

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 27, 1899.

If an investigation of political methods at Harrisburg is to be made it should be complete and the object should be to let no guilty man escape. No faction has a monopoly of virtue.

That Silver Offering.

It is to be hoped that no recipient of the Scranton letter carriers' appeal for help in the entertainment in this city next September of the National Association of Letter Carriers will fail to return some contribution indicative of friendly interest and good will. Apart from the moral obligation which each household is under to these men for their faithful performance of a public duty and for daily evidences of courtesy and special attempts to please, the good faith and fame of our city are at stake and no loyal Scrantonian would want these to suffer.

The letter carriers of the nation accepted the invitation of the Scranton delegation to hold their tenth annual convention in Scranton on the representation by the local carriers that Scranton was the most hospitable city in the Union—exciting, of course, the home city of each of the other delegations. Some tall tales were told out of Toledo of what Scranton could do in the way of making life interesting for the visiting postmen and the battle for Scranton was not won until a good deal of oratorical promissory paper was put about with Scranton's endorsement on the back.

These obligations must be redeemed. Their redemption in letter and in spirit—at least in non-fictionizing spirit—is a debt due to the men whom we told to extend this invitation; but more than that, it is a pleasant opportunity to spread the city's reputation for wisdom to action and secure a credit of gratitude and good will in every section of the country. Consequently, when you receive at the front door this morning, or some other morning, a combination envelope with places for a silver dollar, a half-dollar and a quarter, fill in the three holes with good coined metal and make the man who carries four mail a friend and a debtor forever.

Admiral Dewey's remark in declining to run for president that he wants no change in the present administration will find a responsive echo among his countrymen at home.

Increase the Police Force.

In anticipation of the change which is soon to take place in the city administration councils should grant without hesitation the increase asked for by the police department. The addition of fifteen patrolmen would still leave the police force of the city much smaller in proportion to population, area and complex social conditions than the average force of the average city.

Complaints of inefficient work among the police were a potent, perhaps a controlling factor in determining the result of last Tuesday's election. That vote must be taken as a serving of public notice that the people, under the next administration, will not tolerate the prostration characteristic of the present guardianship of the public safety. Citizens who pay liberal taxes want reasonable security for their property and this security they are not getting. Burglaries and such thievery were never more plentiful and rarely so successful. The restriction imposed upon vice is almost invisible. There has not been a time in the memory of the present generation when Scranton has heard from the law-respecting and law-abiding classes greater protest than is now made at the offensively with which gambling, prostitution and other forms of vice disregard the law and flout themselves before the public. The people have determined that in these as well as in other matters, Scranton must clean house.

It is in the light of this manifest responsibility that the incoming administration that councils will be expected by public sentiment to give the new mayor a free hand and a fair chance. The personnel of the present police force is all right so far as it goes. No police force anywhere has a finer lot of individual members. The present disorganization is the fault, not of the subordinates, but of lax and partial methods of administration. Yet even under efficient control and with an esprit de corps so noticeable of late by reason of its absence the force is not large enough for the work required of it and in common fairness, both to it and to the community, it should be considerably enlarged.

Senator Mason's threat to hold up the administration suggests that the friends of the misguided man should hasten to pull him off the track before the engine reduces his political personality to the sad proportions of a corpse.

An Object Lesson.

The fight now on in New York city between Tammany Hall and the Manhattan Elevated Railway Company, or, reduced to its personal proportions, between Richard Croker and George Gould, is an interesting object lesson in municipal government. Some time ago the railroad company refused to adopt for motive power the compressed air system for which Croker and a few associates hold patents, and it was not long afterward that Tammany made up a new set of regulations for the railroad's observance.

These regulations, if enforced, would compel the railway people to remove their tracks from Battery park, where four lines converge, where all the cars are switched and where 250,000 persons are daily put in connection with the ferries, and force an expenditure of at least \$20,000,000 in the purchase of a right of way further up-town; would necessitate a \$10,000,000 expenditure on

dripping pans twelve feet wide and 171 miles long, to be hung under the tracks ostensibly to prevent oil, dirt or ashes from falling into the street below; would require an outlay of at least \$500,000 in the running of unnecessary trains, including a number of parlor-car trains with expensive furnishings; would force the enclosure of all platforms with glass, another \$500,000 item; and would compel the company to pay the expenses of a minute examination of its tracks by a commission of engineers to be selected by the mayor, this wholly in addition to the inspection now conducted by the company as a matter of prudent business policy. The regulations embody other provisions opening the door to an espionage by Croker's henchmen which in the opinion of the railway officials would force them to suspend operations if not rescued by the courts.

