The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

New York Office: 150 Nassau St., S. S. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

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

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 25, 1899.

The State Legislature passed a resolution the other day demanding that Havana shall be cleaned at once in the interest of health. Why could not the legislature be induced to pass some resolutions in favor of Scranton?

Trade Tonics.

It is to be regretted if any comments made on this page respecting Scranton's industrial future have been misunderstood. The city is not in a bad way, as yet: on the contrary, its immediate outlook is brighter in every direction than it has been for several years past. Coal men, steel rail men, local business men generally are looking forward to a good year this year and to a better one next year and they are doing so advisedly. We have no wish to put a wet blanket on this revived enthusiasm.

One purpose, in point of fact, is to show that for the very reason that the business outlook is brightening the time is most auspicious for a new period of industrial growth, which, established at the beginning of a general period of prosperity, will be more easily attained and will solidify and fortify itself before the next period of general depression shall ensue. The trouble with Scranton's last concerted venture in the industrial line was that it was begun on the eve of the free trade panic of '93. Before the industrial fledglings of that period could be reared into maturity the commercial blizzard came along and blew them into receivers' hands. It takes time to establish an industry and the better the time the quicker the establishment. Times are now to be good for several years. We have got through the lean years. We are entering the fat ones. It is a most fortunate moment for the institution of new industrial ventures, and we need them for self-protection when the next dull season shall come.

The bolt and nut works of which we spoke yesterday will give employment to not less than 200 men at the start and to 400 after a little progress. Suppose 200 men in Scranton, not now regularly employed or in receipt of scant and uncertain wages, could be put to work in an industry assuring them an average yearly income, paid every two weeks in cash, of $600 to $700. That would add $200,000 in round numbers to the city's active money circulation. In a year this money capital would pass through many hands, making business and profit for each hand it touched. Three or four such new industries would be a veritable elixir of life for the sluggish trade pulses of our community—trade tonics helpful to every one.

Let everybody, therefore, co-operate with the Board of Trade in its campaign for local prosperity.

The French mobs remind one of certain elements in Pennsylvania, and in fact, Lackawanna county politics. They howl lustily without apparently knowing the cause of their own grief.

The Secretary of War.

At a future time when present exasperations shall be forgotten it will be interesting for the student of politics to review the career of Russell A. Alger as secretary of war. It will be worth while as illustrating the influence of personality upon public opinion and as showing the disposition of popular criticism to pursue men in public life who lack a sense of humor. Undoubtedly General Alger as a war secretary in war time has not been a success. But plenty of men who have done far worse than he and been less anxious to do well and to stand well in the public's estimation have escaped the fiery ordeal through which Alger is passing, and in the main it has been because they have possessed a happier personality.

General Alger is undoubtedly as patriotic in his intentions and as desirous of doing the right thing at the right time as any member of the McKinley cabinet. In all the outcry against him his honesty has not been shaken. One side of the man's character was revealed when, in the absence of a congressional appropriation for the purchase of certain necessary munitions prior to the declaration of war, he ordered the purchase and agreed to pay for it out of his private fortune if need were. Under smoother conditions his temperamental defects would doubtless not have involved him in the frictions and turmoil of the past year and he would have completed his term of service with equal or greater popularity than he enjoyed at the beginning of his cabinet career.

Unfortunately he found the war department honeycombed with clashing jealousies and was perhaps too easily captured by the bureaucratic bosses of the staff and made to stand as an unconscious figurehead masking their intrigues. In trying to please those who importuned him; in trying to stand well with congress, with the permanent staff and with the civilian element generally he lost sight of the needs of the regular army as a fighting institution and took away from its trained and capable officers in time of great emergency the confidence and the consideration which were their due and the absence of which contributed so greatly to the deplorable controversies that have since arisen. In a limited sense only was it his personal fault. Mainly it was the fault of a grotesque system which bends to its purposes nearly every man entering from civil life into the war secretaryship without special experience or preparation.

