

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 29, 1898.

Consul O. F. Williams, who at first opposed the retention of the Philippines, has been educated by events into an ardent expansionist.

Illusive Assets.

When the William M. Singerly bubble burst in Philadelphia one year ago the creditors of the Chestnut street national bank and the Chestnut trust and savings fund company were assured that the earnings of the Philadelphia Record, which were promptly pledged to them, were averaging more than a quarter of a million dollars a year.

An expert accountant from the office of the comptroller of the currency at Washington, who made an examination of the books of the Record company for the information of the comptroller at the time the proposed scheme of readjustment was under discussion, reported that the net earnings for five years preceding the date of the examination averaged \$235,000.

A year has gone by and the creditors are beginning to ask when they are to see an evidence of this exceptional profitability. The trustees of the Singerly estate, Messrs. Earl and Cooke, who are in charge of the Record property, excuse the delay by assuring the public that the earnings powers of the newspaper have been exaggerated and that certain necessary improvements in plant and equipment, made since they assumed control, have deferred the period of a first distribution of profits.

It is also reported that Mr. Earl has expressed doubts as to whether the Record this year will earn not much more than \$100,000 or about one-third of what the late Mr. Singerly thought it was earning when under his supervision.

Out of these facts and conditions a storm of controversy has arisen, the merits of which are hardly to be judged at this distance. But if the Record earns less this year than formerly it will not be unique in this respect.

The expiring year has been a severe one upon American newspapers. The war greatly increased expenses and quite as greatly diminished advertising receipts without offering anything adequate in way of compensation.

It is questionable if a third of the representative daily papers of the United States will close their ledgers on New Year's eve with cash receipts equalling the cash outgo.

Under these circumstances the penny Record of Philadelphia can earn for 1898 a genuine profit of \$100,000. Its creditors, instead of grumbling, should lift their hats to it and proceed without delay to erect a statue to its business manager.

Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews has forsaken his free silver idols and come out fatly for expansion. We know so smart and good a man could not stay fooled long.

Contempt of Court. An unpleasant illustration has just been given of the power of a judge to punish newspaper criticism by use of the contempt prerogative.

In August last in a railroad accident at Sharon, Mass., five persons were killed. The engineer at fault was arraigned for manslaughter at Dedham and after the case had been submitted to the jury the Boston Traveler circulated in Dedham an editorial comment on the trial which endeavored to establish that the engineer was less guilty than the railroad company which, knowing him to be inexperienced, put him suddenly in charge of an important train.

The comment was moderate and seemingly very fair if the facts asserted in it were true. As to that we know nothing, but one day later the trial judge at Dedham, Judge Sherman, issued an attachment for the editor of the Traveler, and sentenced him to thirty days in jail for contempt of court for printing comments which "might have influenced the minds of the jury had the jury seen them."

It is proper to say that few judges in the United States would have acted as Judge Sherman acted, even under greater provocation. The secret of his peculiar susceptibility to newspaper comment is possibly to be found in the fact that the columns of the Traveler have contained, from time to time, cutting references to certain infirmities in his manner and temper which convinced him that he was poorly fitted for judicial duties. But it is to be regretted that any judge should have automatic power to bring annoyance and humiliation to an object of his resentment by use of a prerogative which, in original intent, was conferred solely to aid in the preservation of decorum in the immediate place of trial and not as a general instrument of retaliation, persecution or absolutism.

This case is to be appraised to a superior court, which will no doubt take swift occasion to humble Judge Sherman's high mightiness. But instances like these, frequently occurring, give impetus to the mistaken belief that a judge should have no police power at all, and are therefore misfortunes affecting our entire judicial system.

Havana, like Scranton, seems to have a very active deadline gang.

Our Next Acquisition. During the recent visit of the presidential party to Macon, Ga., General James H. Wilson—who, by the way, seems to acquit himself most creditably wherever placed—aroused great enthusiasm by using at the conclusion of an eloquent speech the words which follow: "I hope to see the day when our starry flag shall float everywhere from the frozen north to the sunny

clime of Central America. We are too big and powerful and progressive to have neighbors on this continent, and I trust that before the next administration of the president closes the flag will fly over every foot of the continent, from the northern extremity of the Dominion of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico."

