

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at 217½ Centre Street, Scranton, Pa.

New York Office: 150 Nassau Street, N. Y. City. Telephone 100. Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

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

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MARCH 21, 1899.

Agumaldo tells his troops that he will march into Manila inside of twenty days. This is possible, but the conditions of the entry may be different from his expectations.

Now Complete the Welcome.

Auspicious and cordial was the Thirtieth's welcome home and every person concerned in the preparation and in the execution of the arrangements deserves from the community a vote of thanks. The parade marked an epoch in local history and the banquet and reception were in keeping with their occasion.

Before taking leave of the subject of yesterday's demonstration mention should be made of the community's indebtedness to the late commander of the Thirtieth, Colonel Henry A. Courtenay. During the difficult years of the war his closing he proved himself a careful, intelligent, painstaking officer, alert in the interest of the men under his command and invariably mindful of the responsibilities resting upon him.

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With characteristic unselfishness our good friend, Colonel Watterston, has again dedicated himself to the thankless task of saving the Democratic party. Colonel Watterston saves the Democratic party periodically but the perverse creature invariably refuses to stay saved.

First—The destruction of combinations of capital designed to limit production, to raise prices, and to promote monopoly.

Second—The raising of the public money by taxes fairly divided between production and consumption; beginning with a tariff for revenue only and ending in a graded income tax, oppressive to no class or interest.

Third—The recovery to the people of all franchises belonging to the people, but diverted from public to private uses, by the purchase of corporations and individuals, corruptly working through state and municipal legislation.

Fourth—Such a reorganization and reform of our judicial system as will remove the courts farther from the influence of the rich and make them more accessible to the poor; a result not to be reached by excited appeals and revolutionary measures, but by calm, conservative methods, originating in the benign and orderly operations of an enlightened public opinion.

We must applaud the ingenuity of those who propose a vote-catcher nothing would be more effective if the public could be induced to credit its sponsors with sincerity. There is no possible doubt that the overwhelming majority of the people today oppose trusts, favor public ownership of public franchises and want courts of jus-

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THE ERIE PLAN.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. Up to the present time the county of Lackawanna is said to have paid over three hundred thousand dollars for the luxury of election contests. It now has another such contest on hand which will probably cost some thousands more.

Methods differ apparently in different counties. Out in Erie the other day the Republican candidate for congress, who was defeated by a few votes, but who believed firmly that he could reverse the verdict before any fair tribunal, declined the public interest to make a fight. It was his notion that it would be an outrage to subject the people to the cost of an investigation merely to vindicate himself or his rival.

THE WEATHER. "Scourious like!" said the tree toad. "I've twittered for rain all day. And I got up soon. And I hollered till noon. But they just blazed away. Till I just climbed in a crawfish hole. Weary at heart and sick at soul!"

"Dosed away for an hour, And I tacked the thing again, And I sung, and sung. Till I knowed my lung. Was just about to die; And then, thinks I, if it don't rain now, There's nothin' in singin', anyhow."

"Once in a while some farmer Would come a-drivin' past, And he'd hear my cry. But they just blazed away. Till I just laid back at last, And hollered rain till I thought my throat Would burst right open at every note!"

"But I fetched her! O, I fetched her! 'Cause a little while ago, As I kind of set With one eye shut, And a slin'g's soft and low, A voice dropped down on my fevered brain. Sayin'—'If you'll just hush, I'll rain!'" —James Whitcomb Riley.

Opposition to the big department stores is not limited to the United States. In Germany the government has proposed a scheme of taxation aimed directly at them. The bill provides that three factors are to determine the taxation, the number of branches, the number of employees and the amount of rent. It divides the branches into five groups, food and drugs, clothing, books, music and jewelry. Establishments trading in two or more of these groups and employing more than twenty-five persons come under the new law. Those with one or two branches pay 10 per cent of their profits in taxation, three, five per cent; four, 20 per cent; five, 25 per cent. Shops engaged in three groups and employing twenty-five persons pay an annual tax of 20 marks for each one of the twenty-five, and 10 marks for each additional employee. Stores with branch establishments are treated as if all were under the same roof. Co-operative stores will not be taxed under the law. The bill is intended to create a good impression among the small shopkeepers who supported the conservatives, who are anxious to strengthen the party who lately have been in the ascendant. The bill is a dangerous extension of centralism.

The methods employed by the Porto Rican fishermen in catching fish are very primitive. Most of the fishes are caught in crude traps, which are anchored to the banks and in the water. The fish are then trapped, or, if they are not baited, some little live bait is used. This is not important. Very few of the fish boats have live wells, and as a result of this lack of modern fishing boat equipment, the fishes that are caught have to be marketed the same day, and as ice is a luxury there, the fish have to be eaten the same day. Very little, if anything, is done in Porto Rico in the way of curing, or preserving them to be saved for future sale or consumption. A few fishermen come over from the British islands of Tortola, and other islands in the West Indies waters, and they sometimes catch their catch in a very crude way, and the fish which is thus temporarily preserved is marketed at Santa Cruz. There are more than thousand varieties of edible sea and fresh water fish in Porto Rico and its vicinity. Most of the fish are sold fresh, and this piscatorial abundance is good account.

Before adjourning, the legislature of North Carolina took every appointment to office away from the governor except the director of the asylum for the insane, and to these offices they virtually forced the governor to appoint the men whom they selected. Instead of the governor appointing to high various offices, the legislature proceeded to elect the officers of the penitentiary, of the Agricultural department, of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the two supreme courts, the State and the Federal, the Board of Internal Improvements, the State Librarian, the keeper of the capitol, the Sheriff, the Commissioner of the State Land, and created the office of Insurance Commissioner and elected the commissioner. This removal of appointments from the governor's control is a law establishing a corporate constitution, which has all the powers which the railroad commission had. The right of the legislature to do all this is in dispute and a decision from the state supreme court is expected at an early day.

The Illinois Humane Society wants a law passed providing for whipping as a punishment for anti-slavery, robbery, burglary and certain classes of assault. The cat-o-nine-tails applied to the bare back is to be the instrument of punishment. Sixty lashes are to be the maximum. The sponsor of the measure recently told the Chicago Record that when first asked to introduce the bill he refused, but after reflection he came to the conclusion that the measure was a good one. He was particularly influenced in arriving at this conclusion by statistics showing the effect of a whipping law in lessening crime in England. Some fifteen years ago such offenses as wife-beating and hold-ups were increasing at an



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