

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, except Sunday, by the Scranton Tribune Company, at Fifty Cent a Month.

New York Office: 100 Nassau St., S. V. BREGAN, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

SCRANTON, MAY 29, 1899.

By and by it will dawn on the Washington authorities that the proper person to rule over Cuba is General Leonard Wood, the man who succeeds.

Close It Up.

Tonight's meeting of common council to consider finally the ordinance appropriating \$17,520 for the first year's payment to the Barber Asphalt Company for the asphalt repairs contemplated in the contract entered into between that company and the city of Scranton on the 27th day of last January should close a chapter of disgraceful delay in performing a very necessary public improvement.

That contract, it may be worth while to note, stipulates that in consideration of \$17,520 a year to be paid by the city to the Barber company for a term of ten years, the said company must repair all asphalt paved streets in the city and keep the same in good condition, furnishing all necessary tools and materials and assuming liabilities for all damages caused by the negligent or improper performance of its work. The city is to pay in quarterly instalments of \$4,380, falling due on the first day of May, August, November and February in each year; but before any payment of money shall be made to it, the Barber company must first present a certificate from the city engineer setting forth that all the stipulations of the contract have been complied with, according to the specifications on file with the city clerk and accepted by the company as a part of the contract. It rests with the city engineer to decide whether the city shall get what it will pay for; and we know of no municipal authority better qualified than a reputable and efficient engineer to protect the city's interests in such a matter.

We need not now review the belated opposition which has arisen since this contract was signed by the parties in interest nor expose again the numerous misrepresentations which have been put in circulation with a view to obstructing the contract's execution. It is sufficient to call attention to the contract and the streets; and the two, viewed together, show to common council very clearly the pathway of its duty. Close it up!

The disinclination of the Cuban veterans to accept \$75 apiece from the United States is a phenomenon in natural history, but there is balm in the reflection that Uncle Sam is in that much.

Genuine vs. Spurious Civil Service Reform.

After several months of careful consideration the president, upon recommendation of his cabinet, has decided to issue an executive order removing from the classified civil service about 4,000 positions now covered by civil service regulations. Inasmuch as this decision will doubtless bring upon him from civil service reformers of the professional type an avalanche of unjust and abusive criticism it may not be amiss to explain the reasons prompting him to make it.

It is to be remembered that shortly before Mr. Cleveland left the White house he issued an order throwing the civil service rules over practically every appointive office in the government not previously classified. Prior to doing this his henchmen in the various departments had carefully cleaned out as many Republicans as they could, including many Union veterans, and had put in their places Democrats largely recruited from the Confederate veteran element. Apart from the partisan aspects of such a violation of the principles of genuine civil service reform, the Cleveland order was objectionable for the reason that it covered many positions utterly unsuited to civil service requirements, such as private secretariats, confidential clerkships, deputy revenue collectorships, cashierships and other posts of peculiar responsibility as to which the responsible heads of departments should have the freest privilege of selection. If a railroad should change hands, the new management would, on business principles, retain all worthy men in the service reformers themselves—of all ranks of the actual trainmen, trackmen, shopmen, etc., irrespective of their politics, religion or other considerations not affecting their ability as laborers; but the new management would want to have and would insist upon having a free hand to remove or supersede the custodians of the company's funds, the immediate personal lieutenants of the department chiefs and all other employees whose positions are influential in determining the success or failure of the new executive policy. This would be only fair and right.

The positions which President McKinley proposes to take out of the classified service are of this character. His decision is not midway between the demand of the spoilsmen and that of the civil service reformers; it is substantially the decision of all true civil service reformers themselves—of all men who care more for the proper adjustment of the public service than they do for personal notoriety achieved in the capacity of chronic grumblers.

A new trial for Dreyfus, if conducted by the army according to the old

rule of secrecy, would leave matters unchanged. If Dreyfus is innocent he should be freed forthwith; if guilty, there should be no attempt at a revision of his case. The affair has reached a phase where compromise is impossible.

Automobile corporations continue to grow like mushrooms. There is no question that there will be millions in the horseless carriage business for some one during the next few years, but the history of the bicycle-making industry indicates that there will probably be a good many punctured tires in the automobile business if present prospects of inflation are fulfilled.

