The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MAY 22, 1899.

The transfer of J. M. West, for some time local representative of the Barber Asphalt company, to Geneva, N, Y., announced Saturday, it is proper to controversy over street repairs, but was Mr. West to the general office in New York several weeks ago, as the records

A Duty Outlined.

Whatever may be the truth as to the discovery of the missing asphalt repair contracts, their disappearance and subsequent history point a very prognant moral. If these contracts have been held for political or personal speculation or if their disappearance was due to carelessness in the custodianship of city records and papers, the condition is one of municipal disease and the remedy is to be found in a more rigid supervision by the people of the work of the public officials. The incident has illustrated to the taxpayers how loosely their municipal affairs are conducted. It should impress upon them the need of instituting a good many municipal reforms During the progress of this street

repair controversy there have been numerous charges of debauchery in connection with the granting of public contracts and franchises. Some of these charges have been manifestly made insincerely; but the suspicion is nevertheless widespread that they have had some basis of truth. For curselves, we have no evidence to sustain such a charge and therefore do not make it. But if there are a number of substantial citizens of this town who believe that corrupt influences are rife in councils the time has certainly come in the development of the city when steps should be taken to investigate this matter thoroughly. We have seen in the item of street repairs how carelessly the public conveniences are cared for and how difficult it is for the people to get the attention from their servants in office which they have a right to expect and to demand. We have seen in the open letter of the mayor's private secretary what the executive department thinks of the methods necessary to be used to influence councils. We have seen in the legal action recently brought against the city by viewers endeavoring to enforce the collection of pay for city work done and we are seeing in the public subscriptions made necessary for the completion of the South Side method of doing business reacts on the individual citizen and how certain it Is to lead the city into debt, disgrace and litigation: and it ought not to require an extended recital of these patent and notorious facts to justify the opinion that it is time to enforce the turning over of a new leaf.

When a private employer becomes own. The employer's business ability is usually gauged by the success which he achieves in organizing the labor of his employes and in instituting checks peculation. The taxpayers of Scranton in their capacity as employers of official labor have evidently been too lenient. They have permitted their employes to do as they pleased and even when suspicious that their own interests have been betrayed they have taken no steps to discover and punish the betrayers and to institute a higher order of business ability and fidelity in the municipal service. Now, when the city is at a crisis in its history; when great industrial changes are impending and when we are about to be brought face to face with the problem of taking vigorous measures to preserve and to extend the commercial and industrial resources of our community, the thing which stares us in the face is the fact that the government of our city is so inefficient so neglectful of ordinary business principles, and so responsive to secret manipulations or demagogic influences that ne reputable outside manufacturer or merchant, looking about for a new place of residence and business investment, would hazard a decision in favor of Scranton.

This deplorable condition can be remedled if the substantial citizens of the town will unite to remedy it. It will not cure itself.

Aguinaldo's anxiety to be bought is evidently now about the only obstacle to a quick return of peace in Luzon.

Criticism That Counts.

Gradually the personal resentments of the late war are dying down into a sincere desire to profit by its mistakes. Suggestions of improvement are now being offered, and are receiving a respectful hearing. Most of these are impersonal in intent and recognize that the welfare of the military service of the United States is above individuals.

To a Washington Star representative an unnamed army officer recently unfolded one plan which should be followed without undue delay. Said he: "It wasn't so much the Mauser bullets | that carried grief and desolation to so many American homes as it was the insidious diseases, the seeds of which were contracted by the men's systems when our loyal volunteers were being trained to fight, before they went to the front. As this country had to depand on its volunteer army in the late war, so it will in any future war, and thousand recruits on unknown ground, there there has not been a sewer or a water pipe laid in advance, and where there is not enough water, even before becomes contaminated, to quench the thirst of the soldiers, as was the case

at Camp Alger, is the height of folly. "One of the first things congress should do is appoint a committee of experts to select sites for several na-

ping them for immediate occupancy. By that I mean have a complete sewer system all ready for immediate operation, and a waterworks plant that and continue their training without learned the first rudiments of soldlering, These camp grounds would not lie idle foundation of a lasting reform. say, had no connection with the local war. They should be used every summer for the encampment of both reguin pursuance of a request preferred by lare and National Guard, and the in- the name of the law, but not in pubeven if we never went to war again." This is the kind of war criticism that

