

The Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 150 NASSAU ST., S. S. VEREKEN, Supt. Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

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

SCRANTON, APRIL 24, 1899.

Patching the pot-holes pavements with concrete and cement will do as a pastime for municipal retainers anxious to figure on the city pay roll but it will not be accepted by the people of Scranton in lieu of genuine street repairs. The sooner the trimmers realize this the better for all concerned.

The Man for the Place.

Rumor credits General Brooke with intending to resign his command in Cuba and rumor has also picked out as Brooke's successor Major General Wade, now president of the Red Cross of Inquiry. Whether either in this case has any substance behind it we do not profess to know, but if necessarily should cause the appointment of a new governor general of Cuba the American people and the Cuban people would both be pleased to see an exemplification of the merit system by the promotion to this office of Brigadier General Leonard Wood.

It is true that Wood, two years ago, was only an army surgeon with a captain's rank and that his subsequent elevation has excited jealousies in the army which would not be assuaged if this young man should get a promotion that would carry him over the heads of a host of military seniors into the most conspicuous billet at present in the American army service. It is true that General Wade is in point of seniority next in line after Brooke and that if seniority were the principal qualification required in a governor general of Cuba he would have the call over Wood. But it is also true, we may credit the unvarying testimony from Santiago, that Wood has shown a fitness for the varied requirements of the governor-generalship unexcelled by any warrior of the American uniform and that his promotion from Santiago province to Havana would bring about good results more readily and at less expense than could be accomplished through any other appointment. He has the confidence of the native elements more completely than any other American; he knows the local conditions better; he has a superior personal energy and executive capacity; in short, he is pre-eminently the man for the place; and such a man should have the place, contrary precedents notwithstanding.

There is a reason for this entirely apart from Cuban matters. Hereofore army administration, from the bureaus at headquarters all the way down the line, has been conducted upon rules of seniority and precedent under conditions as to red tape which showed up in sorry results when put to the test of sudden emergency. The swift promotion of a man like Wood, not through pull but as a direct consequence of conspicuous merit, would be a timely harbinger of a better military regime. Wood's fame is made, whether he gets further honors or not; but the American people owe it to themselves to put servants like Wood in their proper positions as a demonstration before the world of their own high capability of self-government.

John Vanaman's unhappiness these days at the tripartite corruption of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania is powerfully affecting, especially in view of the commonwealth's strange perversity in declining to purchase John's good opinion by submitting itself to his dictation.

Municipal Light Plants.

Under this heading the periodical City Government, recently printed an article by M. J. Francisco, president of the National Electric Light Association, which contains some figures worthy of public study. The state of Massachusetts has a gas and electric light commission whose duty it is to examine at least once each year the plant and accounts of every electric lighting establishment in the state. Under the law all electric companies in Massachusetts must report in detail to this commission.

In the last report of the board (March, 1898) on page 27 appears an itemized statement of the expenses of all the municipal plants in the state, the total amount of such expenses being \$122,261.88 for the year. Deduction from these expenses the total receipts, as given in this report, for commercial arc, incandescent and domestic lights, electric power, meters and all other sources, amounting to \$52,106.10, it leaves a balance of expense over receipts of \$70,155.78 for the year over operating expenses. To this the commissioners add the interest on bonds and notes outstanding, as found by the books of the various plants, amounting to \$25,955.58, and for depreciation, \$29,771.15; also losses on jobbing, \$273.64, making the net cost to these municipalities \$126,162.45 per year. They operate 985 arc lights of 1,200 candle power and 2,175 incandescent averaging 27 candle power per lamp; converting these incandescent into arcs we have 48 arcs of 1,200 candle power, making total number of street lamps used 1,033. Therefore, the yearly cost of 1,033 arc lights being \$126,162.45, it shows the average cost per lamp to be \$122.11 per year, burning on an average only 6.2 hours per night, 26 nights per month and costing .067 per hour; furnishing 179 candle power per hour for one cent. This is the average and includes every municipal plant in Massachusetts.

