

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 28, 1899.

We note with pleasure the fact that practically every seat has been sold for James Whitcomb Riley's readings at the Lyceum theater tonight.

Repair the Streets.

The question of street repairs, which is again before council, should be considered strictly as a business proposition.

For two years or more the asphalt streets have received practically no attention whatever so far as effective repairs are concerned.

To resurface Washington, Penn, Calipouze, Lackawanna and West Lackawanna avenues and Linden street, as will have to be done in either case, will, we are reliably informed, cost not less than \$90,000, and possibly \$100,000.

In other words, at the very lowest calculation, for the city to undertake this work on its own hook, assuming that it could manage the task as economically and efficiently as a private firm of corporation skilled in the business, would cost, on a ten-year basis, more than the lowest bid received from private enterprise.

These are facts to be considered, not in passion or in prejudice, but mathematically. The property-owners of Scranton have been assessed \$500,000 for asphalt streets and they have paid in this great sum upon the understanding that the city would for its part keep the paved streets in good repair.

The work of the Tenth Pennsylvania regiment at Manila proves that it was no idle boast when the claim was made that the Pennsylvania volunteers were the equals of the regulars.

Anent the School Fund.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Truth, is emphatically in the right in its contention that an injustice is done to other objects of proper state concern when more than half the commonwealth's revenue is appropriated for public schools.

The trouble is not that so much money is devoted to public instruction, whose as much could be spent to advantage. The trouble is in the way it is given.

support them for you." It stifles the one instinct which is most potent in bringing out good results—the instinct of self-help.

The gift of \$5,000,000 a year in Pennsylvania from the state revenues to the school districts is, as the case stands, less of a benefit than a hindrance to the cause of public education.

The bill at Harrisburg, which has passed the house, doubling the present tax on the gross premiums paid in life and fire insurance companies is a bill to tax every purchaser of insurance, and that means every sensible man who has anything to insure.

Licenses as Property. Apropos of the bill at Harrisburg making liquor licenses personal property subject as other property to taxes, levy and sale, the Philadelphia Ledger remarks:

"The passage of such a measure would be not only against good public policy, but it might seriously affect carefully framed legislation under which the courts exercise discretionary power as to the persons who shall be licensed to sell liquor, and as to the places where liquors may be sold.

The illustrations which have been given in Lackawanna county of the discretionary power of the license court have not been of a character to invest that power with the sanctity which the ledger seems to claim for it.

Under these circumstances the ledger will understand that it makes precious little difference in this part of the state whether licenses are theoretically a guarded or an unguarded privilege attaching to particular persons.

While the objectors were holding up the Paris peace treaty in the United States senate the Filipinos were building the attachments which have been taken only at the sacrifice of the lives of many brave men.

Here is a bit of welcome news from Santiago. "General Wood's March estimate has been approved by the authorities at Havana, and consequently those who have been unemployed are able to resume work, relieving the strain."

it will have to be effected gradually and only as the different municipalities and provinces are themselves first rehabilitated and put on a self-sustaining basis.

The army beef champions are in condition to retire from the last trench.

Fiscal Journalism.

The recent action on part of the editor of one of Scranton's scurrilous so-called newspapers in handing a Carbonate correspondent over to justice on account of an alleged libelous article forwarded to the paper, should be a lesson to ambitious writers who take pleasure in poking their neighbors in the eyes.

Mme. Lili Lehmann, the great German prima donna, has inaccurately credited against the slaughter of birds for the purpose of depriving Indians of their hats, and already has a large following in her native land.

Mexican newspapers are becoming less excited over the recent remarks of Cecil Rhodes. It has just dawned upon them that Mr. Rhodes cuts no more ice as an adviser of the government than one of the ex-purchasing agents in the "embalmed beef" department.

No one should hereafter doubt the sagacity of General Jacob Coxey. He knew just when to quit the calamity business and go into the circus business. Certain others of prominence in the ranks of the careful would do well to follow Coxey's example.

One hour but little of Turkey's growing difficulties these days. Unless a war correspondent or two locates in Turkey soon her troubles will be forgotten entirely by the outside world.

Colonel Bryan would doubtless be willing to speak in New York city at any time provided the bouquets were guaranteed in advance.

Aguinaldo at the present time is in very nearly the position of the manager of a tail-end base ball nine.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Are we a dying race? From the report in the Post of a lecture recently delivered in Washington by Dr. J. H. Kellogg the inference is unavoidable that we are. Dr. Kellogg took the ground that the cause of our physical inferiority to our ancestors and that, as a race, we are degenerating.