The Problem of Crime.

The Rev. Dr. E. H. Ward, pastor of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal church of Pittsburg, is appalled at the rapidity with which crime is increasing in the United States. In the 10 years from 1870 to 1880 there were, he finds, 4,608 homicides and in the following decade there were 7,356, an increase of about 60 per cent. From 1890 to 1898, according to Dr. Ward's figures, there were in this country more than 54,000 murders, or an increase of over 500 per cent. "Just think of it!" says he. "More murders committed in the last 8 years than in the 90 years preceding. And what is true of murder is true of other kinds of crime. In 1850, we had one prisoner to every 3,500 of our population, in 1890 we had one prisoner to every 756 of our population. At this awful rate of increase—and it is growing greater every year—how long will it be before the criminal classes will become so numerous that our legal machinery will become unable to deal with them? Who does not see that unless something is done to check the increase of crime, old chaos will come again, and anarchy reign supreme?"

In passing it should be noted that Dr. Ward's figures are unofficial and particularly with respect to homicides represent in the later years quite as probably an increase in the thoroughness with which homicides are latterly reported in the press as they do an actual increase in the relative number of homicides. Be this as it may, the actual increase is sufficiently formidable to justify the alarm which the Pittsburg clergyman views it. We proceed to quote him further: "What, then, is the cause of this fearful increase of crime. More than to all other causes combined, I believe it is due to a growing lack of respect for law. That respect for law is waning there is no shadow of doubt, and this is the one greatest danger which menaces our country today. Law is not law unless enforced by penalty, and we seem to have lost the power of putting down crime by the infliction of wholesome pain. There is prevalent among us a sickly sentiment of mercy which indicates a lack of moral fiber. There is a maudlin sentimentality which prevents the suppression of vice by constantly interfering with the decrees of our courts. No matter how brutal a crime may be, yet the perpetrator of it can always depend upon some sympathy, and when in prison, flowers and dainties will be sent to him. Every whining beggar and drunken idler will find some who think that he should be allowed to prey upon the community, and that the punishment which would force him to earn an honest living is, forsooth, an infringement of his liberty."

The doctor quotes with approval the doctrine of Carlyle that incorrigible members of society should be dedicated to the gallows and then asks the question: "Is our law worthy of respect and reverence?" The law, abstractly considered, may be just, and good, but if enacted by rotten legislators, enforced partially and corruptly by tainted officials or juggled with by hair-splitting attorneys, he thinks the opinion of the people is very liable to fall into disrespect of it. "Our laws," says he, "seem to be framed for the express purpose of aiding in every way the criminal. When a vile woman, who commits murder, and no one seems to have any doubt as to her guilt, is acquitted of the crime on the grounds of insufficiency of evidence, people begin to ask if there is not something wrong with the law on evidence. When a girl slays her mother and is acquitted on the ground of insanity, again people wonder if there is not something wrong with the law. When drunkenness, which is itself a crime in the eyes of the law, is made to palliate a still greater crime, plain, simple laymen cannot help thinking that the only principle on which it can be done is that two wrongs have made a right. It does seem to plain, simple people, who love justice and truth, that quibbles and technicalities in such cases have more weight than truth and justice."

These being the conditions, how may they be remedied? Dr. Ward offers these suggestions: "Give more attention to moral questions in our schools from the first year in the primary to the last year in the university. Seek to develop not only the intellectual, but also the ethical side of the child, else he may become the wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind." Reform our laws where they need reformation, and seek to create a public opinion which will demand their enforcement. Reform our prisons, where criminals of all classes are herded together, and which, as at present constituted, are schools for the higher education of criminals. Let every Christian, and every one who loves his fellow man, in the name of God and humanity, do something to uplift some one fallen person, and help him or her to a higher life."

The pastor of St. Peter's here comes pretty close to the center of the target. But we indorse the one exception to his remarks taken by the Pittsburg Dispatch, in which paper his opinions first found publicity. In disproof of the idea that exercises of merciful sentiment promote crime the statistics of Michigan are cited by the Dispatch, which adds: "In the system of that state capital punishment has no place, inebriety is rated as a disease and kleptomania is recognized. Yet it is a fact that while an appalling increase in crime is noted in the country at large, there has been a decrease in the

state of Michigan in proportion to population. This anomalous condition may be partly attributed to an excellent system of state supervision of the youth for the prevention of crime, coupled with improved reformatory methods for those who have taken the first steps in the criminal pathway. But it seems probable that a part is also due to the fact that Michigan has been among the most active of states in the enforcement of measures for the protection of the public against undue aggressions. The leaning toward mercy has grown with the advance in civilization. It should find its expression in the modification of laws, however, and not in non-enforcement of severe statutes."

President Schurman may be a good college executive, but it is to be feared he is no match for Maiky diplomacy. Otis' peace programme of shot and shell is the sure cure for that insurrectionary feeling.

A Sign of the Times.

It is interesting to note as a sign of the gradual advance in public opinion which has taken place on the subject of civil service reform that the Washington Post, for many years the bitterest opponent of this policy among the newspapers of the country, now says: "The merit system minus the obstructive characteristics that have sometimes characterized its administration, will be more urgently needed in the future than it has been in the past. This government has assumed new and great responsibilities in its recent territorial acquisition. There will soon be many places to be filled in our colonial service. To fill them with the henchmen of politicians would be to default on our obligations and to incur serious risk of disgraceful failure in governing the new wards of the nation. The growth of our foreign trade ought to be augmented by marked improvement in our consular service. The merit system—fair and competitive tests of merit—is needed in this work."

Our contemporary, of course, here refers to a genuine merit system, honestly administered—a civil service reform project such as Governor Roosevelt is working out in New York, in which the examinations of applicants are pertinent to the duties involved, the ratings made fairly and the appointments based on these ratings, without chicanery or manipulation. As nearly as it can be done, this system aims to apply to the public service the same principles of administration that govern the business affairs of well managed private enterprises—making employment and promotion stand on fitness alone, without regard to politics, religion or "pull." To such a programme every honest citizen must perforce subscribe, and it is a happy consequence of "expansion" that it is causing the people to look at this matter with a new sense of responsibility and with a quickened public conscience.

The promises of some of our inventors are enough to cause the apparition of the lamented Keely to remain constantly on guard.

A square meal seems to be about the only thing obtained by the Filipino peace envoys at Manila.

Canadians Again Show Peevishness.

ACCORDING to reports from London and Washington, the Ottawa government, by insisting upon inadmissible conditions, has prevented the submission of the Alaska boundary dispute to arbitration. If these reports are well founded, it is possible that the expected meeting of the joint high commission will not take place, and it is also possible that Lord Salisbury may feel impelled to consider the question of how serious wishes of a British colony can be suffered to prejudice the general interests of the British empire. There is reason to believe that the joint high commission has arrived at an agreement concerning the various subjects referred to it but for the difficulty of reconciling the conflicting views of the United States and Canada, respecting the boundary of Alaska. Even with relation to this question, which affected the extent of the national domain, and therefore the national dignity and honor, our state department evinced a conciliatory spirit, and, at the request of the British foreign office, refrained from sending troops to occupy the disputed territory. A further step in the direction of accommodation was made when Mr. Coate, our ambassador in London, effected an arrangement with Lord Salisbury whereby the Alaska boundary was to be withdrawn from the list of matters dealt with by the high commission and to be made the specific subject of arbitration.

There were two weighty reasons for such a concession on our part. In the first place, the American and British delegates to the peace conference at The Hague had been instructed to propose the formation of a permanent tribunal for the adjudication of international disputes, and it was obvious that their arguments would be seriously weakened if simultaneously their governments should refuse to allow the Alaska boundary to be defined by arbitrators. In the second place, our government was desirous of securing, in an amicable way, the abrogation or material modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and to that end, was inclined to offer Great Britain a compromise in the shape of permitting our Alaska boundary to be fixed by an impartial tribunal. It is understood that this arrangement, which, on the ground just named, was acceptable to two of the parties interested, would have been carried out had not the third party, Canada, interposed and refused to accept the Alaska boundary to be ascertained by arbitration, except upon prescribed conditions which would practically compel an umpire to pronounce in favor of her claim.