"In this report," writes Mr. Francisco, "depreciation was made 5 per cent. because that is the rate mentioned in the Municipal Ownership act. The commissioners do not endorse this per cent. as their opinion of what it should be, but simply use the per cent. named in the bill which became a law. If the depreciation was calculated even at 5 per cent. on the whole property it would add \$6.69 to the cost of each lamp. On page 56 of the Massachusetts report is shown the total investment of these plants, amounting to \$933,784.

Therefore, it will be seen that the interest was not calculated upon the investment, but only upon the balance of bonds and notes outstanding. If interest was based upon the total investment, it would add \$11.03 to the cost of each lamp. In order to give a fair comparison between the cost as furnished by a private corporation and a municipal plant, we must add these items as enumerated above and the loss of taxes, \$15.62 per lamp, to the cost as shown by the commissioners' report, which makes the cost of the lights under municipal control \$165.15 per lamp, per year, using only a 1,500 candle-power lamp, Hyde Park, Chelsea, Boston, Springfield, Westfield, Haverhill and Worcester, all Massachusetts cities, are furnished on an average 27 candle power arc lights, under contract, burning on an average eight hours per night, twenty-nine nights per month, at an average cost of \$102.98 per lamp, per year, costing .034 per hour and furnishing 513 candle-power per hour for one cent." Here is a difference of more than 50 per cent. in the cost, the balance resting in favor of private enterprise.

But this is not all. The total investment of all the municipal plants in Massachusetts amounts to \$521,774; and their assets now, by the inventories furnished to the commissioners, amount to only \$300,316.73, while their liabilities are \$221,457.71, showing a deficiency of \$81,140.98, which has not been included in the cost of lights, but is a part of the loss to the taxpayers of Massachusetts, caused by the plan of municipal ownership.

If the comparatively well-governed municipalities of Massachusetts cannot make a success of municipal light plants, are we justified in supposing that the city councils of Scranton would succeed in a similar undertaking?

For a man long ago pronounced by the Philadelphia Press & Co. political dead and buried, M. S. Quay continues to keep the insurgent mourners singularly furtive and uneasy.

A Challenge.

The disagreement of the jury in the trial at Charleston, S. C., of persons accused of lynching the negro postmaster of Lake City presents a miscarriage of justice which, although not unexpected, is nevertheless to be deeply deplored. In the community where this atrocious crime was committed there was confident boast, prior to the trial of the suspected assassins, that the jury would acquit without leaving its seat. As a matter of fact, after twenty-one hours of deliberation, it voted 5 to 7 for conviction, a sign of at least partial respect for law and order which deserves to be noted as an offset to the original crime. The five men voting for conviction were men of education and owners of property. They are deserving of the highest credit in view of the fact that the guilt of the accused was clearly established.

In his address to the jury Judge Brawley called attention to the fact that this Lake City murder had been the subject of comment from Aguinaldo, who had alluded to it derisively as an evidence of America's boasted civilization. The sneer of the Malay rebel was superficial, but it will have more force now that a regularly chosen jury after ample testimony showing conclusive guilt has returned a verdict of disagreement. Judge Brawley also said: "Sometimes I feel that the moral fibre of the people is growing weaker instead of growing stronger—that there is a growing deterioration in our race. Forty years ago who heard of negroes committing arson, assault, murder and burglary? Who heard of a lynching or mob violence forty years ago? Who ever heard of the humble home of a man being burned and his children butchered? These things indicate that the law is no longer respected by our people—the law has lost its sanction. What does that mean? It means anarchy; it means the disintegration of society; it means barbarism. The whole people have the government in their hands, and if they cannot enforce the law they confess their impotence. If they cannot govern the state with all the machinery in their hands without resorting to violent means, it is a confession of incapacity, and the sooner this is realized the better it will be for all concerned. The restoration of our pristine virtue is the real white man's burden.

Smaller School Boards.

Both President Eliot of Harvard and Superintendent Andrews of the public schools of Chicago have recently declared with emphasis in favor of small school boards and a long term of service. Says the latter: "One of the greatest evils of a large school board is what may be termed the sectional or geographical spirit. The member of such a body comes to think of himself as the representative of a certain section, ward, class, nationality or element of the city, and feels that he is charged with this interest to the exclusion, perhaps, of all others. This begets a narrow and trafficking spirit, and he is willing to make concessions against his best judgment in order to gain support and votes for the one element to which he is devoted. The member of a smaller educational board has little temptation to lose sight of a paramount interest simply because it is not of greater benefit to his own particular locality than to the whole territory concerned. The more nearly a board of education can approximate the non-sectional spirit of the national cabinet the better for the community." The truth of these observations is ap-

parent to every student of the problem. Smaller boards and better men on them are what we need in school administration, and in no place is this need more keenly felt than in Scranton at the present time.