But it was General Alger's further misfortune, when he came to feel the force of the country's disappointment, to wear his griefs and resentments on his sleeve, and this simply encouraged his assailants to redouble their nagging. He declared that he would never retreat under fire, which was in a certain sense heroic, but heroism of a more quiet type would less have rasped the sensibilities of the public. His feelings were natural enough; few men in his situation would have felt differently; his misfortune lay in his lack of an optimistic philosophic spirit in which to envelope his trials and safeguard them from further aggravation. His letter to Roosevelt after the Roosevelt round robin was the act, not of a self-mastered but of a petulant and rattled man; it furnishes the key to the whole story of his martyrdom.

A time will come when General Alger will receive sympathy rather than censure; but we fear that it will not come until he has retired from public office.

Count d'Almenas, who suggested that the Spanish commanders during the recent war should be shot, has declined to fight a duel with one of the generals he had accused of cowardice. Like most of the long range critics who suggest reforms and punishments, d'Almenas prefers that some one else shall do the shooting.

Reconstruct the Staff.

In one sense the prospect of the postponement of the question of army reorganization until the next congress will be viewed with equanimity by the country. So long as the president is empowered to carry on the administrative work which must be done during the interval between the adjournment of this congress and the assemblage of the next one there will be little objection if the main subject goes over. The problem in its details cannot be worked out hurriedly without injury to all concerned. The matter of the reconstruction of the staff especially demands deliberate and thorough treatment; nothing less will be accepted by the country as final. On this point the Philadelphia Press, good administration authority, says with admirable frankness:

"The country is convinced that the army staff is made up of a lot of men behind the times and unequal to their work. The Mexican war found the army altering flintlocks to percussion because the ordnance staff had put off this change to 1845. The Civil war found the army without a breech-loader, because the ordnance staff decided against one. At Santiago our troops found themselves without a magazine rifle, because the ordnance boards were against that. In all small arm improvements for fifty years, percussion lock, breech-loader magazine, smallbore or smokeless powder, the army of the most advanced nation in the world in the arts and in invention has been behind other armies in adopting new weapons. The record of the army staff as a whole is full of this. The organization is bad. The permanent heads keep their places independent of merit. As was said in debate in the senate without contradiction, the secretary of war is handicapped by a permanent bureaucracy. It will neither learn itself nor make room for men who will from the line. The war has convinced the country of the truth of this, and the army suffers in spite of its heroism, bravery and self-sacrifice. Staff appointments and the staff organization call for radical reform."

There will never be a good army staff until membership in its is based on merit rather than pull and until at least the head officers in it, if not the whole staff, are removable at the option of the secretary of war or the general in command. Centralization of authority is the essence of successful organization. In military as in civil life too many co-ordinate cooks are bound to spoil the broth.

The Filipinos evidently imagined that the symbolical torch of civilization was lighted for the convenience of firebugs.

No More Prize Money.

Although the expected legal abolition of prize money in the navy will not take retroactive effect, it is encouraging to learn that congress has made no provision for the payment of prize money to officers and men engaged in the war with Spain, and without specific appropriation from congress these fighters cannot realize on former expectations. To the credit of the navy it should be said that few of its representative officers sanction the principle underlying the granting of prize money. They recognize that it is a species of brigandage which confers scant credit upon those profiting by it. Their one excuse hitherto for accepting it has been the inequality and inadequacy of naval pay.

This, fortunately, has been corrected. Under the provisions of the naval personnel bill officers of the navy will stand on a salary footing of equality with officers of the army, and inasmuch as army officers do not profit by loot or capture for work done while in the country's uniform the navy may well feel content to wash its hands of the whole prize money business and turn its thoughts to high incentives.

China's One Hope.