Whether the Mexico end of this wish is worth much present anxiety may well be doubted; conditions must improve very materially and radical changes must occur in social customs and ideals in that country before the neighbor to the southward will present adequate recommendations for adoption into the sisterhood of states. But with reference to Canada General Wilson's hope will be more popular. Circumstances seem to be drawing Canada not slowly but rapidly into the embrace of Uncle Sam. Plenty of men now living will see annexation accomplished.

We have hitherto called attention to the growing desire of the large commercial interests of the Dominion for a treaty of reciprocity with the United States which, as regards staple Canadian products, shall virtually eliminate the custom houses along the dividing line. There are reasons for believing that this will grow. Figures just issued by the British board of trade show that the preferential tariff which Canada recently granted to British imports in the hope of stimulating a greater exchange between colony and mother country and thereby compensating the colonists for their failure to gain easy access to the vast and handy markets of the United States has failed after ample trial to effect noticeable results. The markets of the United States, near and sufficient, remain the coveted goal of Canadian commercial ambition; the one sure route to Canadian prosperity and general development. When the mass of Canadians learn this fact they will, without further prompting, move for annexation.

The United States can wait. It was most fortunate for Admiral Dewey during the battle of Manila that the yellow correspondents and magazine writers were all on the other side of the globe.

The Tribune Almanac. On next Monday morning the Tribune will place on sale at newsstands and through carriers copies of its almanac and political handbook for 1899. Especial pains have been taken to make this issue the most accurate and comprehensive of any yet issued. In addition to the usual records of local happenings and carefully revised directory of local organizations it will contain the most complete review of political subjects yet made, including the Crawford county rules and the official vote in Lackawanna and all adjacent counties, together with a mass of classified general information. As a ready reference book it will be found invaluable.

A good deal is being said about the peril to society in the "badger" game. The peril to society consists in the willingness of certain men to be badgered.

Two Examples. The United States are just about to enter on a task of government—of administration—over regions which, in inhabitants, in climate and in political tradition, differ essentially from themselves. What are the conditions of success? We have two great examples. Great Britain has been, in the main, and increasingly, beneficent and strong. Spain from the very first, as the records show, was inhumanly oppressive to the inferior races; and, after her own descendants in the colonies became aliens in habit to the home country, she then also became tyrannically exacting.

In the domain of color, black and white are contradictory; but it is not so with self-interest and beneficence in the realm of ideas. Where the relations are those of trustee to ward, as are those of any state which rules over a weaker community not admitted to the full privileges of home citizenship, the first test to which measures must be brought is the good of the ward. It is the first interest of the guardian, for it concerns his honor. Whatever the part of the United States in the growing conflict of European nations around China and the east, they deal there with equals, and may battle like men; but their new possessions, with their yet minor races, are the objects only of solicitude.

"Idiotic" action. If the paramount idea of beneficence becomes a national conviction, we may stumble and err, we may at times sin or be betrayed by unworthy representatives, but we shall advance unflinchingly. The history of Great Britain's advance—in the latter of which the stern lesson given by the revolt of the United States is certainly a conspicuous factor, as also, perhaps, the other revolt known as the Indian mutiny in 1857—like teach us that territories beyond the sea can be securely held only when the advantage and interests of the inhabitants are the primary object of the administration. The inhabitants may not return love for their benefactors, but the sense of duty achieved and the security of the tenure are the reward of the ruler.

"Materially, the interest of the nation is one with its beneficence; but if the ideas get inverted and the nation sees in its new responsibilities, first of all, markets and profits, with incidental resultant benefit to the natives, it will go wrong. Through such mistakes Great Britain passed. She lost the United States; she suffered bitter anguish in India; but India and Egypt testify today to the nobility of her repentance. Spain repented not. Her examples are before us. Which shall be followed?—Captain Mahan in the Engineering Magazine.

