

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, PA., MARCH 8, 1899.

The heated temperature engendered in certain circles by the recent developments in the domestic relations of Rev. Joseph K. Dixon, which is discernible in Scranton among other places, suggests to disinterested observers of this infelicitous episode the wisdom of moderation in comment and the beauty (and also scarcity) of Christian charity.

Get Down to Business.

The Pennsylvania legislature has completed more than half of the session as limited at commencement and not an appropriation bill has yet been reported from committee nor, to our knowledge, has a single act of general merit gone to the governor for his signature. Some work may have been mapped out in the various committees, but so far as results show the session has thus far been absolutely barren. The two months during which the legislature has been in session have been given over almost exclusively to factional contention and plotting; and unless this shameful record is soon amended public disgust will visit itself in whirlwind fashion upon all parties to the hold-up. An election of a senator should occur without delay and the session be released for general business.

As an experiment at Manila, Admiral von Diederichs has proved almost as troublesome to the German government as a cargo of "enbambled" beef.

Sampson vs. Schley.

Information from all quarters bearing on the merits and demerits of these two naval officers has now reached the public and it is at least possible for the public to form a final opinion with reference to the matter. The conclusions which we have reached are: (1) That William T. Sampson is a careful, methodical and efficient officer, conscientious in all his work and painstaking rather than brilliant. That he has been put in a false light of begrudging to subordinates credit due them when such was not his intention or desire. That he is not to blame for having been jumped in command over him who originally ranked above him, and that the navy department has a clear, legal and moral right to choose for responsible work agents in whom it has superior confidence, whether this necessitates jumping or not.

(2) That Winfield Scott Schley is a man of warmer impulses, but in nothing the superior of Sampson as an executive officer. This does not imply that he has been justly censured for disobedience of orders during the search for Cervera. His reasons for his actions are plausible and credible. It is easy enough to give orders from a distance, but local conditions necessarily affect their execution. The fact that Schley's record during his more than two-score years' service in the navy is clean and good; the fact that he commands the devotion of his men and the admiration of his friends; and the further fact that when the crucial time came at Santiago he was in the thickest of the fight and with his ship helped very materially to destroy the enemy all go to prove the wisdom of his promotion from commodore to rear admiral.

(3) That neither Sampson nor Schley is entitled to a monopoly of the honors; that the best individual record in the North Atlantic squadron was made by Captain Clark of the Oregon and that if the next congress wants to confer especial distinction on a man fully entitled to it by reason of both character and service it could not do better than to create the position of vice admiral and give an intimation to the president that it would like to see Clark nominated for that place. We are quite willing to let this whole subject go at that.

Premier Silveira's first session at Madrid was as lively as a Scranton council meeting.

Duty and Cost.

The public will note with appreciation the fact that some of the leaders of public opinion who were inclined not long ago to substitute passion and maddening sentimentality for serious argument in their consideration of this country's new relations have now cooled off sufficiently to direct their appeals against "expansion" to the reasoning faculties of their auditors. In this mood it will be a pleasure for "expansionists" to engage them in debate. One of the arguments offered with great confidence by these conservative Americans is that the control of dependencies is going to prove a highly expensive undertaking. "In 1897," observes the Philadelphia Ledger, "after noting the existence of a deficit of \$7,250,000 in England's current colonial account, 'this country was without an imperial policy, and its expenditures were, in round numbers, \$365,000,000; in 1898 the country took up the white man's burden in Cuba, Porto Rico, Guam, Philippines and Hawaii, with the result that the expenditures were increased to about \$700,000,000. Thus it is made to appear, from the English and American deficits, that an imperial policy comes high, even to a country that has had long and informing experience of it. To this country, which has had no knowledge, no experience of it, it is likely to come very high. Whether it will be found to be, after trial, worth the candle, the candle being so very expensive, is a question which only the future can answer.'"

It sometimes costs individuals a good deal to do what their consciences tell them is right. The world would soon cease to go forward if questions of duty were everywhere to be subordinated to questions of expense. Unless the Philadelphia Ledger is satisfied in its own mind that the country had no right or duty behind its expenditures on last year's war it has no right in

morals to complain of those expenditures; and if that war was a just and righteous war we were to be scorned away from accepting its logical consequences by the fear that to accept them might prove expensive? The game may not be worth the candle as a game; but if in addition to being a game it is also a duty under the circumstances owed to civilization, shall we take counsel of our avarice rather than our conscience? The war for the preservation of the Union cost more as a business proposition than it has yet been worth; but was it a game not worth the candle?

