

The Scranton Tribune

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The unification of the coal trade may be merely a dream; but sometimes dreams modify realities.

In Justice to the Mayor-elect.

The decision of the estimates committee on motion of Councilman Oliver to recommend the lumping of the ward appropriations and to vest their expenditure in the street commissioner is in line with business prudence and common sense.

The adoption of this provision by council would be an act of fairness to the incoming city administration, as well as an act of justice to the taxpayers. The new mayor should have full scope and free rein to carry into effect his ideas of city government and those who shall seek to abridge his powers or hamper his official activities will offend the public's keen sense of fair play.

Scranton has had too much peanut politics in these matters in the past and it is high time to turn over a new leaf. Differ as we may at the primaries or at the polls, it is time to realize that the induction of a fellow-citizen into the office of mayor makes him the executive of the whole city, clothes him with a mantle of responsibility greater than any other in the community and outlasts him during merit to the best support of the people irrespective of party.

About the only thing that remains for the writers to do in Pennsylvania is to send Quay a bottle of bromo-saltizer which has been correctly fixed. They have tried practically everything else.

A Denial of Justice.

The bribery investigation at Harrisburg has gone far enough to convince public opinion that it must go a great deal farther. Certain men have been accused by name of acts which are amenable to punishment before the law and the opportunity of defence has been denied them by the committee which elicited the accusations.

Very obviously this is not justice but a mockery of it. It enables the public to hear only one side of the case. It is not an investigation for which the successful reformers at the state capital recently professed to be so eager, but an ex-cetero proceeding precisely of the kind that was recently cooked up by the same elements against Senator Quay.

Under such conditions as these there is only one thing for the accused to do. They must demand to be heard by the legislative committee and if denied justice there they must take the case into the Dauphin county courts. Unless they do this the information elicited by the committee must be given to the district attorney for presentation to the grand jury.

The public will soon begin to look anxiously for the last word in the Sampson-Schley controversy.

The United States and China.

The official announcement of the intention of the United States to take no part in the dismemberment of China but to safeguard her treaty rights and commercial opportunities in that great empire which is evidently soon to be reconstructed along modern lines has elicited two significant comments. The Chinese minister at Washington, Wu Ting Fang, says: "I am sure the Chinese government and people will not fail to observe this strong evidence of good will."

The ambassador of Russia at Washington, Count Cassini, in a statement communicated through the Philadelphia Press, says: "There are so many ways of viewing the 'open door' proposal and so many interpretations to be placed upon it, that it is a delicate subject to discuss. I took issue with Lord Brougham, and I think I made my position quite plain. Now a new aspect is presented in Italy's action. Russia's attitude is not changed by this action. We have never opposed the open door, and

consequently we can take no other attitude than that which has been officially announced from our foreign office many times. But we are wondering what our great neighbor to the west, the United States, will do in this emergency. Of course, I can speak only for Russia, but there seems a similarity of interests to guard and to promote. Russia is at the entrance of her industrial and commercial development, and she will endeavor to shield this development from all that might retard it. We have vast countries just awakening from the lethargy of centuries and becoming grain lands and pasture countries, and from the outlet on the Chinese sea we hope to enter the commercial world in the four quarters of the globe. With our Siberian railroad we will carry to Europe the treasures of India and of China. The tea product alone will bring us an annual income of 40,000,000 roubles (about \$20,000,000). Other staple products yield a proportionate figure. Then it is hoped to extend our merchant marine across to your great western countries and to bring your overabundance into Asia and Africa. For this reason Russia would welcome the United States as a factor in the councils of the nations that must necessarily govern the East. We have never officially nor unofficially protested against the American occupation of the Philippines. On the contrary, we have welcomed the United States in coming nearer to us, as one friend welcomes another.