It becomes more and more apparent daily that the "advance agent of prosperity" did not half advertise the attractive features of the entertainment.

Havana is reported to have an abundance of American flags, but it evidently has not yet learned their true meaning.

NEWS AND COMMENT

F. W. Vaillo, assistant superintendent of the railway mail service, who is in Manila as the representative of the postoffice department to establish a postal system on an American basis, has sent in an interesting preliminary report, under date of Nov. 13. He says: "The Filipinos are evidently not great letter writers, although it is possible that with the opportunity to forward mail with security they may develop into great writers. They all seem able to write, at least in Manila, and, far as I have had an opportunity to judge, are people who make much of their parents and children. Children in Manila are thicker than snowflakes in an Indiana snowstorm, and I have never yet seen one of them absent. Under the Spanish system, I am informed, the practice was to open letters and examine the contents whenever it pleased an official to do so. This would naturally tend to the suppression of letters, as it gave to all letters much the character of postal cards; and we would not think of putting our business or love affairs on postal cards to be read by the postmaster and disseminated throughout the neighborhood. Then, again, there was another feature in the Spanish system which was causing much inconvenience. Under that system there were but one or two regularly established postoffices in a province—that is, postoffices administered by officials of the postoffice department. All other cities and villages received their mail through the hands of some alderman or town committeeman designated by the government to attend to the mail without compensation. There are cities here of 25,000 population where this system was in vogue. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that the moment of the Spaniard who explained the system to me, viz., if the chief in charge of the mails in any city or village was too busy to deliver the letters or bother about them, he generally directed them. Considering these drawbacks of the post office can hardly estimate with accuracy what amount of correspondence will be developed under the American system. At the present time, so far as the Filipinos are concerned, the revenues from them would be very small."

According to the American peace commissioners, M. de Blowitz, the famous Paris correspondent of the London Times, is not a gentleman. This is said because they think he delicately lied about them.

"The full name of this important percentage," says the Times-Herald, "is Henry Georges Stephano Adolph Opper de Blowitz, and he was born in the chateau of Blowitz, in Bohemia. Opper, or De Blowitz, as he calls himself, has been satirized and ridiculed by everybody who has discussed him in print, and it would appear as if the reason for his having made himself conspicuous by his insufferable egotism and the bizarre style of his dress. A mere appendix of the London Times, he has culled that good newspaper with the intention of making He has made it appear that the Times is a mere vehicle which he uses to tell the statesmen and monarch of Europe what to do and what not to do. Blowitz is credited with having invented the journalistic process now known as the interview. This is incorrect. He did not originate the interview. The best of his performance was possibly the introduction of the interview into Europe, but it had been practiced in America long before Blowitz used it. The Pilsener is anxious to see founded a league of journalists which shall educate young men in this art. He has also suggested an international newspaper to be called the Judge, which shall be published simultaneously in all the cities of the earth. With such notions in the head of this busy old man occupied. He will probably write for the Times until he dies or gets too old and too fat to write about anybody or anything."

Not much is known about the "mad mullah," the old man of India who is causing uneasiness in the minds of English politicians today. Writing on this subject Horace Townsend says: "He is mad only in the fanatical sense. He first made himself notorious in the Chitral outbreak of his late reign, although, more than 70 years old, he was among the foremost in energy and strategic ability. In the fighting at the Malakand he lost two fingers, and after a long and arduous march, buried with great pomp in the Bonair valley, and a shrine was erected to mark the spot. The mullah is a native of the Bonair country, and he is the true representative of the Indian fanaticism. He has used in skillfully turning the enmity of the people of Swat against the Khan of Dir in the 'jehad,' or holy war. There is a feud existing between the Swatis and the Kahan and the mad fakir turned it to his account. The Khan claims certain parts of Upper Swat, and at intervals from before the British occupation until this day he has been in the habit of raiding the country. His agent, a Khaka Kheh of the Zairat, near Nowshera, had spread terror throughout the valley, but it is doubtful whether the Khan, with all his boasts—for he is a weak man—would be able to maintain his official position were it not for British support. The frontier will not be secure as long as the mullah is at large."

