an allowance. No man in all Wilkes-Barre worked harder for the cause of Frank Wheaton and Sam Morgan, two out and out Quay delegates to the state convention, than did Mr. Liddon Flick, the brainy and sterner of the Times, and the appearance of the boiler plate article in question, roasting Senator Quay as a bloated bondholder, had better be mercifully overlooked. Possibly it may have been a mistake of the foreman.

However what the boiler plate says about the poverty of the attendants of the Bourne meeting is certainly not altogether untrue, and that this crowd was largely made up from the bacilli of the party will hardly be disputed by anyone who for instance knows something about the political character and microscopic size of the fellows who went down from Scranton to attend this memorial gathering and introduce themselves as original first comers into the elementary character of a mind ready for sudden emergencies. Nature must have begun this educating influence immediately the Pilgrims landed on the bleak New England shores; for they assuredly could not have survived at all unless they had been able to accommodate themselves to the caprices of that exacting climate. Many improvements in ways of living, in houses and in dress have been introduced into America as the result of the educating influence of climate. The mind has been quickened, the character made both more eager and more inventive by the pressure of natural forces. On the other hand, the Americans are in danger of violent nervous tension as the outcome of a climate full of surprises.

CLIMATE AND CHARACTER.

From the London Spectator. There are advantages in the American climate. It has killed off many weaklings, but it has developed a resourceful character, a mind ready for sudden emergencies. Nature must have begun this educating influence immediately the Pilgrims landed on the bleak New England shores; for they assuredly could not have survived at all unless they had been able to accommodate themselves to the caprices of that exacting climate. Many improvements in ways of living, in houses and in dress have been introduced into America as the result of the educating influence of climate. The mind has been quickened, the character made both more eager and more inventive by the pressure of natural forces. On the other hand, the Americans are in danger of violent nervous tension as the outcome of a climate full of surprises.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies.



TRADE BUILDERS For Men, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00 Honest Shoes.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies.

THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE. Stop a Minute

WHEN YOU ARE PASSING BY OUR PLACE AND LOOK AT THE DISPLAY OF BRUSHES IN OUR WINDOW, WE HAVE ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF IN THE BRUSH LINE.

\$100 Outfit of Carpenters' Tools

THESE TOOLS ARE ALL HIGH-GRADE AND EVERY TOOL WARRANTED.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO.,

HILL & CONNELL'S Furniture

Such a choice stock to select from cannot be found elsewhere in this part of the state. And when you consider the moderate prices at which the goods are marked is a further claim on the attention and consideration of buyers.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS.

25 DOZEN German "Silver Bleach" Napkins, 5-8 size; regular \$1.25 quality. Sale Price, \$1.10

Hill & Connell

At 121 North Washington Avenue. Scranton, Pa.

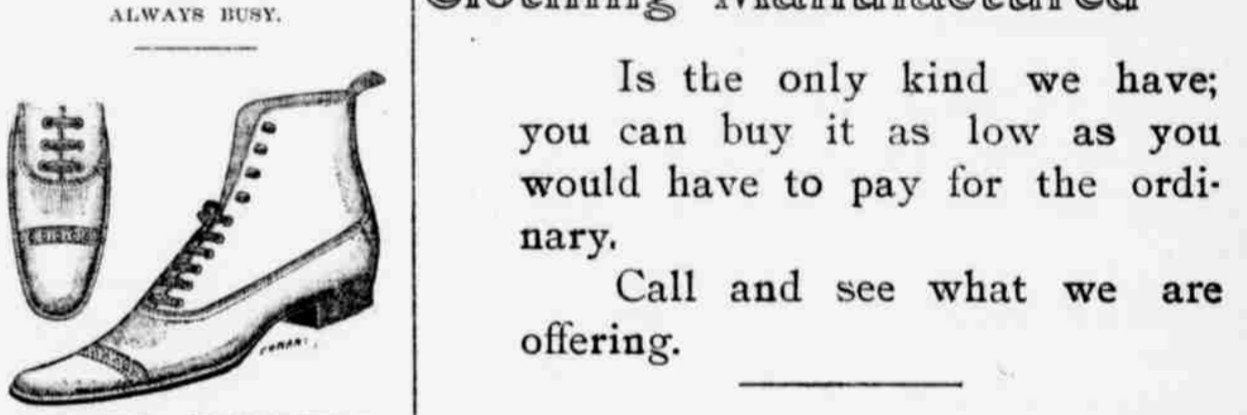
GOLDSMITH'S G. B. BAZAAR.

A Malicious Falsehood Nailed.

It having been brought to our notice that somebody has circulated a report that we had given up our Upholstery and Drapery Departments, we beg leave to inform the public at large that such a report is untrue, and that we are better prepared than ever before to carry on business in these lines. The departments have been greatly enlarged; they are in charge of the most competent salespeople and workmen, and whenever you are in need of Curtains, Shades, Draperies, Hard-Wood Floors, Awnings or Upholstering---reliable goods, reliable work, and reliable prices, please come around to see us.

Very respectfully, GOLDSMITH BROS. & CO.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies. The Very Best Clothing Manufactured



Is the only kind we have; you can buy it as low as you would have to pay for the ordinary. Call and see what we are offering.

BOYLE & MUCKLOW, 416 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

FINLEY'S Annual Linen Sale

Opens today and will continue for Ten Days.

No need to say that the values we will offer during this sale will be more convincing than ever that we are in a position to offer "High Class" Table Linens, Napkins, Doilies, etc., at prices that defy competition.

REYNOLDS BROTHERS, STATIONERS, ENGRAVERS, HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING, 139 Wyoming Avenue.

HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District for DUPONT'S POWDER.

Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Smokeless and the Repano Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Exploders. Rooms 212, 213 and 214 Commonwealth Building, Scranton.

AGENCIES THOR, FORD, JOHN B. SMITH & SON, E. W. MULLIGAN, Pittston Plymouth Wilkes-Barre

MT. PLEASANT COAL AT RETAIL.

Coal of the best quality for domestic use and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and Birdseye, delivered in any part of the city at the lowest price. Orders received at the Office, first floor, Commonwealth building, room No. 6; telephone No. 2654 or at the mine, telephone No. 272, will be promptly attended to. Dealers supplied at the mine. WM. T. SMITH.

25 DOZEN German "Silver Bleach" Napkins, 5-8 size; regular \$1.25 quality. Sale Price, \$1.10

25 DOZEN 5-8 size; regular \$2.00 quality. Sale Price, \$1.75

3-4 size, Full Bleached Damask; regular \$2.25 quality. Sale Price, \$1.85

All finer numbers in proportion. Special prices on Towels (For this Sale). 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE