

The Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 150 NASSAU ST., S. S. VERBELANT, Vice Agent for Foreign Advertising.

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

SCRANTON, MARCH 2, 1899.

Spencer Farr need not lose any sleep over the jabbing he is receiving from the Wanamaker newspaper ring.

A Senatorial Misfit.

In fairness to the president the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record has been constrained to explain that the non-attention paid at the white house to the political wishes of Senator Mason, of Illinois, is not due to any desire on the president's part to punish Mason for his peevish dog barking at McKinley's heels but is wholly the result of Mason's own pre-eminence.

"While it is true," he says, "that Mr. Mason has kept up a continuous back fire on the administration ever since the Cuban and Philippine troubles began; while the sympathizers and advisers of Aguinaldo are not popular at the white house and the government departments, and while men who endeavor to excite public sympathy for the enemies of their country and accuse the president of murder and take the part of Aguinaldo against Otis, and compare Dewey to Wesley in public speeches, are not apt to have much influence there, Mr. Mason's recommendations have been accepted at his own valuation. His entire senatorial career has been a continuous clamor for patronage. He has culled at the white house twice as often and has recommended for office five times as many persons as any other man in congress. In the earlier part of the administration he used to go there several times a day, and has been so amiable as to recommend everybody who has asked his interference for anything wanted, regardless of character of qualifications, so that he simply made it worthless. It became a standing joke in all the newspapers of the country a year and a half ago, as everybody will remember. It tickled Mason's sense of humor and gratified his love of notoriety, but destroyed his influence, and the president and the heads of departments never knew when to take him seriously. If he could hear what is said of him by his colleagues in the senate and members of the cabinet and bureau officers of the government, and even by the men he has been trying to get places for, and by the public generally, he would understand the situation better."

An unfortunate feature of this Billy Mason bill is that it was the consequence of a compromise in a senatorial fight such as some Republicans are calling for at Harrisburg. A crowd of Chicago reformers objected to the organization candidates and kicked up a noise which resulted in the election of Mason. On the stump and in the lobby Mason is an amazing little chap reminiscent of Artemus Ward's kangaroo; but as a senator of the United States he is a notorious misfit and Pennsylvania will do well to profit by Illinois' unfortunate example.

Sagasta may not have been the most courageous man in Spain. If he had been there probably would not have been any war. But it remains to be seen whether or not Spain will make a change for the better.

The Trials of a Superintendent.

Superintendent Andrews of the Chicago public schools has made public another bitter arraignment of the conditions which hamper his work. Too much politics, inability to get rid of incompetent teachers and waste in business administration are the cardinal sins in his complaint, and he declares that he is sometimes strongly tempted to let things take their course, even if it means as easily as possible by providing for the minimum as possible and allow the indifferent public to be cheated and abused to his heart's content.

It is very difficult to get rid of anything of the kind. He is an honest man and a brave man, and in spite of the seemingly insuperable difficulties confronting him he will not let an inch of ground, making what gains he can for honesty and efficiency, without regretting the cost. His case is not unique. Every school superintendent in the country has trials of a similar nature. The running of school boards on the political plan, making the hiring of teachers and the purchase of supplies generally matters of pillory and politics, is bound to produce conditions in the public schools repulsive and disheartening to the highest ideals of the teacher's profession. The average concern of the people at large while these conditions generate scandal after scandal and pile waste upon waste is even more discouraging.

Yet no battle can be won by laying down. Somewhere in the American anatomy there is a mind which can be informed and a conscience which can be quickened. A day will come when these will be reached and the struggle will then be over. In the meantime, the school superintendent who sticks to his post of duty and with flag up fights to the best of his ability, regardless of the opposing odds, for his principles and for the public welfare may not win an army of supporters as the soldier on the battle-field but he is none the less a hero and a benefactor.

An effort is being made in the New Jersey legislature to fix the telephone rates, limiting them to \$50 a year in cities of 100,000 inhabitants. In Plainfield the rates for business places is \$125, with \$60 for private houses. Data has been prepared to show that previous to meeting competition the Bell Telephone company did business at a profit of \$3 a month for each telephone in a place of business and \$2 for service in a private house. The rates in

New Jersey have not in general been reduced so as to give subscribers the benefit as has been done in Scranton. For some time the interlocking system has been in vogue here for residence service at the rate of \$2 a month. A strong fight is being waged in Jersey City and other towns against the reduction, as it is declared that the local companies will be obliged to go out of business; but this sounds fishy.

The reported abandonment of the projected new railroad to tidewater may or may not be true. In these days Dame Rumor is so active in connection with anthracite coal interests that he is a shrewd citizen who can accurately separate the facts from the fictions. But if for any reason the road should be abandoned there would arise a splendid opportunity for local capitalists who have contemplated investing in it to turn their money over to the support of the three or four fine new industries which are knocking at Scranton's door and asking to be taken in.