Lord Charles Beresford, in his speech at the American-Asiatic association dinner in New York, Thursday evening, said some very plain things in a direct way. His careful study of the Chinese question gives his statements exceptional authority and some of these it may be well, not only for the United States, but for England, Germany and Japan to regard as significant. He does not consider that a decision merely affirming the open door policy is in any sense adequate. The condition of "the room beyond the open door" should enter largely into the deliberations. At present he states decidedly that the "room" is a scene of vast disorder and that until radical house-cleaning measures are instituted the existing barriers are slender enough. At present China is not a country into which capitalists and financiers will madly rush, as they would demand more security than is now assured. The fact is, Lord Charles asserts, that China is fast going to pieces and must continue to disintegrate unless some new resources can be developed. The payment of foreign loans has exhausted her available assets and the provincial funds have also been appropriated to the same purpose until trade is almost hopelessly destroyed. The army is wholly incapable of coping with the constant rebellions and these, simultaneously rising in various sections of the country, result in a steady growth of the lawless element. The final destruction of the empire seems to be in sight.

Lord Beresford's idea of the remedy is a reconstruction of the army, so that some promise of adequate defense can be given to trade. In this he believes that the nations he names above can co-operate and assist. The Chinese are bad leaders but good followers and if they have Americans or Europeans to show them how to re-arrange their interior policy there will be some hope for outside commerce. France and Russia, he says, have little or no trade with China and therefore should be excluded from the present proposition from purely a business standpoint and not for invidious reasons. If the proper preparations for an open door can be made and then the door can be kept open, these two nations will probably be in a position to profit by it in the course of time as well as the other four. At present the task of assisting China belongs, in his judgment, to America, England, Germany and Japan.

The administration may not know exactly why Dewey wants the Oregon at Manila but it can well afford to send the big ship over. It seems to be the Oregon's luck, by the way, to be the center of naval interest.

The Consent of the Governed.

Several states in the south have adopted property and educational restrictions upon the suffrage so drawn as to disfranchise the greater part of the negro vote but to leave the white vote unchanged. This discrimination is effected by incorporating in the constitution a clause that the provisions of the new suffrage test shall not apply to the descendants of men who were citizens prior to 1867—in other words, that they shall apply to the descendants of the slaves only. By this means it is sought to perpetuate the rule of the white minority over the black majority indefinitely.

It is believed on good authority that this discriminatory clause in a state constitution is in fatal conflict with the Fifteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States and will not be permitted to stand. The point of present interest about this attempted re-subjugation of the negro race, however, is that it is being urged by the same class of politicians who are holding up their hands in simulated horror at the thought of the United States trying to govern the inhabitants of the Philippine islands "without the consent of the governed."

Consistency, though art indeed a jewel.

The Women's Christian Temperance union is meeting with marked success along many lines of work reported at the local convention yesterday, with the solitary exception of the suffrage department, which, according to the statement made by that society, is not increasing in membership. Those interested in the movement seem to be disposed to criticise other women for apathy regarding the advancement of their sex and to credit the suffragists with all the reforms brought in woman's interest in this country. The truth is that most of the reforms mentioned have been instituted by men not actuated by the agitators of the other sex. The whole summing up of the matter is that when a majority of the women of the country decide that they want suffrage they will have it in a hurry. Until they grow more dissatisfied with their rights now granted than they seem to be at present. There will probably be no serious attempt in many state legislatures toward enfranchisement. Women all over the land are advancing in culture and general intelligence and lofty attainments in literature, science and art, that there is not a corresponding accession to the ranks of the woman suffragists is significant.

The Philadelphia Times almanac for 1899 was issued at a later date than usual, but in consequence is more comprehensive in its store of general information. Particular attention has been paid to the army and navy and the accurate lists of officials as well as other data make the work valuable as a book of reference. The almanac is compact in form and does not contain an uninteresting line.

We seem to be approaching the final chapter in the Dreyfus affair. It is now announced that the crime for which Dreyfus has been punished never existed save in the minds of his accusers.

Until Frenchmen can learn to suspend their partisan shirt-tearing after the polls close they will not make a complete success of their republic.

The announcements that Secretary Alger will not resign are beginning to come with the regularity of war bulletins.

Anti-expansionists as a rule mean well, but they misunderstand the mission of civilization.

SPRING.

Spring is coming, spring is coming!
I can feel the lum-te-tumming
Of that metrical ebullition that the season inundates—
Feel the lyrical vibrations
That in limitless creations
Every editorial sanctum and the balsam bag o'erfreights.