A writer in Ainslee's Magazine for April tells how Irving M. Scott, the man who built the Oregon, once refused a raise in his salary. It was when he was working for a firm making the machinery for the Saginaw for the government.

Some first rate advice of widespread applicability was given by Governor Roosevelt the other night to an audience of citizens' union reformers.

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No coast in the world is better lighted than that of the United States. Great Britain, France and Germany are the only countries which can compare with this country for the perfection of its light-house system.

those which shine from the Highlands of the Navosink and catch the wondrous eye of the mariner twenty miles out at sea. The signal stations, which hang on posts to guide the "bumping" paddle-wheels of the steamers up navigable rivers. Besides the 2000 red light-houses, navigation which the United States maintains, it keeps up 8,731 unlighted aids, such as buoys, fog signals, "daymarks" and "nightmarks."

Here is a little wisp of news from Havana which reads well; especially the Toledo plantation ordered an armed Cuban, and started to take him through Mariano to Gen. Lee's camp. While passing a house in Mariano, the two American soldiers with a small Cuban force came out with rifles leveled, and were told to release the prisoner.

At Harrisburg the other day Senator Billy Mason of Illinois "thanked God that as an American because within the last month we have taught the people of the world that we are not mere money changers; that no nation can prosper by flag or murder or men without answering to us in the courts of the world.

LITERARY NOTES.

The leading feature for Ainslee's Magazine for April is a most absorbing account of "The Builders of the Oregon" by Irving M. Scott.

Gen. Greene's paper in the April Century, "The Capt. of the Oregon," will give a picturesque account of an interview between himself and Admiral Dewey. Long anxiety had made the admiral subject to insomnia, and he found it difficult to get to sleep before two or three o'clock in the morning.

The actual beginnings of Mormonism, the character of the first "revelations," and of those who accepted them, and the extraordinary experiences and persecutions of the early members of the sect, are said to be set forth in Miss Lily Douglas's forthcoming historical novel, "The Mormon Prophet."

Harper's Magazine for April contains three important contributions to the literature of the Spanish war. Henry Cabot Lodge in the third part of his notable history discusses "The Blockade of Cuba and Pursuit of Cervera."

Mrs. Amelia E. Barr, one of the most popular of American novel-writers, is about to contribute to St. Nicholas a story of old New York for girls, "The City of Bells."

In the April Scribner's "Colonel Roosevelt reaches the climax of his narrative of the Rough Riders in the description of the battle of San Juan Hill.

People of moderate incomes who are looking toward building or beautifying their homes will find the series of articles on these subjects now running through the Woman's Home Companion of great practical value.

An illustrated article in the April McClure will record the experiences of Cleveland Moffet, the writer and W. D. Stevens, the artist, in runs on locomotives and in small cars, at thirty miles an hour and upward, under the new East and West mail schedule.

Laird & Lee's Salva-Weoster Spanish-English and English-Spanish Dictionary is having an enormous sale.

It is understood that Dr. A. Conan Doyle's new novel, "A Study in Scarlet," is to appear in book form at first, and thus avoid the loss of any of its freshness through serial publication.

BURNS AND RILEY.

The occult teachings of Theosophy revive the memories of other ages. Some modern poet in the future may dazzle with a true Shakespearean May dangle with a true Shakespearean

And surely if this occult faith be true, it is not difficult for us to see a genius rivaled to the Scottish bard's in Whitcomb Riley's sensitive poetry.

Chosen to sing again as in the past, So let us deem the gentle bard of Ayr. On Riley both his mystic mantle cast, On Riley both his mystic mantle cast.

RILEY'S COME TO TOWN.

Jim Riley's come to town, boys, he's now at Pat's place.

How dear his homely measure that is more than words are art.

The gold of human nature through his more than words are art.

Enough of joy for us to know, "Jim Riley's" Come to Town!"

—Boston Budget.

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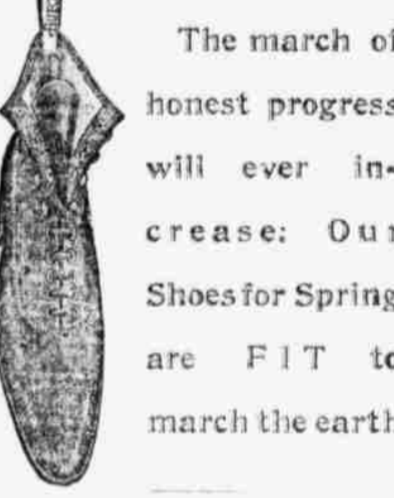
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