> Canadians are deservedly jubilant ever the fact that the dominion is now confronted by a surplus in revenues instead of a deficit. The prosperity of Canada will be noted with pleasure in

United States and Canada will some day become one.

the United States, where the belief

amounts to a conviction that the

Be Prepared for Disappointments. If the report is true that the Russian delegates to the czar's peace congress have declined to accept the proposition of England, backed by the United States, to neutralize all private property at sea in time of war, then we may well doubt whether the congress will be substantially productive of good. This proposition was one of the three upon which there had existed any hope of concurrence Disarmament the ostensible object of the conference, was known to be a practical impossibility under existing conditions, but there had been some expectation that in addition to neutralizing private property affoat the congress would formulate a limited plan of international arbitration and take some steps to further abridge the cruelties of war,

The basis of Russia's alleged objection to the prevention of the seizure of private property at sea is that it would benefit Great Britain in far greater proportion than any other nation, on than might be inferred from the noise account of England's superior merchant marine; and by so much contribute to England's naval supremacy. The Russians argue that so long as England has the upper hand in the carrying trade, that long will the liability of English merchandise to capture in the event of war operate as a powerful leverage in forcing England to keep the | From the Times-Herald. peace. There may be truth in this contention; but if seizure of private prop erty affoat is morally wrong and if its abolition would, as most intelligent then it does not become the nation which invoked the peace congress to be sewer how this loose if not criminal the first to show signs of insincerity. England may be in the ascendancy today in the ocean carrying trade, but the very fact of the neutralization of more strenuously than heretofore for a larger share of the salt water commerce. We in the United States have in this question an interest second only convinced that some one in his employ to England's, for though England is tive suggestion to those optimistic souls is neglecting his business, wasting his now at the top of the list, our people money and otherwise acting in bad do not have to look very far ahead to faith, he takes measures to defend his foresee the day when the American Hague will not touch seriously on the

of England for first place. These reports as to Russian attitude and intentions may be inaccurate. and safeguards to prevent robbery and | Friends of civilization may well hope so. But while wishing for the best results at The Hague let them also be prepared for disappointments. The millennium evidently is not yet.

> If he wants a truly good candidate Hon. John Wanamaker might run for state treasurer himself.

The Lash for Wife Beaters.

Covernor Roosevelt's recent advocacy of the whipping post for wife-beaters aroused various comment, some sharply censorious: but the drift of expert opinion seems to be in the governor's direction. The Medico-Legal society of New York has undertaken to secure from eminent penologists opinions on this subject and the first instalment made public shows a large preponderance in favor of the lash as a corrective.

Judge Baldwin, of the Supreme court of Connecticut, favors it unreservedly. Says he: "No sentence to a county jail is greatly dreaded by a hardened criminal. It gives him in most cases an assurance of better housing and of better food than he is in the habit of gaining by any other mode of exerien. On the other hand, whipping is dreaded by every one, man or child. Governor Buckingham of Connecticut once stated that no white man had ever been whipped twice under a judicial sentence in that state. There have been many who have gone back

to jail ten and twenty times." Chief Justice Lore, of Delaware, in explaining the use of the whipping post in that state, notes the state's peculiar geographical situation, serving to make it the dumping ground of tramps and vagrants, and says this fact makes the lash something of a necessity in the state's criminal law. "The second and perhaps controlling reason," he adds, "grows out of the test of experience, that the whipping post is the most efficient deterrent of crime known to our laws. It is the most dreaded of all punishments, and in applications for mitigation of sentence the prayer almost invariably is for the remission of the whipping. It appeals to brutalized nature as no other punishment does, and has made and kept in the past the criminal classes of Del-

Superintendent Brockway of the Elmira reformatory says, more guardedly: "Beyond question, there is a conthe idea of forming a camp for thirty | siderable class of young offenders, in prison and out of prison, whose recovery to orderly and industrious behavior in a free community can be best accomplished by some proper use of corporal treatment. The question will sometimes arise whether young criminals or prisoners should be surrendered to evil ways, to habitual crime, or be rescued by resort to a

aware relatively small in number."