Connecting the Americas.

The proposition to connect North, Central and South America by a single line of railway to be under international protection has long been before the minds of our leading statesmen and nine years ago a commission was appointed to investigate the subject in its practical aspects. The commission concluded its field labors in 1893, but not until recently was its report put before the public in detail.

The commission estimates that the total length of the all-rail route from New York city to Buenos Ayres will be 10,238.66 miles. Of this 4,771.93 miles are already built, leaving 5,466.73 miles to be constructed. The estimated cost for grading, masonry and bridges on the road to be built is \$174,292,271. This estimate does not include the branch lines, but only the trunk route to Buenos Ayres, nor does it include any expense beyond preparing the roadbed for the rails. The commission, however, is of the opinion that future studies will reduce the length and lessen the cost here given. By far the greater part of the cost will be in the Andine regions of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, where the mileage is estimated at 2,645.94 and the estimated cost at \$126,569,425.84, the estimated cost of building all the other sections of the trunk line being \$47,929,846.

The fact that the road is a physical possibility without involving any especially hazardous or uncertain problems in engineering is some consolation; but the next question is of greater importance. Will the road pay? Will it do more business in time sufficient to warrant its construction? On this point we cannot do better than to quote from the New York Sun, an early, steady and able advocate of the project and a journal which has given to the subject much careful study:

"Scarcity of population is to-day the largest cause of the comparatively slow development of most of the Southern republics. From Colombia to Argentina there are large and fertile areas where the peasantry of Europe might live and prosper, increasing many fold, by their needs and industries, the volume of products and business. But they are coming only by scores, though invited by thousands, and the chief reason is because communications between the lands desirable for settlement and the outside world are primitive and inadequate. Venezuela, for instance, has been trying in vain to draw many thousands of Italian settlers to her fertile valleys in the north and to the llanos further south, where millions of cattle may graze. But the Italians say they see no attraction in lands that afford no good outlet to markets, and railroad capitalists say that even with government concessions the prospects of profitably pushing railroads into sparsely peopled regions is not alluring. No large industries except mining and fisheries thrive in any sparsely peopled part of the world. Thus, without large population, without adequate communications and without industries, large areas in South America, outside the tropics or at high and temperate altitudes within them, are not yielding a tithe of their resources and are stagnating, though nature has fitted them to be the centres of teeming life and activity. Latin America needs nothing so much as railroads and the population that increased communications will bring; and nothing will so promote railroad development in these states as a great trunk line that will bring the largest republic, with its manifold products and needs, to their doors, with which all their centres of development will desire to be connected."

"There is no part of South America, except along its northern coast, with which our merchants today maintain business relations on even terms with their European rivals. The greatest east coast ports are actually nearer to Southampton, Havre and Marseilles than to New York, because our vessels must sail forty degrees east and then west again to round Cape St. Roque. Then in the decades when we were doubling our population every twenty years, and were so absorbed in our own gigantic development that we sought no foreign markets, England, France, Germany, Portugal and Italy were starting their lines of steamships to South America, establishing banks and investing in industrial and commercial enterprises. As a result, Europe was well established in South America when we began to seek trade opportunities there. Only about a tenth of South America's foreign business is with the United States. Because we are large consumers of rubber and buy half the coffee of the world, Brazil sends us a great deal of her products, but we do not supply a twelfth part of the foreign goods she consumes. The commodities we sell to Chile are valued at one-eighth the sum she pays to England and Germany for commodities. An American built Peru's greatest railroad, but British capital controls most of the transportation in that country. 'As a rule,' wrote Mr. Leonard, a Brazilian merchant in August last, 'we have at Rio de Janeiro only two old and slow steamers a month from the United States.' Consul General Seeger wrote

Well, if the elephant must be on our hands, what are we going to do with it? That is the next question. I venture to answer that first we must put down the riot. The lives and property of German and British merchants must be at least as safe in Manila as they were under Spanish rule, before we are ready for any other step. Whatever the next ought we not try to diagnose our

case before we turn every quack doctor among us loose on it—understand what the problem is, before beginning heated partisan discussions as to the easiest way of solving it? And next, we will probably fare best in the end, if we try to profit somewhat by the experience others have had in like cases. The widest experience has been had by the great nation whose people and institutions are nearest like our own. Illustrations of her successful methods may be found in Egypt and in many British dependencies; but for our purposes, probably best of all either on the Malay Peninsula or on the north coast of Borneo, where she has had the happiest results in dealing with intractable types of the west of these same races. Some rules, drawn from this experience, might be distasteful to people, who look upon new possessions as merely so much more government patronage, and quite repugnant to the noble army of office-seekers; but they surely mark the path of safety.