It may be only a coincidence that the Goulds, who own the elevated road, are Republicans while the principal owners of the competing surface roads are Democrats high in Croker's favor; but it is a coincidence which has already caused the suggestion to appear in print that if Tammany carries through its absurd restrictive programme the legislature at Albany can be asked to pass a law imposing equitable conditions. Of course, such a fight is to be regarded both for principle and for expediency, but it seems to be a natural result of the political system of municipal government which gives to men like Croker the power of despots.

The congratulations and best wishes of every American citizen will go to Judge Day upon his appointment to the Federal bench. The people consider that nothing is too good for this quiet, able and honorable man.

The City Engineering.

There can be no doubt of the truth of the contention of City Engineer Phillips before the estimates committee that the best engineering talent in the cheapest, simply because Scranton pays less for its engineering work than many other cities does not in the slightest degree indicate that Scranton is at an advantage over those other cities. The business view of this problem is embodied in the question, "What is Scranton getting for its money?" If it is getting first class service all along the line, well and good; if not, why not?

The public works of a growing city like Scranton, spread out as they are over an extensive area, and continually increasing, call for efficient and continuous scientific supervision. Mr. Phillips himself admits that in at least one direction this kind of supervision is conspicuous for its absence. Through no fault of his, but rather because councils in the past have not sensed the importance of a trained and adequate engineering corps, the cost of sewer inspection is double or treble what it might be, due to the unsystematic employment of incompetent labor. The designation of sewer inspectors as a result of "pull" results in the kind of inspection which does not inspect and, as Mr. Phillips says, the cost, which nominally is charged to abutting property owners, finally lands on the city at large.

It takes no special intelligence to perceive that this kind of thing is uneconomic. What is true of the sewer problem is doubtless true in other directions. There is a saving at the spigot and a wasting at the bung-hole. Things are done which ought not to be done and other things which ought to be done in the most scientific manner are either bungled or not done at all. It is proper to say that City Engineer Phillips knows this perhaps better than any outsider and does his best to guard against it, but is limited and hampered by influences beyond his control. What councils should do is to give into the hands of the city engineer power and money to do the engineering work of the city as it ought to be done and as it is done in many American cities, and then hold him directly responsible. In no other way can good results be achieved.

The coming departure from this city of Mr. P. W. Pearsall, who for six years has been in charge of the railroad department of the Scranton Young Men's Christian association, must be viewed as an appreciable loss. Mr. Pearsall represents to a rare degree in his personality and methods the too frequent combination of spiritual sincerity with worldly common sense and efficiency in dealing with men and affairs which is so necessary in association work. He has done inestimable good while here and will carry with him to his new field the friendship and endorsement of all who have had opportunity to take his measure.

Wheeler H. Peckham told a New York audience of would-be reformers a wholesome and pregnant truth the other day when he said: "You will never help this community so long as you recognize the successful rascal as entitled to your respect." The code of public morals which Mr. Peckham thus arraigns is strongly entrenched in more cities than New York.

In threatening not to leave a stone or brick within the radius of American control the Philippine insurgents reveal their anarchistic character and illustrate the need of effective outside control. A fine lot of brigands they would be to exercise complete independence!

Against the United States troops are beginning to improve in marksmanship is another reason why rapid work is necessary in disposing of them.

This is the season when admirers of Jeffersonian simplicity feel called upon to fill up on roast duck and champagne and paint the town.

Mr. Johnson, of Indiana, should be provided with a gold collar and appointed dictator of the "aunties" at once.

They order things strangely in France. The fire-eating deputy, M. Desobry, who tried to stir up insurrection in the army, can be punished only by brief imprisonment whereas

in every other country premeditated treason means death.

It is now asserted that there is doubt as to whether General Egan can draw any pay from the government while under suspension from rank and duty. The doubt should not be resolved in Egan's favor.

It is reported that the Khalifa is pulling his troops together preparatory to making another attack upon Omdurman. The Khalifa may be suffering from "national honor" spasms.

It will take more than yellow journalism to convince the people that Speaker Reed is actuated by dishonorable motives in his attitude toward the Nicaragua canal.