What shall be done? Shall our government proceed to a military occupation of the disputed territory and shall our treasury department punish Canada for her interposition by the issuance of retaliatory regulations against the products of the Dominion? Such a course would, at best, produce strained relations and cause a great deal of friction, while, at the worst, it might provoke a collision of armed forces. The feeling of good will which now exists between the British and American governments could hardly be expected to survive an outbreak of actual hostilities on the Alaska frontier, and thus all that has been accomplished during the last twelve months to create relations of amity between the two great sections of the English-speaking world would be, through Canada's perversity, undone in one unlucky hour.

There is, however, a mode of escape from the existing complication. The British foreign office cannot but recognize that we, on our part, have done all

that can be reasonably asked of a self-respecting nation when we have consented to have to arbitrators the definition of our national boundary. We have not sought to impose conditions upon the tribunal, but have been anxious to determine the law as well as the fact by formulating for itself the principles in pursuance of which its decision will be rendered. Acknowledging, as it must acknowledge, the equity of our position, the British government might properly inform Canada that, as a colony, it cannot be permitted to subordinate to its local interests the collective welfare of the British empire. Such a reminder was formerly tendered, when the northeastern boundary of the United States was settled, the line ultimately agreed upon being as unacceptable to the inhabitants of British North America as it was to the inhabitants of Maine. In the case not only of Maine but of Oregon, our federal government has settled boundary disputes without inordinate deference to the wishes of the denizens of the localities immediately affected, and it is not to be expected that a British colony has more right to prejudice the interests of the British empire than an American state has to prejudice those of the Union. A question of national frontier, which, under regrettable but possible circumstances, might involve two great powers in war, should be regarded as, at bottom, one of imperial concern.

It may be propounded as an axiom that the good will of the United States is of incomparably more importance to the British empire than is the good will of Canada. It is by no means true, however, that this must be looked upon as a British advantage. Great Britain would have to risk the loss of the one in order to keep the other. Only an infinitesimal fraction of the Canadian population is in the Alaska boundary, whereas almost all of them are vitally concerned in the improvement and extension of commercial relations with this country. If the British government would announce its determination to treat the Alaska boundary as an imperial question, a name which it certainly deserves as much as did the boundary of British Guiana, the other matters which were discussed by the joint high commission, and which are of practical importance to the great mass of the Canadians, might be again taken up, with a fair prospect of reaching an adjustment satisfactory to both sides.

THERE WERE OTHERS.

From the Philadelphia Times. There is the probability that huzzas for General Funston have jotted the air too soon, and that this must be topped up again for the brave swimming of a Luzon river, on the road to Malolos, and the capture of a Filipino company, and this time with the announcement that the jubilation is for a band of courageous Pennsylvania boys. Letters from Manila to Westmoreland county tell of the heroic conduct of Lieutenant Richard Coulter and other members of Company I, of the Tenth regiment, in connection with this now historic event of the war.

These letters were evidently not written in the spirit of a disputatious for martial honors, but as a plain chronicle of the engagement before it was known that the world was applauding the dashing Kansas general. They relate, simply, that Lieutenant Coulter and his men swam the river and captured the Filipinos and that General Funston, who had crossed the river at another point, came up afterward and, as the senior officer, took charge of the prisoners. As a souvenir of the capture, Lieutenant Coulter received the honor of the insurgent captain, which has been brought to his home in Greensburg, by his brother.

If the story which these letters tell be true, and there is no reason to doubt its accuracy, then new laurels have been won for Pennsylvania's soldiery, and the men and women of this state who see them go forth to give battle to the people of the east and who have followed their laborious marches and victorious engagements, will have new cause to be proud of the warriors their commonwealth furnishes for its country's service. General Funston has done many things for which he has rightly received abundant praise. Let the Pennsylvania boys have the credit which they seem so richly to deserve. "There is glory enough for all," and Pennsylvania should be exuberant with a fair share of it has come to her soldiers.

THAT HE WILL BE TRUE TO HIS FRIENDS.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. What is to be expected of a governor who makes a man like John P. Eikin, of indomitable bond notoriety, his attorney general?

REXFORD'S.

SCRANTON, May 29. For this week we shall offer worthy silverware, 5000 pieces, bought, most of it, for this sale and offered, as an advertisement, at prices that will probably never be duplicated. Selling starts at 8 o'clock and lasts, six days only. See our window.