Statistics have just been issued covering the traffic of the canals at Salt Lake, Utah, Mich., and the season which closed on Dec. 11. The record made breaks all previous years, and exceeds that of last year by 2,500,000 tons of freight. The record was 2,231,652 tons of freight carried through the United States and Canadian canals, as against 18,822,755 tons in 1907. During the same period there was an increase of 1,022,771 in the registered tonnage of the cars, by transporting this enormous amount of freight. The United States canal was open 241 days or seven days longer than last year; the Canadian locks were open 242 days, or five days longer than last season. The number of vessels locked through the United States canal was 14,638, and through the Canadian, 2,703. The principal items of freight were as follows: Coal, 2,788,429 tons; wheat, 62,339,996 bushels; flour, 7,778,937 barrels; other grains, 36,978,284 bushels, and iron ore, 11,706,399 tons.

There are parts of Asia which have never been explored and the attempt to explore them will soon be made by a Swedish adventurer, Dr. Hedin. Dr. Hedin will cross the Tibetan mountains in two different directions, study one of the largest rivers in east Turkestan and explore certain parts of the Lopnor district. He will try to penetrate the unknown northern and central parts of Tibet, in the highlands of which country, at an altitude of about 15,000 feet, he may spend a winter. From Thibet he will go to India. The return from there will be made over Himalaya, Karakorum and Khaschgar. The proposed trip will take about three years and the expenses will amount to about \$75,000.

Here is an arithmetical problem that is going the rounds: A is indebted to B \$5, B to C \$10, D to E, E to F same amount. A, B, C, D and E each have \$1 and no more, and consequently they cannot pay their debts. They put up their money all together. A takes the \$5, goes to B, pays his debt and gets his receipt. B does the same to C, C to D, D to E, E to F. A, B, C, D and E are out of debt, and F has his money. Who, if any one, is the loser?

An examination of the treasury books at Manila, recently completed by the American military officials, resulted in the discovery that under the Spanish regime more than \$2,000,000 has been unaccounted for in the past ten years. The report says that the examination and disclosures involve many high Spanish officials, some of whom are now under arrest in Manila. One of the most interesting of these prisoners is an aristocratic Spaniard, who has a beautiful home on the outskirts of

Manila, where he lived with his two daughters. The former official is under arrest upon suspicion of having appropriated public moneys to his own use, although it is believed that the evidence against him is not sufficient to hold him on that charge. In his bed room was found, after his arrest, a chest containing \$6,000 in Spanish coin.

Lake Superior is in danger of losing its distinction of being the largest fresh water lake in the world. African explorers begin to think that Lake Victoria Nyanza is larger. Superior covers 21,200 square miles and Nyanza has been credited with 30,000, but recent explorations have discovered a hitherto unknown bay on its southern side which so increases its known area as to make it a question whether it is not larger than Superior. Fuller explorations and more careful surveys must be made, however, before a decision can be reached.

A statistician in Paris has had the patience to count the number of words employed by the most celebrated writers. The works of the Corneille do not contain more than 700 different words, those of Moliere 8,000, Shakespeare, the most fertile and varied of English authors, wrote all his tragedies and comedies with 35,000 words. Voltaire and Goethe each employed 20,000, "Paradise Lost" contains only 8,000, and in the Old Testament, he says, not more than 5,842 different words are used.

Writing of Nicaragua canal prospects W. E. Curtis says it is becoming more and more apparent that congress will not consent to any legislation that recognizes the old Maritime Canal company, and will never agree to the payment of the \$2,000,000 which Senator Morgan provides to compensate its stockholders for their good will and the money they have invested in the enterprise. Few disinterested persons will grieve.

During the last twenty-five years the government has granted twenty-five inventors more than 100 patents each, the whole number being 4,854, the average 125. Thomas Edison stands at the head of the list. He has received 712 patents. Elhu Thomson 24, Francis H. Richards 32, Edward Weston 24, Charles E. Scribner 28, Charles J. VanDempole 24 and George Westinghouse 22.