By the generating sonnets,
By the talk of Easter bonnets
And the resurrected seeds that pose in every market stall,
By my overcoat's oppression
By the growling bike procession,
I can certify the spring's about to make its annual call.

And in full appreciaton
Of old Nature's propagation
Of the programme that doth year on year her normal labor's sum,
I've concluded, notwithstanding
My convictions, so commanding,
That I'd best resign my whims and let the thing proceed to come.

—Boston Courier.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Are judges underpaid? This is what Chief Justice Peters, of Maine, says: "I have been on the bench continuously for twenty-five years and my salary, at first $3,000, and since 1887 $3,500, has never for a single year paid my year's expenses, or anywhere near it. The nearest it has ever come to making the two ends meet was in 1874, the year next after my appointment, when my expenses of support were $4,416. And this sum did not include house rent (I own my house), but did include house repairs, nor did it include taxes, nor expense of board and travel when at court away from home, nor money paid for law books, nor gifts to friends and relatives, excepting small current charities. The next nearest to this was in 1880, when my living expenses, making the same exclusions of deductions as before stated, were $4,779. The disparity in all the other years of my occupancy of a seat on the bench between receipts and expenses were greater than in the instance named. And while it may not be worth while to expose the facts in detail, I will say in general terms that for the period of more than a quarter of a century during which I have been a member of the court, and wholly in the service of the state, my ordinary living expenses, not including any of those items enumerated above, exceed all the amount of salary received by me from the state by more than the sum of $60,000. And still I am not aware that I am regarded by my friends and neighbors as living at all extravagantly."

For many years, says an El Paso, Tex., letter, the question of the annexation of that city to the territory of New Mexico has been agitated. El Paso is more remote from the rest of Texas, so far as business is concerned, than Chicago or St. Louis. It has nothing in common with Galveston or Fort Worth or Austin. Between these cities and El Paso are several hundred miles of plain country given over to sage brush and cactus. Along the valley of the Pecos and down the valley of the Rio Grande where irrigation is possible agriculture may flourish and cattlemen prosper, but aside from these sections all the country tributary to El Paso is north, west and south. The latest proposition is greater than that of annexation to New Mexico; it involves the annexation of half of New Mexico, a big slice of Texas and two counties of Arizona to El Paso and the formation of a new territory and eventually a new state out of the sections thus brought together. The plan is to form a territory out of the counties of Cochise and Graham in Arizona; Grant, Sierra, Socorro, Doña Ana, Lincoln, Eddy and Chavez in New Mexico, and that portion of Texas west of a line drawn from the east line of New Mexico to the Rio Grande river. Of this new territory El Paso is to be the metropolis and capital city.

Lord Charles Beresford, the British admiral who is now in this country, is the hero of many good stories. He has been involved in all manner of escapades on land and water, in war and in peace. Once with Sir Harry Keppel, then his admiral, he was driving to town in a dog-cart. There was a tollgate on the way and Beresford tendered a gold piece which the tollman couldn't change. He demanded the exact amount and falling to get it, went unconcernedly into the tollhouse, leaving the gates locked. Lord Charles and Sir Harry didn't hesitate a moment but went briskly to work. They took the gates off their hinges, strapped them to the back of the dog-cart, and jogged on to Devonsport before the tolltaker was alive to the mischief in hand. Next day a charge of larceny was preferred against the admiral and Beresford, who was then his flag lieutenant. The local magistrates listened gravely to the recital of facts and then dismissed the complaint on the ground that there was an absence of criminal intent.

People who will not be able to afford the luxury of a visit to the Paris exposition of 1900 may, at least, says the Philadelphia Ledger, make the trip to Buffalo in 1901 and see the Pan-American exposition to be held there. Many of the exhibits of South American countries in the Paris fair will be transferred bodily to the Buffalo exposition, which will thus, in a measure, be another edition of the great French fair. Buffalo has raised $2,000,000 for its exposition. The state of New York has enacted favorable legislation. Governor Roosevelt is giving it his cordial support, and congress is to appropriate $500,000 for a government exhibit. The Buffalo fair, therefore, promises to be in every respect well worth seeing. Buffalo, as a commercial center, ranks among the first dozen cities of the world. It has a population of upwards of 350,000 and is beautifully built on Lake Erie, within an hours ride of Niagara Falls, all of which will increase the attractions of the exposition.