Novelist Howells refused to attend the workman's dollar dinner in New York the other night because he did not see anything in it hopeful for the laboring man or novelist. Mr. Howells was evidently lost faith in the purchasing power of a dollar in the Gotham restaurant.

Captain Cochran of the Raleigh confirms the story of the meddlesomeness and insolence of the German admiral at Manila, but it is fair to remember, as an offset, that von Diederich's superiors were very prompt in calling him down.

Senator McMillan of Michigan says he thinks Quay will be seated. Inasmuch as McMillan has a vote on this question, his think counts.

In New York, municipal blackmailing becomes "strictly private business" as soon as the public tries to adjust its spectacles in examination.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacuch, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological Cast: 4:06 a. m., for Monday, April 24, 1899.

A child born on this day will notice that Scranton street sweepers always work most energetically when the wind is powerful enough to carry the dust into the eyes of the pedestrian.

A good many persons are talking to President Treadwell of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, by wireless telegraph these days.

It is not outspoken enmity that makes one suspicious of the world, but the friendship that seeks to lurch from your good opinion.

The good intentions of some people are always attended by evil results.

Now that the boys in blue have nearly all discarded their uniforms, there is no reason why the base ball captain may not look dignified.

A pessimist is the man who always bets on the wrong side of the market.

Ajacuch's Advice.

Do not look with contempt upon winter fashions until the end of the week.

Bills Awaiting an Executive Survey.

Harrisburg Letter in Philadelphia Ledger. WHEN the legislature adjourned it left to the governor's hands 303 bills for his consideration. The constitution gives him thirty days to dispose of these measures. About one-half of them are appropriation bills, and as the legislature passed only one measure which will provide additional revenue, the Baldwin mercantile tax bill, the condition of the state's finances will not doubt be carefully gone over before the appropriations to charitable institutions are considered. If, in the estimation of the governor, there is not enough revenue in sight to carry on in signing these bills, a number of vetoes may be expected.

The most important bill in his hands is probably the general appropriation bill. This is a sort of an omnibus measure, carrying with it every item of expense that has the remotest connection with the executive, judicial and legislative departments. It is quite a voluminous bill, and is the last one passed before adjournment. Its final construction is always left to a committee of the board of directors of three representatives from each house, and, as members are unable to give it a careful inspection when it is submitted in the early morning of the last day, many a snake escapes the eye of the most vigilant legislator. The general appropriation bill of this year seems to have given satisfaction. The committee of conference consisted of Senators Mitchell, of Jefferson; Brown, of Westmoreland, both Quay Republicans; and Cochran, of Lycoming, a Democrat, and Representatives Marshall, of Lehigh; Harris, of Clearfield, two Quayites, and Hoy, of Clarion.

The amount appropriated to the payment of salaries of the several state officers and their clerks and employees by the general appropriation bill is \$1,087,622.26, which is \$135,579.61 less than was appropriated in 1897. The legislature this year knocked out the appropriations of \$1,200 to the auditor general and state treasurer for serving on the board of public accounts, and the same amounts to each of these officials for serving as members of the board of public grounds and buildings. The \$1,200 formerly given to the attorney general and secretary of internal affairs each for serving on the board of property were also dropped. Although the legislature created an additional judge for Erie county, the item for the payment of salaries and mileage is \$8,622.38 less than it was two years ago. Even the appropriation to pay the expenses of the legislature is much less than it was in 1897. Two years ago \$644,617.92 was appropriated in the senate and house, and this year the appropriation is \$560,754.90, a saving of \$83,862.92.