NOT AS I WILL.

Blindfolded and alone I stand,
With unknown thresholds on each hand;
The darkness deepens at my grope,
Afraid to fear, afraid to hope;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That doors are opened, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted, and I stand
By some great law unseen and still
Unfathomed purpose to fulfill.
"Not as I will."

Blindfolded and alone I wait;
Loss seems too bitter, gain too late;
Too heavy burdens in the load,
And too few helpers on the road;
And joy is weak and grief is strong
And years and days so long, so long,
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That I am glad the good and ill
By changeless law are ordered still,
"Not as I will."

"Not as I will!" The sound grows sweet,
Each time my lips the words repeat,
"Not as I will!" The darkness feels
More safe than light when this thought steals
Like whispered voice to calm and bless
All unrest and all loneliness.
"Not as I will," because the One
Who led us first and best is gone
Before us on the road, and still
For us must all His love fulfill—
"Not as we will."
—Ethen Hunt Jackson.

A CASE OF GOOD RIDDANCE.

"He married you and deserted you," said the lawyer, "and yet you are unwilling to prosecute him, though he has married again."
"Well," said the tired-looking woman, "I used to hold a grudge against him for leaving me, but his leaving me has set me free. Let other women prosecute him. She has the wust of it."—New York Journal.

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240 Adams Ave., Opp. Court House.

Practical Tinners and Plumbers,
410 Lackawanna Avenue

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Recipients Of Unexpected Christmas Gifts...

Desiring to return the compliment will find it to their advantage to consult us because this will be the grand closing out week of our entire stock of special holiday goods. You will find a merciless cut on every article. It is against our business policy to carry over any stock of holiday goods. Everything must go at some price, it matters not how great the loss. The largest Christmas trade in our business career enables us to be liberal in dividing this week's sacrifices with our many friends and customers.



Our Boys' Shoes
Stand more kicks than any shoes made.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies,
114 AND 116 WYOMING AVENUE.

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF FINE

ODD LAMPS
that we will close out AT COST
This is a chance to get a good lamp for little money.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO.
422 Lackawanna Avenue

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We have made a reduction of 25 per cent. on our line of Drop Lights as we wish to close them out before inventory. These are all new goods and bargains at the prices we have marked them.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO.
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Practical Tinners and Plumbers,
410 Lackawanna Avenue

For Christmas

Hill & Connell,
121 Washington Avenue.

Have an unusual large assortment of
Chairs and Rockers of every description
Ladies' Desks (in all the woods),
Parlor Cabinets
and Music Cabinets
in Mahogany and Vernis-Martin.

A FEW CHOICE
Pieces of Bric-a-Brac,
Tabourettes, a large selection: Tables, in endless variety.

Hill & Connell
121 Washington Ave.

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For 1899

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and Electric Fixtures,
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FOOTE & SHEAR CO.
119 WASHINGTON AVE.

WOLF & WENZEL,
240 Adams Ave., Opp. Court House.

Practical Tinners and Plumbers,
410 Lackawanna Avenue

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Great Winding-Up Sale on Fancy Silks

To make a complete clearance on all lines that have been broken up by our holiday business, we have arranged our entire stock of Fancy Silks into four lines, assorted as follows:

Assortment 1
All of our Fancy Silks that are suitable for waist, petticoats, dress and coat linings, etc., and worth from 85c to \$1. Now 69c

Assortment 2
Everything in our stock of Fancy Silks worth from \$1.00 to \$1.40. Now 88c

Assortment 3
All Fancy Silks ranging in price from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Now \$1.00

Assortment 4
A few choice things in Fancy Brocades, etc., mostly in short lengths of from two to six yards each; were \$2.50 to \$3.50. Closing at \$1.25

The first three lots are in lengths ranging from four yards to twelve and fifteen yards each, and we unhesitatingly say that, so far as silk values are concerned, this is an opportunity rarely to be met with.

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