Baseball has been introduced at Santiago and has established itself almost instantaneously in native favor. Of the Americanization of Cuba there is now no further question.

'Tis a poor day nowadays whose post-meridian sun sees no new big trust formed or trade combine begun.

Friends of Billy Mason are beginning to think it is a long time between spasms.

Odd Features of Homes in Havana.

Correspondence of the Chicago Record.

ONE OF the most interesting features of Havana life is the domestic and mercantile stores so common to the wholesale business. The proprietor, his employes and his country customers live as one large family. If the merchant has a family his foremen become his representatives in the domestic-mercantile relationship. In a wholesale saddlery-hardware store in "Tea" street was found a typical representative of Havana methods. The front, one-story high, is occupied by the office and salesroom. Behind this is the entrance to the entire entrance through the store and work rooms, is the domestic part of the establishment, the sleeping apartments being upstairs. The kitchen is at the rear of the store being of two stories.

In one department is furnished, in hospital fashion, a large well-ventilated room, occupied by a dozen or more iron beds with mosquito nets on each, these being the guest beds of customers from inland points. In the rear of this is the "customers ward," so very much like a hospital ward with single beds and scant furnishings in it. Entrance is gained through the store and an open court, from which the staircase ascends against an outside court wall. This court has no roof, light being thus admitted to its every part. It is usually adorned by a single or two and perhaps a parrot cage or a mocking-bird cage, either with its occupant hanging on the wall. A few chickens, pigeons or signs are not always strangers to these courts.

The dining table for the employes and customer-guests is set in the kitchen. In and year out employes who are not married and housekeeping, and some who are married but not keeping house, live at this table. The proprietor keeps closer watch of the habits of his men and they become closely connected with him and his interests. Clear relationships are also thus established between the merchant and customer, and even his employes learn to know the trade and its representatives more intimately than with us. So long as a customer-guest is in the city his home is with the dealer with whom he trades.

Through a front door of the store the domestics also make their way, and through a front door the horse belonging to the establishment is led to his stall in the kitchen. The stall is usually large and semi-detached by a thick stone partition, yet directly connected with the establishment, without outside passage way. Entering the stall the horse is found in a well-kept stall immediately to the left, with a manure barrel by the side of his stall, his feet being held between two posts. Next to him is the wine chest, and next this, not six feet from his head, is the kitchen holder. In front of these is the "hook" table, a small table on which meats and vegetables in preparation for the noonday meal. Further along is the substantial range, on which dinner was cooking, and the sink, with a single stop away. In the shower bath. At hand, but a step further removed from the cook's table, is the toilet room. The toilet arrangements are all of one pattern, the sanitary condition far from the best. It may be said that the stable and toilet part of the kitchen are kept about as clean as possible for the time with Havana in its present old-time unsanitary and unhygienic state. But a citizen of the United States of America would hardly be content with such a condition of kitchen, water closet and stable combined.

To get to his stall the horse has to be led through the store. The carriage is generally kept in a front hallway in residences. In a corner of the store, in a nice place. In this particular instance it was kept in a warehouse in the rear. But the horse is as much a member of the family as a pet dog, with a childless woman in "the states." The stall and lavatory in this merchant's place of business are far more hygienic than in many Havana's homes. Consequently there is great need of sanitary inspection and many condemnations before this can be made a sanitary and habitable city.

The cooking range is a feature worthy of note. These are generally large and built in the house. They are substantial in stone structures, the top and front being veneered patterns, some of them quite artistic. There are several cooking chambers, each detached from the others, making a separate fire necessary for each. Charcoal is the fuel used, the construction of the range minimizing the amount of heat radiated, thus making cooking tolerable in this climate, even more so than in metal ranges in "the states" in summer time. Many of the kitchens are floored with colored tiles of pretty design or with large squares of marble, the effect being pleasing, especially if tiled wainscoting is also in use, as is common in the case.

If the business life of this city is interesting, less so is the home life. Residences are usually but one, or at most, two stories in height. If the former the family sitting room is generally just off the front room and opens directly from it. The family room is spacious, with high ceilings and massive doors, the windows being equally large and graced with iron bars outside. The floors are of marble or tile, the walls are generally bare, though in some residences they are hung with paintings by old masters and some ornamented with tapestries. The climate and dust of Havana are destructive to house furnishings commonly used in the United States, so plainness and simplicity are the rule.