The first is to meddle at the outset as little as possible with every native custom and institution and even prejudice. The next is to use every existing native agency you can, and then to employ in your own country, just as few Americans as you can, and only of the best. Convince the natives of your irresistible power and your inexorable purpose; then of your desire to be absolutely just, and after that not before, be as kind as you can. At the outset you will doubtless find your best agents among the trained officers of the Navy and the army, particularly the former. On the retired list of both, but again particularly of the Navy, ought to be found just the experience, in contact with foreign races, the moderation, wide views, justice, rigid method and inflexible integrity you need. Later on should come a real civil service, with such pure and efficient administration abroad as might help us ultimately to conclude that we ourselves do so much as well as the heathen, and induce us to set up similar standards for our own service at home. Meantime, if we have taught the heathen largely to govern themselves, without being a hindrance and menace to the civilization and the commerce we ourselves desire, so much the better. Heaven speed the day! If not, we must even continue to be responsible for them ourselves—a duty we did not seek, but should be ashamed to shirk.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The story of a Chicago reporter's attempt to interview in Kipling some years ago is interesting and timely. Kipling already had won a reputation for Aerie treatment of the press and many of the boys were afraid to tackle him, but the reporter, Heaven speed the day! If not, we must even continue to be responsible for them ourselves—a duty we did not seek, but should be ashamed to shirk.

THE BOYLESS TOWN.

A cross old woman of long ago Declared that she hated noise; 'The town would be so pleasant, you know, If only there were no boys.' She scolded and fretted about it till Her eyes grew heavy as lead, And then, of a sudden, the town grew still. For all the boys had fled.

And all through the long and dusty street There wasn't a boy in view; The base ball lot where they used to meet Was a slight to make the blue. The grass was withered and every base And the paths that the runners made; For there wasn't a soul in all the place. Who knew how the game was played.

The dogs were sleeping the livelong day— Why should they bark or leap? There wasn't a whistle or call to play, And so they could only sleep. The pony neighed from his lonely stall, And longed for saddle and rein; And even the birds on the garden wall Chirped only a dull refrain.

The cherries rotted and went to waste— There was none to climb the trees; And nobody had a single taste, Save only the birds and bees. There wasn't a messenger boy—not one— To speed as such messengers can; If people wanted their errands done, Then sent for a messenger man.

There was little, I ween, of frolic and noise, There was less of cheer and mirth; The sad old town, since it lacked its boys, Was the dreariest place on earth. The poor old woman began to weep— 'There wasn't a sudden scream; "Dear me!" she cried, "I've been asleep; And, oh! what a horrible dream!"

—St. Nicholas.

What to Do With Uncle Sam's Burden.

From a Recent Speech by Whitelaw Reid.

A DISTINGUISHED and patriotic citizen said to me the other day, in a New York city, "You might have avoided this trouble by refusing title in the Philippines, exactly as in Cuba and simply enforcing renunciation of Spanish sovereignty. Why didn't you do it?" The question is important, and the reason ought to be understood. But at the outset it should be clearly realized that the circumstances which made it possible to take that course as to Cuba were altogether exceptional. For three-quarters of a century we had asserted a special interest and right of interference there as against any other nation. It is difficult on our coast, and no one doubted that at least as much order as in the past would be preserved there, even if we had to do it ourselves. There was also the positive action of congress, which on the one hand gave us excuse for retaining a sovereignty our highest legislative authority had disclaimed, and on the other formally cast the shield of our responsibility over the island when left without a government or a sovereignty. Besides there was a people there, advanced enough, sufficiently compact and homogeneous in religion, race and language, sufficiently used already to the methods of government, to warrant our republican claim that the sovereignty was not being left in the air;—that it was only left there in the last analysis and in a civilized community it must always reside, in the people themselves.

And yet, under all these conditions the most difficult task our Peace Commissioners had at Paris was to maintain and defend the demand for a renunciation of sovereignty without any loss of face. A similar demand could not be so easily made, nor ought to have been acquiesced in by the civilized world. Here were ten millions of people on a great highway of commerce, some semi-civilized, some barbarous, others more pagan savages, but nothing like a majority or even a respectable minority of them accustomed to self-government or believed to be capable of it. Sovereignty over such a conglomeration and in such a place could not be left in the air. The civilized world would not recognize it, unless transferred to some body. Renunciation under such circumstances would have been equivalent in international law to abandonment, and that would have been equivalent to anarchy and a race for seizure among the nations that could get there quickest. We could, of course, have refused to accept the obligations of a civilized, responsible nation. After breaking down government in those commercial centres, we could have refused to set up anything in its stead, but simply washed our hands of the whole business; but to do that would have been to show ourselves more insensible to moral obligations than if we had restored them outright to Spain.