"It has been the source of much gratification to me that Mr. Hitchcock, lately your ambassador to St. Petersburg, has told the American people about the attitude of Russia before and since the Spanish war. It would be expected that Russia's ambassador at Washington would say that nothing hostile had been done against your country by his own. His position would be untenable otherwise. But Mr. Hitchcock is a disinterested witness, and when he has so cordially and so eloquently reiterated what I have said to the American people for many months I am of course deeply grateful. Russia maintains her old historic attitude towards this great nation. She was one of the first to aid the founders of this republic and she has been throughout its growth a sympathetic and sincere friend. During the Civil War she did her part when the existence of the Union was threatened, and if during the war which has just been fought the United States had needed the aid of Russia it would have been given as freely and as fully as in the past. There have been many who have asserted very different things of Russia's feeling towards America, and there are still some who say that Russia has ulterior intentions in endeavoring to draw the United States into the Chinese question. Time and the authority of your own ambassador at St. Petersburg have proved the falsity of the first proposition, and of the second, it can be said that Russia is not trying to draw the United States into the Chinese question, but if the United States, to protect her vast commercial interests sees fit to seek a voice in deciding this important issue, Russia will be the first to welcome her and to co-operate in finding a just and satisfactory solution of its difficulties."

It may fairly be assumed that in good time the United States will "seek a voice" in reference to China by causing the world at large to know that it will expect from all the occupants of the Orient treatment in trade free from unfair discrimination. Should such treatment anywhere find denial it is reasonable to assume that the United States, with or without the aid of friendly nations, will take measures to protect its own. That is certainly as far as we should have any moral right to go and that far we should be in honor bound to go whatever the consequences or the cost. The friendship of Russia, now asserted in words, can in the coming years be proved in actions, and by those actions we should be content to guide our future policy. The Russian ambassador speaks truly when he says that down to this time Russia has given to the United States no cause for complaint and many evidences of good will. A continuation of the same cordial relations will be the earnest desire of the American people and, we trust, of Russians also.

Meanwhile, by the use which the European nations make of their Oriental seizures will they be judged before the world's best public opinion.

Consult Williams appears to have been lost in the crush at Manila.

Meat Inspection.

Now that so much is heard about meat inspection in army supplies, it is interesting to note that a prominent authority on the subject declares almost all the cities of the United States are without proper meat inspection and that consequently all the people are exposed to the gravest dangers. Americans are the greatest of all meat eaters and in Philadelphia alone 125,000,000 pounds are consumed annually. His arguments are all in favor of municipal slaughter houses, because of the unsanitary methods in vogue where cattle are killed at present. There are persons who go about the country buying up old and diseased animals which are called "bolognas," as they are used in this species of food, thus being a far greater menace than are the materials generally assigned to this use in the time-worn jokes. Since the establishment of public abattoirs in Germany and in other European countries, it is stated that tubercular diseases have greatly decreased, despite the continental custom of consuming much meat while it is in a practically uncooked state.

Meat inspection that does not inspect is the order of things in this country. Two meat inspectors for the million and a quarter of inhabitants of Philadelphia are a sample of the care bestowed on the conditions of this great food department. The average consumer goes on the same principle when eating meat that he does while eating cherries; what he doesn't see doesn't hurt him. If careful food inspection caused any inconvenience in securing the desired cut of tenderloin or made an advance in price, the average citizen would say, "Oh, I don't know. I guess 'tubercle' is more or less worth hurt me, I wish folks wouldn't agitate

Present Status of Unfortunate China.

THE COAST is now dismembered. Russia has occupied the most northern province, Shing-king, holding its chief ports and prohibiting to cross the railroad. Pe-Chi-Li, the next coast province, holding Peking, is still in Chinese hands, but the entrance to its gulf is on one side held by Russia at Port Arthur and on the other by England at Wei Hai Wei. The province of Shantung has been proclaimed by Germany by taking Kiao-Chow. The Yang-tze-Kiang delta passes through the next coast province, Kiang-su, and the valley of this river has been solemnly declared under English sphere of influence. The Italians from San Mo Bay are laying claim to Che Kiang. Fo Kien is as yet unclaimed. The French have always asserted a special interest in Fuchau, Japan holds Formosa over against the province, and there are scattered English interests. Last comes the great populous province of Kwang-tung, which has a foothold on the coast at Hong Kong and has added a mainland tract. The French may now demand like Hainan, and Macao is Portuguese, liable to go to the highest bidder. Interests, however, sufficiently conflict at this point to prevent any such action as has been taken in the provinces without any foreign foothold.