In a one-story home the family congregates during the evening in their large front room and enjoy each other's society in true family way. The bedrooms are beyond the family room, perhaps off a court, in which are grown shrubs or ornamental plants. The kitchen is at the far end of the row of rooms, and so are the stall and toilet. If a carriage is kept it is likely to stand in the main hallway.

close to the front door, to be passed upon entering and making exit from the house. The core of the sleeping rooms, dining room and kitchen are all paved with marble or tile, some of them made attractively by designs. The furnishings are exceedingly simple as a rule. Iron beds, always single beds, each being surmounted by a framework of iron to support the always necessary mosquito net, are the only kind used. A small rug may be spread in the middle of a good sized room or a foot rug be laid before the bed. Mahogany furniture is that most generally seen, three or four pieces completing the set. Permanent clothes presses are not built in the houses, large and oftentimes really elegant mahogany wardrobes being substituted.

DEWEY'S REQUEST.

From the New York Tribune.

Exactly why Admiral Dewey wants the Oregon to be sent to Manila does not yet appear, and there are many conjectures concerning it. He says it is for political reasons. That might mean any of several things. It might have reference to the effect to be produced upon the Filipinos, or upon their elders and their friends here. It might mean that Dewey wants the ship he ought to have it. There is absolute confidence in the judgment of the great admiral. No one doubts of some water-tight position, or on the point of committing an indiscretion. What the American nation says unhesitatingly is substantially this: Dewey says there is need of the Oregon, therefore there is need of the Oregon, and she ought to be sent to him at once. It is difficult to say what is the more admirable, the unanimity and magnitude of this tribute to him, or his full worthiness of it.

There is another interesting feature of the case, in which, by happy lot, the Oregon is a second time associated with an object essential to the success of the famous voyage of the Oregon around the continent impressed upon us as nothing else could have done the need of a canal across the Central American isthmus. The present incident with equal force shows the need of a telegraphic cable from California to Hawaii, and thence to Guam and the Philippines. When a serious day's delay may be a serious matter, it is deplorable that the Oregon must wait at Honolulu until word can be got to her commander by mail. It ought to have been possible for orders to have reached him from Washington within an hour after the receipt there of Dewey's request. And it ought to be possible for the government to carry on telegraphic correspondence with Dewey at Manila without having its dispatches traverse half a dozen of the world's oceans. It ought to be possible for the government to send the Oregon to Dewey, and to have the Oregon to Dewey, and to have the Oregon to Dewey, and to have the Oregon to Dewey.

We might well add a third feature to the case, to wit, the desirability of pushing the work of canal construction until on a day's unnecessary delay. We have no idea that our new warships will be needed in battle this year or next. But no matter what the future may bring, on the Atlantic coast was none too powerful before the Oregon and the Iowa were sent to the Pacific. And those two ships, the Oregon and the Iowa, are not a sufficient force for our permanent use in that ocean. Whatever political reasons require the presence of the Oregon at our coast, the same reasons should demand the strengthening of our fleet in the Atlantic and Pacific by the completion of the five great ships now in hand at the earliest possible date. No man in congress would venture to dispute the propriety of sending the Oregon to Dewey. Neither should any dispute the propriety of the immediate agency of finishing our new ships, and laying our Pacific cable, and cutting the Isthmian canal. All these things are implied in the admiral's message.

WOMAN'S MISSION.

Helen H. Backus in the Outlook.

We of this modern day have no right to shut our eyes to the complexities of every day life, to the ever-widening circles of personal influence. The simple domestic life of the mother of the Gracchi, rearing brave and healthy sons to fight for the commonwealth, in the day when one well-educated Roman or Greek could literally compass the world's treasury of knowledge, is not for us. The virtuous woman of Solomon's immortal portrait could order the ways of her household and guide the weaving of her maidens in the sense of accomplishing her whole duty. Not so we who must reconcile home life with the infinite perplexities of life without home, must contend with all sorts of morbid new conditions in the industrial world. We must take account of the sympathetic relation which the world's tribes have been developing throughout thousands of years, must assist to fuse the interests of Europeans, Asiatics, and Africans in the coming life of a great republic, must together the educational principles of Darwin, Faraday and Edison, the sermon on the Mount and the Declaration of Independence.

FOR EQUAL TAXATION.

From the Outlook.