Following are the more important measures awaiting the governor's action: Providing for an additional law judge for Erie county. To provide for the investigation of the diseases of domestic animals and making an appropriation therefor. To authorize the topographic and geological survey of the state in co-operation with the United States Geological Survey. Regulating certain practices in elections legalizing the receiving and disbursing of money and defining the duties of a candidate in seeking election. To authorize the election of borough supervisors for the purpose of keeping open and repairing streets and crossings. To provide revenue by imposing a mercantile license tax on vendors or dealers in goods, wares and merchandise, and providing for the collection of said tax. Regulating the fees of justices of the peace, magistrates and aldermen in cases where persons are charged with vagrancy. Making unlawful the willful injury to or obstruction of side paths, declaring such injury to be misdemeanor and providing for the punishment thereof. To regulate the publication, binding and distribution of the public documents of the commonwealth. To protect the public health by prohibiting the sale of goods in second-hand bottles or jars. To prevent the pollution of the water supplies of municipalities. To provide for the appointment of a

free library commission and to define its powers and duties. To provide for the entering of liens for the better securing the pay of mechanics, laborers and material men for work and labor done and for material furnished about the erection of any new buildings and for the repairs and alterations of those already built and to be built.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution to permit personal registration by voters. To provide for the enrollment, organization, discipline and regulation of the militia of the commonwealth. Prohibiting hereafter the establishing or maintenance of additional hospitals, pest houses and burial grounds in the built up portions of cities. Authorizing the formation of partnerships in which one or more or all the partners shall have the ability to pay the debts of the partnership to the amount of capital stock subscribed by each partner or partners respectively, and providing penalties for violation of its provisions. Authorizing any borough to change, alter, restrict, relocate the course of or channel of any creek, run or natural waterway, other than navigable streams, and for this purpose to enter upon, condemn and take property and materials necessary to such change, alteration or relocation and providing for the ascertainment and assessment of damages, as well as the levy and collection of benefits, arising therefrom, and constituting such benefits a lien upon the properties upon which they are respectively assessed. To provide for the classification of the townships of the commonwealth into two classes and to prescribe the form of government for townships of each class. To amend the tenth section of Article 10 of an act entitled "An act to provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania, and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith," approved the 10th day of June, 1891, providing that self acting doors may be used. To validate conveyances and other instruments which have been defectively acknowledged.

THE QUAY TRIAL.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. The trial was a notable one in many particulars, and most in respect of the continuous manifestations of the ability and fairness with which it was conducted. The density, learning and upright-ness of our courts have seldom been so convincingly demonstrated. The case was one of almost universal interest, and it was also one regarding the merits of which there existed a broad and profound divergence of public sentiment because of this general interest and feeling, the attention of the people was day by day fixed upon the conduct of the trial, but the most rigorous or prejudiced observer of the proceedings was unable to criticize them adversely. Consequently the verdict of the jury ought to be received with entire respect by all those who would safeguard the orderly operations of the law.

WOOD AND BROOKE.

From E. J. Gibson's Santiago Letter in the Philadelphia Press. One of the most noticeable things in this city is the vigorous way in which work is being pushed in the construction of sewers. Several hundred men are employed in that way and the business center will soon be provided for the first time with sewers. They are not of the durable kind that would be constructed if money were plenty, but they will answer. This work is being done by General Wood in co-operation with the city authorities. Here is a marked feature of General Wood's management: When he deems it necessary to make such important changes in the charter of commerce for consultation. The Supreme court members are also frequently consulted about public affairs. When an officer is asked the local authorities are invited to recommend a competent person for the place. In this way the people feel that they are taking a large part in government and the greatest satisfaction is expressed on all sides with General Wood's work. It would apparently have been better if a similar course had been followed in the case of the how well people may be governed they are never satisfied unless they have something to do with that government. The experience of the town of Pullman, in Cook county, Ill., illustrates that fact. The people of Cuba are not Anglo-Saxons. It is true, but they have been contending so long for a measure of self-government that they are much better satisfied when consulted in the way General Wood has done.

TEN RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.