We are not conquerors but trustees. If we are faithful to the trust our reward will take care of itself. To be faithful is the main thing.

If Admiral Sampson expects to continue the fight against Admiral Schley indefinitely, he will do well to engage a press agent at once. In the newspaper accounts of the controversy, Sampson seems to lose a turt of his locks at every round.

Ho Needs a Rest.

Those who think that the office of president of the United States is an easy one to fill may possibly get a new idea on the subject from the subjoined paragraph taken from the New York correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger:

Secretary Leonard, of the Methodist Missionary society, who returned from Cuba and Porto Rico on the steamer Caracas in very pessimistic about the condition of things there. From his point of view, Cuba is almost entirely without morality or religion. The most deplorable filthiness prevails. Only one person out of forty-five has attended school. Two-thirds of the children are illegitimate. What to do with the Cuban army is a great problem. Most of the soldiers know nothing but war, and do not want to return to civil life. The \$3,000,000 voted by congress will be quickly spent in dissipation, and then most of them will probably become bandits. He does not favor sending missionaries to Cuba. A newspaper correspondent, who arrived on the same steamer, brings a far different report regarding the Cuban soldiers. He says they are far better prepared to return to civil life than even our own soldiers were. Moreover, he gives a flattering description of the peaceableness of the Cubans, and refers to the good order maintained in Havana at the reception to Gomez as greater than would have been expected in New York on a similar occasion.

Here are two men, both experienced observers, whose testimony as to conditions in one of the new dependencies is directly contradictory. Presumably both are honest and sincere, and the disparity between their deductions is simply illustrative of the wide range of advice and suggestion which the president of the United States has to expect every day of his life on every conceivable topic coming before him for official consideration—and the number and variety of these topics are continually increasing in a kind of geometrical ratio.

Is it any wonder that Mr. McKinley wants a rest?

Richard Croker spurns with haughty scorn the insinuation that either he or his son, Richard Jr., has been in Wilkes-Barre on a still hunt for stone quarries. Mr. Croker's agility in getting after rocks has probably led to this misapprehension, but it was unkind to locate his son in Wilkes-Barre.

Liquid Air.

Those who are interested in the romantic in science should by all means read the article in the March McClure's on Charles H. Tripler's discoveries in the production and use of liquid air. It has been known for years to the savants that air at a temperature lower than 312 degrees below zero assumed, under compression, a liquid form; but inasmuch as the first production of fluid atmosphere cost \$60 a pint litre was done along this line of experiment until Mr. Tripler devised an inexpensive process.

Under the Tripler process, the initial output of frozen air is used to generate power whereby more air is frozen, and thus the production becomes practically automatic, the only cost after the first cost of the plant being the pay of the labor of running it. There is no item of expense for raw materials since the only raw material used—common air—is to be had for the asking. This liquidified air which Mr. Tripler produces is a flaky, crystalline product which no sooner enters a temperature warmer than 312 degrees below zero than it boils, so to speak, with intense energy and diffuses itself as a gaseous form, multiplying in bulk 500-fold. It is this expansive property which gives practical value to the Tripler discovery, since it holds out the promise of unlimited power for all the purposes now subserved by water, steam, gas or electricity at a mere fraction of the cost of either. Well may the writer in McClure's say:

"It is bewildering to dream of the possibilities of a source of power that costs nothing. Think of the ocean greyhound unencumbered with coal bunkers, and sweltering boilers and smokestacks, making her power as she sails, from the free sea air around her! Think of the boilerless locomotive running without a firebox or fireman, or without need of water tanks or coal chutes, gathering from the air as it passes the power which turns its driving wheels! With costless power, think how travel and freight rates must fall, bringing bread and meat more cheaply to our tables and cheaply manufactured clothing more cheaply to our backs. Think of the possibilities of aerial navigation with power which requires no heavy machinery, no storage batteries, no coal. If one would practice his imagination on high flights, let him ruminates on the question, 'What will the world be when power costs nothing?'"

If China has the spirit to persist in her peremptory refusal to surrender a slice of valuable territory to Italy on demand, conditions will probably shape themselves so that the refusal will go. Our government wisely decided to restrict American activity in this matter to the protection of American interests; but it is easy to perceive how the protection of those interests might at any moment compel us to draw a chalk line in imitation of European free-trade.