one in the central states and one in quickly follow a consequence, easily the south. Having selected the ground, appreciated by the offender, would act make provision for laying them out into as a check to certain misdemeanor ofcamp grounds and thoroughly equip- fences, but any scheme of penology whose basis is chiefly a deterrent one cannot, I believe, prove effective in

preventing crime. The argument for the whipping post could be worked by the turning of a differs from the argument for the galfaucet. Then when the time came for lows. The gallows does not deter peoa call to arms the volunteers could be | ple from committing the crime it is ingathered from all directions and begin | tended to punish; the whipping post does. The gallows extinguishes all danger of an epidemic before they had hope of reforming the criminal; the whipping post very often lays the until there should be a declaration of crimes of violence, such as wifebeating, certain forms of assault and the like, a good lash well applied in vestment would prove a paying one lie, has proved itself an efficient instrument of justice. More power to it!

It is announced that the social boycott recently inaugurated by the Austrian and Belgian ministers at Washington against the Mexican ambassador, who had a hand in the execution of the Emperor Maximilian, has collapsed. It was frowned upon by the officials of our state department and it was equally repugnant to common sense. The boycott, by the way, is an institution which does not thrive in the United States.

Edward Atkinson hopes to keep near the top round of the ladder of fame by publishing an anti-imperialist freak paper. Friends should advise against this. George Francis Train once attempted the freak paper scheme and it was a flat failure, and it is believed that Train possesses considerable more originality than Atkinson in his particular line.

Gailery playing in public office is a olitical investment of very uncertain and transient dividends. The official with the courage of his convictions is the man of longevity in public affairs.

A good many American citizens who

were entirely willing to hurrah for

Dewey are now quietly edging away from the Dewey contribution box. The number of the malcontents in Cuba is probably a good deal smaller

The Ideal and the Real Peace Plan.

N AMERICAN tourist who had spent many hours in the dream-land of Sir Walter Scott while he was growing up on the shores of Lako Michigan received the first men claim, be a great forward step great disappointment of his life when he glanced across the little pond that is called Loch Katrine. He could associate nothing romantic and heroic with such in insignificant body of water. Naturally and without question he had carried his own lake standard into the wizard's realm of poetry and fiction and had never private property would operate as an incentive to other nations to compete Michigan in Scotland. The result was that he had to rearrange his ideas before could again enjoy the literature that had given him so much pleasure.

The illustration is offered as a correcho have been building up a peace con ference out of the czar's proposals. The gathering which has just met at The merchant marine will be crowding that grander designs of the imperial mani-of England for first place. There will be a shrinkage in the scope of the practical discussions as great as that which was observed in the reduction of the imaginary to the real Loch Katrine. But this is not to say that the congress will be absolutely valueless. There are grounds for a reasonable expectation that it will accomplish some good, and we may indulge in the reasonable expectation without fear of a se-vere disillusionment.

> divers beneficial agreements on minor points, and they may perhaps make sevral important gains in the interest of ivilization. If it is not likely that anyarmaments and military expenditures, here is every prospect that the cause of rediation and abritration will be ad-anced and that the laws of war will a rendered more humane. This is the ore probable because in these matters e congress will not be called upon to et in a revolutionary spirit. The prin-iples with which it will deal already ive a standing in international law. Civilized warfare is an old term, and so is international arbitration. There will be precedents from which to argue for a tion of rules that conduce to peace and to the elimination of some of the horrors of

> If, then, we would regard the confer nce aright we should dissociate it in our minds from Utopian schemes and think of it not as of something startlingoriginal, but as of a development in a ries. It is in this way only that we can understand its real worth. It will add a little to the work of the past, and in so doing will strengthen the foundations for the work of the future. For this uch we should be thankful, even if isarmament and universal peace seem o be as for away from us as ever.