Of the seven coast provinces of China, the eighth, Shing-king, Shantung, Kiang-su and the Kiang, are practically pre-empted by Russia, Germany, England and Italy. The entrance to Pe-Chi-Li is held by Russia and Japan already dominates the northern third and will enter it shortly by railway. The coasts of Fo Kien and Kwangtung are already commanded by Chinese administration and cover all this territory. Chinese customs are collected. By international law they are all Chinese territory. But in the four provinces already named the foreign design power which has planted its flag controls or exercises mining and railroad rights, and is ready to assume full sovereign control of the entire area.

When this process began by Russia and Germany at the north and was proposed by France from the south the position of England was precarious. The most that could be done was to lay a broad, general claim to the Yang-tze Kiang valley. Germany is now detached from Russia. Italy comes in the corner occupying member of the Triple Alliance, and Lord Salisbury's favorite plan of an English alliance or understanding with the league of Central Europe is in full progress on the Chinese coast. Exactly as German and Italian possessions have come in as "buffer" territories in Africa between the claims of England and France, so they have been neatly interposed on the east coast of Asia between Russia and England on the north by Germany and Italy at the south by Italy at Che Kiang, one on each side of the rich core and fertile center of China, the Yang-tze valley, which England is about to enter at its head by railway from Burma, and which it claims to its mouth as a "sphere of influence."

The impartial American, as he contemplates all this with even-handed realism, is bound to find in one "sphere of influence" cannot help a little admiration at the neatness with which England has again come to the front in China.

NEWS AND COMMENT.

General Gomez, writes Charles M. Pepper, would not be a successful politician in a campaign tour. His ways are too blunt. The day he came from Matanzas to the insurgent headquarters at Marianna he had a special train for himself, the members of his staff and various civilian officials. Gomez's car was the one into which everybody naturally drifted. When, between places, he got tired and wanted to rest for everybody to clear out. The Castilian language does not express it quite so bluntly, but the words mean the same thing. When the word came to anybody to get out through the aisle of the car and pushed intruders before him. At one place a Cuban of prominence had seated himself in Gomez's car while he was in the rear platform. When Gomez returned the Cuban remained. Gomez glanced at him impatiently a moment, frowned and without a word seated him by the shoulder. The seat was instantly vacated. A little later a handsomely dressed woman was presented. Gomez was on his feet in a second, and she was a French country girl, and would not sit down until she had seated herself beside him. Then he took her jeweled fan and wielded it as gracefully as any of the Latin women how to wield a fan. This Cuban woman belonged to a wealthy family, whose means had been given freely to the insurgents, and she had suffered persecution from the Spanish officials. In those few minutes' talk with the old general she had her reward for all the sacrifices she had been made. The empire now allowed to monopolize his time. One of his officers brought forward a poorly dressed woman and her little daughter. They had been in the line of march, and she had come out of the woods he has known the same story hundreds of times. Instantly his attention was turned from the elegantly dressed lady to the side to the poor woman in black. She had her brooding and kindly inquiries after her welfare. That was her recompense.

Sir Robert Giffen, the English statistician and economist, in a striking paper on "The Relative Growth of the Components Parts of the Empire," gives some facts and figures showing the wonderful increase of Greater Britain in territory, population and resources during the past quarter century. The empire now covers 11,000,000 square miles, or one-fourth of the population of the earth. The English-speaking ruling race, being chiefly in the United Kingdom, British North America and Australasia, number about 200,000,000, or less than one-eighth of the whole, and the remaining 900,000,000 are the subject race, living for the most part in India and Africa. The increase in the population of the empire, excluding Egypt and the Sudan, since 1871 amounts to 2,854,000 square miles and 125,000,000 people, or more than one-third of the total population. The ruling race has increased by 12,500,000, or one-fourth of the number in 1871, and the subject races have gained 212,500,000, or about one-third of the number in 1871. The present total revenue of the various parts of the empire is \$1,285,355,000, showing an increase of \$75,755,000, or 6.3 per cent, over the present total; and the imports and exports amount to \$6,875,000,000, which is an increase of \$2,140,000,000, about one-third of the present total.