55c buys six Rogers & Bros.' teaspoons. You know what most jewelers get, \$1.25 and \$1.50 the set.

\$1.50 secures a Pairpoint \$1.50 quadruple plate butter dish. Wedding present buyers can pick from one hundred just such values. Plenty of choice.

50c each for sterling silver tea-spoons; three fancy patterns, engraved free. Only six to a customer.

1c each. A thousand fine steel, 1c nickel-plated nut picks; chased handles.

\$1.20 for 6 Rogers and Bros.' table knives or forks; the name, stamped on each, guarantees them. Cost more to make.

\$17.50 buys a tea set and 20-inch tray. When you see it you will say \$35, it's regular price, was most reasonable.

THE REXFORD CO., 132 Wyoming Ave.

Clock sale next week.

Luther Keller LIME, CEMENT, SEWER PIPE, Etc.

West Lackawanna Ave., SCRANTON, PA.

The Fashion. Positively the Last Week of Our HONEST FIRE SALE Great Bargains. Marvelous Prices. Crash Toweling Underwear Window Shades Dress Shields Wash Fabrics 308 Lackawanna Avenue

Come in and ask to see our Wedgewood Blue, Oriental Rose, MADRAS LINEN. The most beautiful shades ever displayed in stationery. All Sizes in Stock. We have the usual complete line of Office Supplies.

Reynolds Bros STATIONERS and ENGRAVERS. Hotel Jermyn Building.



The Deadly Sewer Gas from a leaky drain may give the doctor a case of typhoid fever to work with unless you permit the plumber to get in his work on the drain first. Do not hesitate about having the plumbing in your house examined by an expert if you think there is the slightest defect. A thorough overhauling now will save many a dollar later. The smoke test will convince you whether there is sewer gas or not.

GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 225-227 PENN AVENUE.

Illustration of a woman sitting at a table with a teapot and cups. Text: There is no long waiting for help if Ripans Tabules are taken for dyspepsia and headache. Relief comes quickly. One Tabule (about the size of a small button) will relieve distress in the stomach within fifteen minutes and the headache will shortly disappear. There was an industrious, hard-working woman of Cooperstown, N. Y., some sixty years of age, who for a long time had suffered greatly from dyspepsia and dreadful headaches. Her stomach tormented her so that she could hardly work at all, and although she had tried all sorts of things, she got no relief. A friend sent her some Ripans Tabules and she felt better as soon as she took the first one. She felt more like working. "I have continued with the Tabules ever since," she says, "and they always help me."

FINLEY'S Special Summer Sale of Ladies' and Misses' Fine Muslin Underwear. Early in the spring we placed orders for a line of high class garments, comprising Night Gowns, Long and Short Skirts, Corset Covers, Drawers, Etc. Which have just been received and will be placed on sale this morning. We take pleasure in bringing this particular line of goods to your notice—they being mostly made up from French patterns, are exceedingly handsome and of the newest designs. New line of Children's Umbrella Skirts and Drawers, with lace and embroidery trimming—Elegant line of new Silk and Lawn Shirt Waists.

We are Showing This week a great variety of elegant goods in Spring Serges, Checks and Plaids. You will find the prices like the goods—right. W. J. DAVIS, 213 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, Pa.

510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE.

Pure Cold Water CAN BE OBTAINED BY USING OUR WATER FILTERS AND WATER COOLERS A FULL LINE OF NEW GOODS JUST RECEIVED.

MERCEREAU & CONNELL 130 Wyoming Avenue.

book binding NEAT, DURABLE BOOK BINDING IS WHAT YOU RECEIVE IF YOU LEAVE YOUR ORDER WITH THE TRIBUNE BINDERY.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO., 119 Washington Avenue.

The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas an Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. #34 Lackawanna Avenue

HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District for DUPONT'S POWDER. Blasting, Hauling, Sporting, Smokeless and the Repano Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Explosives. Room 401 Council Building. Scranton, Pa. AGENTS: THOS. FORD, JOHN R. SMITH & SON, W. K. MULLIGAN, PLYMOUTH, WILKES-BARRE