Felix Faure, late president of France,

is dead and therefore cannot affirm or deny the truth of the report that he considered Dreyfus innocent, but acquiesced in his unjust punishment in preference to ruining many more important men. Yet this seems to be among Frenchmen a very prevalent view of the Dreyfus affair. It is impossible for the Latin race to conceive the idea of justice divorced from compromises resting on expediency.

The devotion of woman has been signally illustrated in the trials through which Mrs. Rudyard Kipling has just passed. These have involved a degree of heroism and shown a character superior by far to any which have formed the theme of her distinguished husband's pen, and we shall have reason to expect in Kipling's work in future a more exalted and appreciative estimate of wifehood and motherhood, of which he has hitherto had little to say.

Banner Years of Business Revival.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

IT SEEMS as if the repressed energy of the American people during the four lean years from 1893 to 1896 inclusive, had all combined to make 1897 and 1898 the banner years of business revival and phenomenal development in the United States. Taking the period covered by the life of the Fifty-fifth congress, from March 4, 1897, to March 4, 1899, there is nothing to compare with it in the history of the country for national advancement in all the elements of material, industrial and commercial growth. E. G. Dun's report on Saturday last that in all the years of its weekly commercial reviews "there has been no other week in which reports from all over the country have been on the whole so good as they are this week" merely reflects the common experience of merchants, manufacturers and farmers the land over.

How different were the conditions two years ago. The gloom of disappointment over the nonrealization of unreasonable expectations paralyzed business. Discontent reigned in shop, office and farm, because the election of November, 1896, had not lifted mortgages, set wheels to humming nor stimulated trade. The business world still suffered from the lack of confidence that precipitated and had prolonged the panic of 1893. The ground hog of prosperity that had peeped from his hole after the November election had not reappeared. The bank clearings for the week ending Feb. 27, 1897, were \$752,420,655. These were 13.4 per cent. below those of the corresponding week in 1896. Trade was stagnant, all business was in the depths of doubt and mistrust. "Everything was waiting in events," as the commercial agencies put it. In twenty-four months events have worked a marvelous change. Last week the bank clearings were \$2,151,382,922, an increase of 28.4 per cent. over those of the corresponding week last year and almost 175 per cent. greater than those of the corresponding week of 1897 given above. Perhaps the contrast may be better expressed thus:

BANK CLEARINGS. Week ending Feb. 27, 1897, \$752,420,655. Week ending March 2, 1899, \$2,151,382,922. Increase \$1,398,962,267.

What are the events that have effected this marvelous transformation from stagnation to unparalleled activity? They may be briefly summarized: The inauguration of a president pledged to maintain the existing gold standard and to preserve national faith inviolable. The passage of a tariff act, July 24, 1897, to provide sufficient revenue for the government. Under this act the revenues gradually rose from 219,023,614 for August, 1897, to \$339,339,313 for June, 1898, the last month before the war broke out. The discovery of gold in the Klondike. The elimination of preparation for a foreign war and the impetus it gave to new lines of industry. Two great agricultural years in America in succession, coincident with crop failures in Asia and South America, resulting in higher prices for farm products. The effect of these last named events has been cumulative, as shown in the following table of exports and balances during the past four years:

Exports and Imports. 1895: Exports \$24,360,138; Imports \$21,180,780. 1896: Exports \$27,827,241; Imports \$25,257,083. 1897: Exports \$29,709,045; Imports \$27,114,816. 1898: Exports \$35,494,358; Imports \$29,026,120.

The remarkable increase in the production of gold throughout the world. That of the African fields alone almost doubled between 1896 and 1898, being almost equal to the world's total production in the latter year. The world's gold production in the two years was:

Year. Value. 1899: \$202,000,000. 1898: \$200,000,000.

During the three years ending last December the world's supply of standard metal was increased by \$84,000,000. In the year 1898 there was an excess of gold imports into the United States over exports of \$14,956,588. Contemporaneous with these years of natural production there has been a revival of business, commercial and industrial activity such as this country has never before witnessed. It is impossible to ascribe this reversal of the situation of two years ago to any one cause, natural, financial or political. We only know that out of the coincident occurrence of certain events the gloom of March 4, 1897, has given place to the prosperity of March, 1899; the doubt and depression of two years ago has been replaced by confidence and buoyancy; idleness and discontent have been in two years succeeded by work for the industrious and increased wages for the employed in every line of productive activity. From 1892 to 1896 the American people were engaged in the severe and chastening occupation of liquidation and retrenchment. By the spring of 1897 they had reached bed-rock and were prepared for the turn in the tide of their business affairs. By the presidential election of 1898 they had laid the foundation for the revival of national prosperity upon the immovable rock of a sound currency and an honest dollar. By the congressional and state elections of 1898 they clinched the verdict of 1896 and made the senate proof against free silver or other financial folly for at least six years to come. There is therefore every reason to face the future with confidence that the nation has entered upon a period of prosperity unprecedented in its history and full of enduring promise because based on natural causes and honest principles.