Well, if the elephant must be on our hands, what are we going to do with it? That is the next question. I venture to answer that first we must put down the riot. The lives and property of German and British merchants must be at least as safe in Manila as they were under Spanish rule, before we are ready for any other step. Whatever the next ought we not try to diagnose our

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Plumbing and Tinning

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Book Binding

NEAT, DURABLE BOOK BINDING IS WHAT YOU RECEIVE IF YOU LEAVE YOUR ORDER WITH THE TRIBUNE BINDERY.

The immigrant without a fat bank account had better not try to transplant himself to Venezuela. The terms of that country: "A little house for two." Small, clean and comfortable houses are very rare and rent at from \$30 to \$50 per month. A cow costs \$10 per month, and a maid who does not know how to sew on a button \$5, and it requires three maids to perform bodily services of an ordinary household. Provisions vary with flour, which is usually at 10 cents per pound. The loaf of 12 ounces sells at 10 cents; ordinary beef at \$10 1/2 cents. Meat at 20 to 25 cents according to the size; vin ordinaire at 20 cents the bottle; 25 to 30 cents the bottle; eggs 25 to 30 cents per dozen; fresh fish 20 cents per pound. To make a clothing suit to measure—ready made clothing does not exist—costs from \$25 to \$30, and that at least an extra \$10 for tailoring will be added; shoes from \$4 to \$5; washing shirts, 15 cents each; collars, 4 cents each; caps, 30 cents per pair and 30 cents for pairs; caps, 5 cents; stabling of a horse,

from \$20 to \$25 per month; gas, 20 bolivars per 1,000 feet; hotels charge \$2.50 to \$10 per day; and when we end with the price of a wretchedly made cocktail, namely, 10 cents, our readers will have an idea of the cost of living in Venezuela.

Time is certainly a great solvent. Not many months ago Horatio E. Rubens, the counsel of the Cuban delegation in New York, was telling people how the Cuban insurgents would fight Uncle Sam if he tried to land troops on Cuban soil without first recognizing the Cuban republic. Today Mr. Rubens is an employe of the United States government, having been chosen counsel of the colonial commission which is to investigate the franchise and taxation questions in Porto Rico. It is only fair to Mr. Rubens, however, to say that his one little oversight of excitement was excusable in view of all the circumstances, and that since that time he has proved of great assistance to the American authorities in their work in Cuba. Mr. Rubens has a number of friends in Scranton.

According to the text of a bill to be introduced soon at Springfield by Representative Geo. M. Boyd, of Cook county, all Chicago aldermen are to enjoy a salary of \$5,000 per year instead of \$1,500, but the most open offices in their respective wards and keep these offices open six days in the week.

Speaker Deed was asked about the published report that Collector of Customs Milliken, at Portland, Me., had received a letter from him saying that he would retire from public office at the end of the present congress. "Oh," he said, in a tired way, "I've been called out of bed for five years about that."

The senate committee on international exhibitions has ordered a favorable report on the bill introduced by Mr. Platt, of New York, appropriating \$500,000 for a government building and exhibit at the "Pan-American" exposition to be held at Buffalo in 1901.

The threatened slump in the matrimonial market of Arkansas is averted. The Supreme court recently held that the husband is responsible for the ante-nuptial debts of the wife, but the legislature has passed an act relieving him of this responsibility.

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Odd Lamps

We have a number 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

Always Busy.

Our Shoes in quality always on top, always easy on your feet and very easy on your purse keep us "Always Busy." Attend our 25 days' sale.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies,

Roll Top Desk and Chair

FOR SALE

Desk 4 feet long. Been in use only a short time. Reynolds Bros STATIONERS and ENGRAVERS 139 Wyoming Avenue. Scranton, Pa.

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6 pieces extra heavy Cream Damask 64 inches wide, a regular 65c quality, at only 48 cents

15 pieces Cream Damask—Germ'n "Silver Bleach" and full bleached at 39c, 50c, 59c and 85c Worth fully 1/3 more.

All our high class Table Linens at from 25c to 35c a yard below our regular price

Fine Table Napkins in like proportion.

Special prices on Fine Towels while sale lasts.

510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE

THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE.

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Is cleanly, looks well, and lasts long.

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General Agent for the Wyoming District of DUPONT'S POWDER.

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A Pennsylvania farmer, living in Walker township, Juniata County, recently underwent a pretty severe ordeal. "I was bothered with sick headache," he says, "so bad that I used to have to quit work and lie in bed for a day at a time." He believes that dyspepsia was at the bottom of the trouble; but whatever it was he declares: "I must say of Ripans Tablets that they cured me. Since I used them I am not bothered with headache or dizziness any more. I would not be without them. They made me feel like a different man."

A new preparation containing the active principle of the stomachic and cathartic, and is a powerful purgative. It is a new discovery, and is a great relief to the sufferer. It is a new discovery, and is a great relief to the sufferer. It is a new discovery, and is a great relief to the sufferer.