When in Cincinnati the other day "Fighting Bob" Evans told a reporter a bit of his recent unglorious military career connected with the Santiago naval campaign. Said he: "The entrance of the Merrimac into the harbor under fire from every gun it seemed of the Spanish fleet and fortress was the most terrible sight I ever saw. I can best describe it as hell with the lid off. The next morning all we could see was the smoke and the tops of the Merrimac's mast to which was fastened something resembling a rat. There was no sign of life and of

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course, we thought it all up with our poor comrades. I had received orders from Sampson to allow no boat to approach the wreck and some of my executive officers reported to me that a steam yacht was drawing near to it and asked if he should open fire. For some reason or other that I cannot explain, I decided for the time being to disobey orders, and told my officer to wait a bit. Then we saw the yacht take on board from the raft. I have mentioned our comrades under Hobson. Had I fired, of course they would have perished, as would have Admiral Cervera, who was on the barge. I only learned on reading Lieutenant Hobson's recently published story that he and his fellows had been clinging for hours with their hands to that raft, with bodies totally submerged, when the barge rescued them. I have thanked God many times since that I refrained from firing on that barge."

There is an interesting story behind the recent appointment of Dr. Gossett as assistant at Findlay, O., and W. E. Curtis tells it. A good many years ago the family of the late president, Rutherford B. Hayes, owned a dog, which ran into the street one day and barked at a passing carriage. The horse was frightened, bolted and knocked down a woman, who brought a suit for damages against the people of the neighborhood. President Hayes was married to Lieutenant Wilson of the navy. He created a sensation during the ceremony when Miss Fannie Hayes was married to Lieutenant Wilson of the navy. He created a sensation during the ceremony when Miss Fannie Hayes was married to Lieutenant Wilson of the navy. He created a sensation during the ceremony when Miss Fannie Hayes was married to Lieutenant Wilson of the navy.

The actual work of building the "White City" of the Pan-American exposition, which is to be opened in Buffalo in 1901, will soon begin. The exposition is an assured fact. The bill appropriating \$300,000 for the New York state building and exhibit passed both houses of the legislature, and was signed by Governor Roosevelt immediately. On March 3 the bill appropriating \$500,000 for the national exhibit passed congress and was signed at once by President McKinley. There is now the sum of \$2,500,000 behind the exposition. The city of Buffalo and western New York have raised by popular subscription \$1,000,000, congress has appropriated \$500,000 and the state \$500,000. During the next few weeks other states will appropriate large sums for their exhibits, and the work of preparing the exhibits in other countries of the western hemisphere has already begun.

The Joneses, as the Chicago Record notes, are doing very well in official life. In the senate of the United States are James K. Jones, of Arkansas, and John P. Jones, of Nevada, who hold their seats until March, 1901. In the last house of representatives was W. A. Jones, of Virginia, who succeeds himself in the next congress, and William C. Jones, of the state of Washington, who is succeeded by another Jones, whose initials are W. L. The present Jones is a Socialist. The next Jones is a Republican. Dan W. Jones is governor of Arkansas, J. H. Jones is lieutenant governor of Mississippi, A. W. Jones is lieutenant governor of Ohio, F. L. Jones is superintendent of instruction in Indiana and W. D. Jones is attorney general of Nevada.

The biggest medical contract on record has been given to Dr. Axel Ames, of Massachusetts. He has been ordered by General Guy V. Henry, governor of Porto Rico, to vaccinate every one of the island's 1,000,000 inhabitants. It will take him and his assistants six months to complete the contract and the cost will exceed \$100,000.

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