MORTGAGING THE FUTURE.

rom the Washington Post. Persons who talk glibly about "the connt of the governed" and make eloquent rotests against "taxation without repreut their hands into the pockets of men those great-great-grandparents have not et arrived in this breathing world. Naons, states, counties, and cities innum-rable are piling up debts and, in so doag, are laying taxes on remote posterity is impossible to avoid legislation and secutive and judicial acts that will efct the material and moral interests of people of coming centuries. usly, we cannot consult with or get the onsent of generations yet to come. The reacht must assume a great measure of sponsibility for the future. But it yould seem only reasonable and hones hat when we tax posterity, when we in imber posterity's inheritance, we should to the money thus borrowed in a man-

long to our successors. For public improvements of an endur ng character, such as parks, sewers, and waterworks, it is not morally wrong to divide the expense between the generations that will use them. Their struction makes the real estate of a city more valuable by increasing not only the length, but the enjoyment of life. The future will be grateful to the past for such works even if it has to pay a part physical application. The fact that with debts for what its ancestry contional camp grounds-say one in the for a given class of crimes and pub- sumed or wasted, a pesterity paying tax-

per that will correspondingly enhance the

lue of the estate that we shall pass

north, one in the east, one in the west, lie misbehavior there will surely and es for the benefit of its ancestry, will have a good reason to grumble

> The city of Philadelphia is about to raw on the future for more than \$11,000. 000, and is going to expend a large part of it on works which posterity will never see. For example, \$2,000,000 are to be used for paving and repairing of streets. Pavements and repairs do not last long in any city. It would be scarcely more unfair to tax the future for fireworks for the coming Fourth of July than for such Improvements as these. The next gen-eration and its successor, and so on to the end of time, will have streets to pave and pavements to repair. There are other large items in the list of works proposed that will not be passed along to osterity with the bill for their construc-The bill will go, sure and straight, but the goods it calls for will have been consumed on the way.

> We do not mention Philadelphia from any impression that her case is excepional, but simply because it is the latest object lesson in that dubious public mo-rality which we are considering. Other cities are living on the future, reaching into the pockets of coming generations for the means of paving their streets, educating their children and doing other things which they ought to do themselves

FOOD ADULTERATION.

From the Times-Herald.

The senate pure food investigation be-ng conducted in this city has proceeded far enough to disclose some startling facts with reference to the adulteration of food products. In fact, the revelations already made fully Justify the enactment by the next congress of a drastic pure food law that will be stringent enough in its provisions to protect American con-sumers from the vast quantities of adulterated food products that are annually dumped into our ports by foreigners who are not allowed to sell them at home.

One of the witnesses before the com nittee stated that he ground adulterations according to orders and that he furnished a number of retail arms with mixtures made of "ground cocoanut shells, buckwheat middlings or bran and other articles," Such things, the witness admitted, made up a mixture which went out on an order for pepper or spice. This is the kind of stuff that Chicago is sending out to a certain class of consumers under various spicy and attractive labels. Such disclosures as this ould impel Senator Mason's committee to a searching investigation of firms that make a business of adulteration

Next in importance to the revelation of facts bearing upon the character and ex-tent of the adulterations is the question of femedial legislation, and in this con-nection the testimony of Graeme Stew-art, of W. M. Hoyt & Co., is most valuable. He recommended that a tax should be imposed in such a way as to keep out foreign adulterations and that manufacturers and jobbers be required to plainly label all packages and products so that the retailer and honest shipper would be protected from frauds. In the matter of spurious coffee, it is believed that a duty of from 3 to 5 cents a pound would not only protect the domestic shippers but would effectually keep out the spurious and inferior grades, for the reason that the wholesalers' price of pure coffee is now so low that the poor stuffs when burdened with a fair impost tax could not compete with it. It is claimed that the duty on tea has already resulted in a marked improvement in the quality of the tea that is shipped to this country

In the absence of uniformity in state legislation upon food adulteration, the dealers is in a national pure food law framed along the lines suggested by Mr

DREADFUL DAYS FOR JOHN.