ONE OF UNCLE SAM'S MEN AT MANILA.

LETTER FROM HIM HAS REACHED FRIENDS HERE.

It Is Dated Jan. 5 and Shows That at That Time an Out Break With the Insurgents Was Expected at Any Moment—Trick General Otis Played on the Spanish Soldiers. Soldiers Are Fond of Otis and Think He Is the Right Man in the Right Place.

According to a letter received here from a private, the United States soldiers expected the conflict with Aguinaldo's forces at Manila and were not sorry when it came. The letter in question was written Jan. 5 and was received in Scranton March 4. The writer is a member of the Montana infantry regiment. He says, in part: "I haven't done much in the letter writing line for some time, but we have had so much excitement and work that there has not been an abundance of time to spare. The insurgents threaten the town every day now and we are all on the go all the time, either guard duty, which is doubled, or some extra duty. We go on outpost duty every six days and are on constant duty twenty-four hours. It is rather exciting to be on outpost and for a man with a nervous temperament, it is no snap, but rather very hard work. We are right out to the insurgents' lines and expect an attack at any moment. We carry our guns loaded, and shoot the exchange every night. We are having some good experience though and there really isn't much danger. The insurgents are a crazy lot and Uncle Sam will either have to give them free government or fight. I have an idea he will do the latter, however, and that apparently giving them what they want will, in reality, give them nothing. "I have to spend a good deal of money for meals as I never will become accustomed to government rations although they have improved recently. We have a good cook now but it is hard to keep a fellow in the kitchen long, as it is very disagreeable work and confining too.

WATCH THE CAVALRY.

"We have some mounted cavalry here now and they make a very good appearance although mounted on native horses which are not much larger than a Shetland pony. The natives look very much at them when they parade, and don't know what to make of it. "We went on outpost Saturday evening and got back this morning (Monday). We had a quiet time of it, but it rained all night Saturday night and we, of course, all got soaked to the skin. It is rather annoying, but it is uncertain. This letter will go direct to the United States so you can judge how long it takes for a letter to reach you from here direct. "A long time ago I visited the 'Isle de Cuba,' one of Dewey's marks, and obtained a piece of Mahogany of her which I had made into a cane. I got the cane yesterday. I had it silver mounted and it is very pretty. "Four of our officers got 'busted out' yesterday and sail on the next steamer for home. They were all fine fellows but didn't stand in with the push. The associated with we 'common' privates too much, I guess. "I saw some cotton and coffee growing yesterday while on outpost, and also visited the Leper hospital the other day. The sight of it is rather very disgusting to say the least and I shall not attempt to describe them (hands, feet, faces, etc., falling off). I will tell you all about it some time. "I have a pet monkey and he is a devil. Steals everything he can lay his hands on and is full of mischief all the time. He hates the natives and chases the native 'kids' all over the street. I also have a little dog. You will see them both if they survive the trip to America. Rumors of our speedy return to the states, now the order of the day, but they don't fool me any more. OTIS' CUTE TRICK. "By the way, Otis played a trick on the Spanish soldiers yesterday. He issued an order that they were to be paid off and allowed freedom yesterday. As a consequence, about 1,500 of them who had joined the insurgent army, marched in to get their pay. Well they say the Spaniards pay very much better in a bunch awaiting it, when the Twenty-third regulars came down the line double time, surrounded them and have them yet. They will be sent away soon. They are all trained soldiers and their disappearance will weaken the insurgent cause very much. It was a neat trick and deserves praise. The boys are all staked on Otis and I guess he is the right man in the right place. "I am going to get new clothes for the winter. I had burned when I had the small pox. I get them this m. and am waiting for the lieutenant to come down with me to draw them. "The weather is getting very warm here now but it will gradually get worse for three months. It is the dry season and last for that length of time. "My monkey sits on my shoulder as I write this and he is apparently very much interested. I am as home sick as the mischief nowadays and all I think of is getting back to the states."

NEWS AND COMMENT.