Compiled by the S. P. C. A. 1. No one has a right to keep animals, either for use or for pleasure, unless he is able and willing to provide them with whatever is necessary for their health and happiness. 2. No animal can be healthy or happy unless it is kindly treated, comfortably lodged, regularly fed, supplied with water, and afforded opportunities of recreation. 3. Gentle treatment is due to all animals, and need not interfere with firmness in governing them. Animals are often thought to be ill-tempered or obstinate when they are really suffering from some pain or irritation of which we do not perceive the cause, but which may be soothed by patience and kindness. 4. You try to find out what is the matter with an animal before you punish him; you will probably find out that there is no reason to punish him. 5. Be careful to remove anything that causes fear. Animals are often terrified by things that men hardly observe. If they are punished, their terror is only increased. Nothing will quiet them so soon as gentle talk and caressing. 6. Kindness will win the confidence of any animal, and an animal which confides in its keeper is easily managed. 7. If you want your animal to work well, take good care that his harness does not chafe him. 8. All animals require the sunshine, and their dwellings should be in a sunny or westerly aspect, if possible; but they should always have access to shade when they desire it. 9. Stables, sheds, coops and cages should be well drained, well lighted, and well ventilated, but never draughty. 10. Different animals require different temperatures. A humane owner ought to learn the degree of heat and cold which the animal is enabled by nature to endure. Every stable, yard, cage, kennel and bed should be kept thoroughly clean. 11. Every animal should have as much food as it will eat with satisfaction, but no more than it will consume. Stale food is unwholesome. It should be removed early in the morning, and replaced by fresh supply. 12. Nocturnal animals should be fed at sunset. 13. Be careful to give all animals as much water of food as they need. Let the animal as nearly as possible the food which the animal would use in a state of nature.

Animals which are regularly fed on grain ought to have frequent supplies of green food. 5. Every animal should have an abundant supply of pure water for drinking. Vessels used for food or water should be washed daily, and wiped dry before refilling. Iron troughs or plates lined with porcelain are the best, being clean, cheap and durable. 6. Bathing is necessary to the health and comfort of many animals. Careful owners ought to be allowed to bathe daily, and a separate vessel, adapted to their size, should be supplied for that purpose. Some birds delight in dust baths. A working horse should be allowed every day to roll on the grass, or, better, perhaps, on sawdust. 7. Animals, as well as men, are happier and better for reasonable recreation. Whenever it is possible, they should have it. The horse should be allowed an opportunity to run at large. Dogs, especially in cities, should be taken out to run freely. Even cage-birds are immensely pleased if they are allowed to leave the cage for an hour or so every day. 8. When an animal is sick, see that it is kept quiet and unmolested and that its treatment is unusually gentle. 9. When it is certain that an animal will die, always secure the services of a humane and experienced person to destroy it in the quickest and least painful way; and when it dies, never fail to bury it at once. 10. Try to make the world as happy a world as possible for any of God's creatures that may happen to be in your charge.

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REXFORD'S.

April 24.

The first three weeks in our new location proves there was room for just such a store. We shall do nothing wonderful—merely treat every patron as we would wish to be treated. Any day this week we will sell Sterling Silver Tea Spoons, three new patterns, fair weight, for 50c. each. Engraving free. Take one or a dozen.

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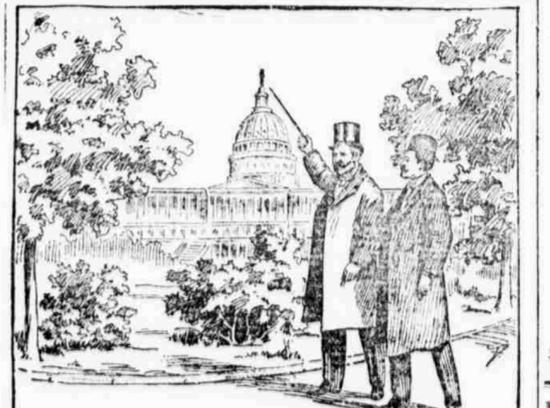
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A practicing physician in Shelbyville relates that his attention was first directed to

RIPAN'S TABLETS

by a brother doctor while on a visit to the National Capitol at Washington, D. C., some years ago. "I first used the Tablets myself experimentally," says the Illinois doctor, "and derived such benefit from them that I at once adopted them as a part of my medical armamentarium. They have given great satisfaction and in one case where the stomach was infected by large stomach worms, the Tablets destroyed the worms and expelled them, greatly to my surprise and also to the permanent relief of my patient."