From the St. Louis Republic. If Philadelphia doesn't quit developing o much wickedness she may lose Mr Wanamaker. It was hard enough for him to live with the corroding knowledge of spect for machine ditionally painful for him to discover that the most colossal counterfeiting scheme on record had its rendezvous right in the heart of his home city. One more disclosure of iniquity such as these may cause the good man to throw up sponge and emigrate to New Jersey or Chicago.

GRAVITATION THE SECRET.

From a Speech by Congressman Dolliver. I saw the order in the president's handwriting directing our great admiral in Whether the czar is sincere or not and whether Germany is hostile or not, the delegates from so many powers can hardly separate without having reached admiral to be able to bunch them. We expected to be chasing that fleet all over the Pacific ocean throughout the sum-mer, and gather the most of them in by late in the fall at any rate. The fact i that nobody in particular took us to Ma nila. When they blew us up in Havana the law of gravitation did the rest.

THE MOTHER OF A SOLDIER.

The mother of a soldier-hats off to her I say! The mother of a soldier who has gone to face the fray; gave him to her country with

blessing on his head-She found his name this morning in the lonk list of the dead: 'Killed-Sergeant Thomas Watkins, while leading on the rest.

A Bible in his pocket and a portrait on

his breast!" The mother of a soldier-she gave him to

She saw him on the transport as he waved his sun-browned hand; kissed him through the tear drops and told him to be brave; Her prayers went night and morning with her boy upon the wave.

The mother of a soldier-her comfort and her joy. She gave her dearest treasure when she gave her only boy;

saw the banners waving, she heard the people cheer; She clasped her hands and bravely looked away to hide a tear.

The mother of a soldier-An! cheer the hero deed, And cheer the brave who buttle 'neath entation" do not hesitate to reach for-ward through many coming decades and But don't forget the mothers, through all the lonely years. That fight the bravest battles on the sunless field of tears.

> Nay, don't forget the mothers-the mothers of our men. Who see them go and never know that they'll come back again, That give them to their country, to but tle and to die, Because the bugies call them and the starry banners fly.

The mother of a soldier-hats off to her I say! Whose head is bowed in sorrow with its tender locks of gray, She gave without regretting, though her old heart sorely bled When she found his name this morning

in the long list of the dead: "Killed-Sergeant Thomas V while leading on the rest. His dear old mother's portrait clasped upon his hero breast!" Folger McKinsey in Baltimore News.

ON FOPE.

Men paint Hope as an angel in thin clothes, But 'tis not so; To make him go hicago Record.

THAT TRIBUTE TO DEWEY.

From the Washington Post.

As regards the movement with reference to Admiral Dewey, which, heaver be praised! is now assuming a rational and decent shape, we should like to make one small suggestion. The enthustasm of the American people is intelli-gible enough, and it is unquestionably creditable to all of them. He deserves much at our hands, and, if we owe him anything at all, we are under the most binding obligations to pay that debt in some fashion that will not distress and injure him. It is now generally understood-thanks to the good sense and good feeling of the multitude-that he does not want, and could not, without serious in convenience to himself, accept the num-erous banquets and jollifications that have been proposed. We have abandoned the idea of shocking him with ebulli-tions and undermining his system with stupid banquets. It remains, therefore to honor him in some other way, and the proposition to present him with a house possesses all the elements of courtesy and common sense, without losing the smallest touch of enthusiastic gratitude We cordially support this plan, and shall encourage it in every way. There is just one further word to say

Admiral Dewey does not want and could not use a palace. He is alone in the world, with the ecception of a son. A great and gaudy mansion, choked by lux urious accessories and lost in space and room, would be of no use to him whatever. On the contrary, it would be a grievous burden, if not, indeed, a real affliction. Twenty-five or thirty thou-sand dollars would secure for him a home in the locality he prefers, and the rest of the money subscribed should be in-vested in such manner as to enable him to maintain his establishment in proper style. To invest him with a gorgeous mansion would be to make him a Sindbad with the Old Man of the Sca perma-nently fixed upon his shoulders. We stand second to none in admiration of Dewey as a man, a commander, and a diplomat. We regard his achievement as the most brilliant and the most perfect of the war. There can be nothing too good for him. He deserves it all But the tribute can reach the point of persecution, and we seek to stop it short of that.

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