Says the Philadelphia Press: "It is sincerely to be hoped, now that Mr. Kipling is on the high road to recovery, that his illness will not have been in vain in the matter of a change of heart on his part toward the American people. No people could have been more sincerely sympathetic with a deep, real, heartfelt sympathy for one whom two hemispheres acclaim as a genius than have Americans been toward the author of 'The Luck of Roanoke' and 'The American Character' considered en masse. This abuse has not been of the nature of an early offense unapologized for, but persistent, liquidation and retrenchment. The publication of a contemptible anti-American quatrain in the English edition of the 'Seven Seas' and smelt from the American edition, since Kipling knew and his publishers knew that in this country the vogue of the 'Seven Seas' would be even more profitable than in England. As a people we have overlooked all this. If Mr. Kipling can stand in Quebec and see in the inferior civilization of Canada a nobler spirit than he imbued in the New England hills which meet one's gaze on the distant horizon, we are perfectly content, since for once we convict the author of malapropos, of lack of insight, for his own sake it is to be hoped the sick bed will not have been in vain. Let him read and reconsider."

An idea of the development which has been made in the postal service is imparted by this quotation from the New York Evening Post: "In 1897 it took congress

fifty-three hours to send word from Philadelphia to Braintree, Mass., to notify John Adams that he was elected vice president. In 1899 there were only seven-fifty postoffices in the United States. In 1890 there were 90 postoffices, the rate of letter postage as follows: Under forty miles, 8 cents; over forty and under ninety, 10 cents; over ninety and under 120, 12 cents; over 120 and under 200, 15 cents; over 200 and under 300, 20 cents, and over 300 miles, 25 cents. In his message, December 5, 1898, President McKinley refers to the fact that our postal service now involves an expenditure of \$100,000,000 a year, numbers 12,000 postoffices and carries 200,000,000 envelopes. For nearly twenty-five years of the present century the New York postoffice was kept at No. 29 William street, in a room 12 by 14 feet. There were 14 wooden letter boxes in the window. According to the latest postoffice report: "There were added in this city during 1898 over 300,000 stamps, 2,000,000 postal cards and 20,000,000 envelopes; in the mailing and distributing department 619,917,175 pieces of mail matter were handled." In the early part of the present century the residents of Murray Hill had a long ride for their mail; now it is inserted into the pneumatic tube and in seven minutes it is at the Grand Central station.

It was left for a stationmaster at a little way station in New Jersey to solve the problem of putting the familiar notice on spitting on the floor, etc., into a more agreeable if less forcible form, and, though less forcible, it is an equally effective, if not more so, at the notice generally greets us. In the station at Newport, N. J., the New York Sun informs us, this genius has pestered the following: "If on this floor you choose to spit. Just pause, my friend, and think a bit. Last night, when all was cold and still, I carried water up the hill. I washed this floor by the silver moon. That you might use our new spittoon."

Few persons have any idea how slight an electrical current is required to operate a telephone receiver. It has been calculated that one foot pound energy, or the force necessary to raise one pound foot, if applied to a telephone receiver would produce an audible sound for 2,000 years. It can be readily understood, therefore, that the electric disturbances produced by electric light wires and street railway circuits in the vicinity of telephone lines are the most serious difficulties the telephone engineer has to contend with.

Emperor William of Germany on Sunday sent this cable message to Mrs. Rudyard Kipling: "As an enthusiastic admirer of the unrivaled books of your husband and most anxious for news about his health, God grant that he may be spared to you and to all who are thankful to him for the soul-stirring way in which he has made us of the deeds of our great common race."

MACKAY.

From the Lebanon Report (Anti-Quay). N. C. Mackay is a member of the lower branch of the state legislature from Lackawanna county. Up to Friday he had voted for M. S. Quay for United States senator but upon that day Mackay switched over to someone else. In one of the Sunday newspapers he gives his reasons for changing—and here it is. Mackay's friends wanted to control the Scranton poor board and this control could have been given him by Judge Archibald of Scranton. The judge it seems is a Quay man and had asked Mackay to vote for the McCarroll bill in answer to which Mackay telegraphed "if you would please me, appoint O'Malley poor director"—a message that must be taken to meanfully vote on the McCarroll bill is dependent on my control of the Scranton poor board. Judge Archibald did not appoint O'Malley poor director but named an enemy to Mackay, who instantly became richly vituperated and votes against Quay. We have no criticism to make upon Mr. Mackay's change of vote, but his reason for the change stamps him as a political "thing" unit to sit in any legislative body or to represent anybody. It is just such creatures as Mackay that make of legislation a mere barter and sale.

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