In Wisconsin bills are in the foreground to tax land in the same ratio as the property of individuals. For a good many years Wisconsin, like Michigan and Minnesota, has taxed railroads at a light rate on their gross earnings. The present demand that the railroads shall be assessed at the market value of their stocks and bonds, are taxed exactly like real estate, shows the persistence of the American demand for the equal taxation of all property, personal as well as real. In Indiana, where the railroads under this method are already taxed as much as the farms and homes, the present legislature is attempting to reach other forms of personality which have hitherto escaped their share of public burdens. The house of representatives has gone to the length of approving a bill making the interest on bonds and other written obligations uncollectible unless such documents are stamped by the assessor.

THE SCIENCE OF LIFE.

From the Outlook.

A memorial has been presented to congress to establish a bureau of domestic science. The memorial calls attention to the vast outlays by the government to investigate the sources of food supplies and methods of production, and asks of what value this is if the food product is ruined in cooking through ignorance. The memorial gives the history of the efforts of the National Pure Food association, the Domestic Science association, the Farmers' National congress, and the Women's council to secure government action on the establishment of a bureau of domestic science in connection with the department of agriculture. To the New York legislature a bill has been introduced to establish an industrial training school for girls, the school to be built on the cottage plan, and conducted on the family group system. This movement is supported by the Federation of Women's clubs.

INVEST AT HOME.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

There is not a newspaper in the country that will not endorse the Scranton Tribune's appeal to the citizens of that town to invest their surplus earnings in savings in local enterprises. "If," it says, "money made in this city is to be sent out of town for investment or deposit and the city is to be impoverished, it is not to be encouraged, a time must come when the shore will be strewn with wreckage." Millions of dollars have been

sent out of Philadelphia for speculative enterprises in the west and elsewhere, upon which the investors never received a penny, and the presumption is that Scranton has lost her proportion through the same cause. The owners of property in all towns are especially foolish not to build up the places where the bulk of their fortunes is placed, and thus add to the value of their holdings.

COMPLETED SAWED OFF.

From the Chicago Tribune.

"I'd like to know," said the delinquent boarder, "why I don't get any of that planked shud." "Perhaps," suggested the pert waitress, "it is because you haven't settled for the board." And he sat there like a wooden man.

POSSIBLY.

From the Buffalo News.

It may after all be shown that, Mikado like, General Miles was right, the commissary department was right, the contractors were right, Secretary Alger was right and even General Egan was right, and all were right on the best question.

ENTITLED TO A RAISE.

From the Washington Star.

President Loubet's difficulties would justify him in asking for an immediate increase of salary.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Women's Ages.

'Tis generally considered true, As writ 'on poet's pages, That man in all his journeys through, Has fully seven ages.

But woman has but two—upon This point we are impartial— The age she knows she is, the one She gives the census marshal.

—Boston Courier.

She—"Yes; that stupid man who came with the Smiths to the duchess's train, and it tore right across, and the dear old thing never said a word. Wasn't it sweet of her?"

He—"Well, there was only one word she could have said!"—Punch.

Woman's Looks.

Dear, if your eyes were stars aglow, I'd know no more than now I know; With their soft radiance dazzling me, What bosh would seem astronomy!

—Anon.

The heathen who is speaking as our story opens, wears a white Fedora and a skirt of palm leaves; whether by accident, or in the full consciousness that a high hat never goes with a business suit, we know not.

"Think of the millions," he exclaims, "that are spent to send missionaries to us!"

The other heathen is visibly affected. "It makes me feel guilty!" falls the latter. "Really, I suppose we ought to get along with refrigerated beef during the hard times, at least!"—Detroit Journal.

Too Bright.

"Is the future bright," the parson said; "An' the sick man, slowly raisin' His weary head On his dyin' bed."

"That's jest what bothers me, sir," he said, "Fer it's just so bright."—Atlanta Constitution.

"You say she is a business woman. What business is she interested in?" "Oh, everybody's."—Answers.

Mrs. Crawford—What does your husband give up during Lent? Mrs. Crabshaw—I never knew him to sweat-off anything except his taxes.—Judge.

"That girl next door sings half her time, as loud as she can yell." "I know it. She seems to be very fond of a high key!"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Odd Lamps

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Annual Linen Sale

Will open on Wednesday of this week—and we invite every thrifty house-keeper to make our Linen Department her headquarters during the next ten days.

We cannot enumerate here the many good values that are in store for you in

Fine Table Linens, Napkins, Lunch Cloths, Towels, Etc., Etc.,

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