When the criminal courts resumed work in Italy after the holiday recess the attorney genral in his opening speech gave some interesting comparative statistics concerning crime, which are not very creditable to Rome. In 1897 there were 111 murders and 2,561 cases of stabbing, while in 1898 the murders increased to 128 and the stabbing cases numbered 1,651. Crimes against property—embezzlement, fraud and the like—were 8,987 in the year 1897 and 10,541 in 1898. All other crimes in 1897 amounted to 1,097 and in 1898 to 2,097. The police force has been increased; new, intelligent officers have been appointed, and new rules of discipline have been established, but unless they amend the law so as to segregate habitual criminals, as is done in the case of anarchists, the Rome correspondent of the Chicago Record thinks the black list is likely to continue increasing.

These are the principal nicknames of the states: Alabama, Cotton state; Arkansas, Bear; California, Golden; Connecticut, Nutmeg; Delaware, Blue Hen; Georgia, Empire State of the South; Illinois, Prairie; Indiana, Hoosier; Iowa, Hawkeye; Kansas, Garden; Kentucky, Blue Grass; Louisiana, Creole; Maine, Pine Tree; Maryland, Old Line; Massachusetts, Bay; Michigan, Wolverine; Minnesota, Gopher; Mississippi, Bayou; Nevada, Sagebrush; New Hampshire, Granite; New York, Empire; North Carolina, Tar Heel; Ohio, Buckeye; Pennsylvania, Keystone; Rhode Island, Little Rhody; South Carolina, Palmetto; Texas, Lone Star; Vermont, Green Mountain; Virginia, Old Dominion; Wisconsin, Badger.

Only once has General Elwell S. Otis, the American commander in the Philippines, been non plussed. That was when as a boy he was a student in the University of Rochester. He was a natural leader, and for four years he kept the faculty of the institution in a state of perpetual agitation. His most famous prank was the smuggling of a donkey into the chapel one morning before prayers and tying the animal securely to the head professor's desk. When that worthy came in to lead the services he never smiled or exhibited any trace of anger. In a quiet voice he said: "Gentleman, I see that you have wisely chosen your instructor. Good morning." And the laugh was on Otis.

Mayor Quincy, of Boston, proposes that the city shall burn its paupers instead of burying them. It is asserted that the city could cremate bodies at a cost of only $1 each, while it costs $3 to dig a grave. Besides land is becoming very expensive in Boston and if interments are to be made as heretofore, additions must be made to Potters Field that will require an appropriation of nearly $70,000. It is believed that the paupers will not object to cremation for it is popular with the rich and the objections of people who have no family or friends to take charge of their remains would not demand much consideration.

During a recent investigation of the mounds in Pokagon township, Cass county, Mich., the bones of perhaps 100 persons were found in the centre of one mound and under these, separated from his companions, were the bones of a man who in life must have been fully nine feet tall, occupying a sitting position, with his feet under him. A number of copper bodkins or pins, from two to three inches in length, were found, and also pins made from the bones of a wolf. There were numerous copper hatchets, two-edged and sharp, one of which was wrapped in a linen cloth resembling in texture those of today.

It is not generally known that the vanilla bean is the costliest bean on earth. It grows wild and is gathered by the natives in Papantla and Misantla, Mexico. When brought from the forest these beans are sold at the rate of $12 per 1,000, but when dried and cured they cost about $12 per pound. Last year 90,000,000 beans were imported into this country.

According to the New York Sun a soldier of the regular army may vote if he is stationed at his old home or within such distance of it that he can go there to register and vote. He doesn't lose his old residence by enlisting, nor does he acquire a residence by being stationed at a place. If he can get to his old home on election day he may vote.

A healthy man, with a normal appetite and thirst, living to the age of 70 will have consumed 192,000 pounds of nourishing solid food and liquids. Taking 150 pounds as the average weight of a man, he would, by this calculation, masticate and digest the weight of his own body 1,280 times.

OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

From the Sun.

British and German vessels carried 85 per cent. of our grain exports in 1897. Among 1,279 grain-laden vessels only seventeen were American, carrying less than 1 per cent. of the total trade.

No merchant vessel flying the United States flag passed through the Strait of Gibraltar or the Suez canal in 1895 or 1896. In 1895 the steamers passing the Strait of Gibraltar numbered 3,938 and the sailing vessels 689. In 1898 the steamers numbered 3,554 and the sailing vessels 228.

The newspapers of Hamburg, the third largest commercial port in the world, said in 1897 that thirty years had elapsed since that port had seen the Stars and Stripes at a masthead.

In 1897 no American merchant vessel entered the port of Buenos Ayres.

In thirty-seven years after 1860 the tonnage of the United States registered for foreign trade shrunk to one-fourth of its proportions before the civil war. In the same period the tonnage of the British empire more than doubled.

It is only in deep-sea navigation, across the oceans or to South American ports below the Orinoco, that our shipping interests are weak. Four-fifths of our exports and imports are carried by deep-sea shipping, and American vessels carry only about seven one-hundredths of the total trade.

American shipping carries about one-half of the total sea commerce between the United States and neighboring foreign countries, as Canada, the West Indies, Mexico, Central Americ and the north coast of South America.

Our domestic water commerce, coastwise, great lakes, rivers and canals is by far the largest in the world, and is two and a half times greater than that of the United Kingdom, second on the list.

All signs indicate that in a few years more the United States will again engage largely in ocean transportation. The most important condition which will enable us to do this is the fact that we now produce steel so cheaply that we can compete with foreign shipbuilders in making steamships.

On the Atlantic ocean our steamships have to compete with the fastest subsidized vessels afloat. On the Pacific ocean, where American steamships formerly carried nearly all the trade between our Pacific ports and China, Japan, Hawaii and Australasia we now have the competition of the heavily subsidized Vancouver lines and the new but already successful Japanese steamships. When we protect our shipping industry as we protect and promote our other business interests the United States will not be long in again taking its stand among the greatest ocean carriers.

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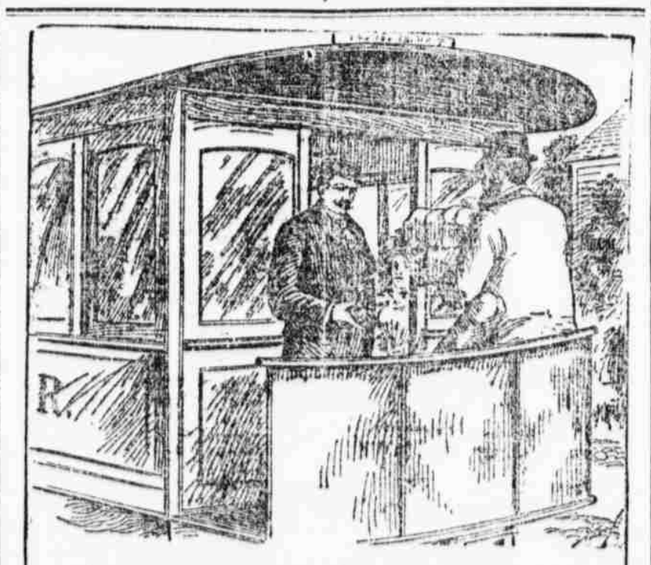

"I am 24 years old and was raised in the country, but have lived here about two years," said the conductor on an Indianapolis electric street car. "In this business," continued he, "it is catch as catch can in getting one's meals, and this irregular treatment of my stomach finally gave me trouble. About six months ago I was at my worst. Everything I ate distressed me. I went to two different physicians but got no relief. Then I tried patent medicines, but, instead of improving I grew worse. Finally I bought some

Ripans Tabules

The relief was immediate. I began to improve with the first dose, and I think I am cured now, but I keep the remedy handy. I have recommended the Tabules to a number of persons, for I believe in them."

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