

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JUNE 8, 1899.

As a sequel to the editorial in yesterday's Tribune on "A New Cure for Idiocy" we reproduce the following from yesterday's Sun: "Leo Freedman, the 3-year-old boy on whom an operation was performed on Monday to relieve pressure of the skull upon the brain, died early yesterday morning at Bellevue hospital. Dr. Nutt, house surgeon of the first surgical division, who assisted, said yesterday that the operation was the only chance the boy had of becoming anything but an idiot. The operation was not successful. In fact, from my point of view, said he, it was entirely successful. The only trouble was that the child had not sufficient vitality to stand the shock." This is no doubt the explanation of a great many surgical defeats.

Let Them Pay the Piper.

On the merits of the case, the men who, by signing a petition upon which is instituted a costly election contest, contract in the name of the county, but against the county's wish, a bill of expense amounting high among the thousands, ought, upon the failure of their contest, to bear this expense themselves. If under the provisions of the Vaughan act they shall be required to assume this burden or to go to jail it will teach a wholesome lesson.

In the case of the contest of Langstaff against Kelly it is notorious that in his inspiration this contest was vindictive wholly. Kelly was approached to purchase immunity. He refused. Langstaff threatened suit and later, with the instincts and false suspicions of the terrate he is, in his mad anxiety to locate the political activities of the element in his own party that, against his better judgment but in respect to party, had done everything possible to clothe his hopeless candidity with success, executed the threat, calling to his aid the pentmen whose names were appended to his petition. They may have been imposed upon by him—he is an adept at beguiling the unwary. But if so, it would be no more than fair that they, and not the disinterested taxpayers of the county, should foot the costs.

Langstaff's vindictiveness should be paid for by those who are its abettors and accomplices. To foist the costs on the county would be to consummate an outrage.

The Work of the Pension Office.

In the Pittsburgh Times Colonel Hall has made reply to the various Grand Army posts that have adopted resolutions condemnatory of Henry Clay Evans and the present administration of the pension office. His idea is that these resolutions have been passed under a wrong understanding of the facts. Below we present a summary of his argument:

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, the first full year under the present administration, there were allowed \$2,648 original claims for pensions, as against \$1,191 in 1897; 40,374 in 1896; 35,185 in 1895, and 39,085 in 1894. On June 30, 1898, the number of pensioners on the roll was 963,714, a net gain of 17,700 over 1897, and involving a gross expenditure during the year for pensions of \$144,651,879, as against \$129,949,717 for the year 1897. During the year 1898 a total of 98,374 certificates were issued, including 4,093 restorations to the rolls of persons previously dropped. From July 1, 1898, to March 31, 1899, being the first nine months of the present fiscal year, there were allowed under the general law 4,594 original pensions, and under the act of 1890, commonly called the "dependent pensions law," 22,227 original pensions, or a total of 26,821. Under the general law the increases and re-issues were 9,747, and the restorations and renewals 1,157, and under the act of 1890 the former were 10,665 and the latter 1,556, a total of 23,145. Accrued pensions numbered 8,661, and duplicate pensions 2,962. The total number of certificates issued during the nine months was 61,529.

With regard to the charges that applicants are unfairly treated in the adjudication and final settlement of their claims, it is necessary before arriving at a conclusion that may be grossly unjust to have an understanding as to the laws granting pensions, and the rulings of the Interior department, which controls the pension bureau's action in the matter. Order No. 164, which rated all disabilities under the act of 1890 the same as those of service origin, was substantially revoked by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bussey on January 7, 1893. The act of 1890 with reference to claims of widows, grants pensions only to those "who are without other means of support than their manual labor." In cases of invalid claimants, it is held by the department that disabilities under the act of 1890 are placed by that act upon a different basis for rating from those under the general law. Under the general law disabilities are pensionable without regard to capacity to earn a support, and are graded without reference to this condition, while disabilities under the act of 1890 are only pensionable when incapacity to labor joins with incapacity to earn a support, and the grades of rating are dependent upon these two conditions. The bureau has been extensively criticized for adhering to this rule, but as its functions are strictly confined to the execution of the law as it finds it the commissioner is powerless to grant relief in cases that do not come within the rule.

It is very evident, upon a careful examination of the act of 1890, that it creates conditions which are not applicable to claims under the general law, and that very much of the misapprehension and dissatisfaction with the operations of the pension bureau arise from want of understanding as to these conditions. Thus, for example, a soldier is entitled under the general law to \$17 per month for the loss of an eye, but under the act of 1890 he receives only \$5 per month, as it does not incapacitate him materially from earning a subsistence by manual labor. So, in the case of deafness, a soldier who is suffering from a degree of deafness entitling him under the general law to \$10 or \$15 per month has no pensionable status under the act of 1890, as the slight degree of deafness in question does not incapacitate him from earning a support by manual labor. A widow, is pensioned under the general law regardless of her possessions, while under the act of 1890 the enjoyment of an income in excess of the amount she would receive as pension is a bar to pension under that act. When these different conditions arise in the same neighborhood, people seldom stop to inquire as to the law under which application is made, and when a claim is allowed under the general law at a high rate for a degree of deafness which does not entitle to a rating under the act of 1890 it necessarily results in criticism of the commissioner. When a widow, who is in affluent circumstances, is granted a pension under the general law while a claimant not nearly so well off is denied a pension under the new law because she is not without other means of support than her daily labor, it seems to the public to be an unjust discrimination on the part of the bureau. Yet the law creates these conditions, and it is not within the commissioner's power to do otherwise than execute the law as construed by the Interior department, but in nearly all these cases the pension bureau gets the blame when it attempts to carry out the law as it exists.

During President Grant's first term, from 1869 to 1873, there were allowed in all 71,462 claims of the Civil war. During his second term, from 1873 to 1877, there were allowed 47,329 claims, and during President Hayes' term, from 1877 to 1881, 29,945 claims were allowed. This shows that the number of allowances for 1898 was greater than those for the entire four years of Grant's second term and the entire administration of President Hayes. In President Grant's first term the total payments for pensions were \$116,138,275; during his second term, \$114,395,357, and during President Hayes' term, \$145,322,489. Thus it appears that the payments for 1898 were largely in excess of the amount paid during either the first or second administration of President Grant and almost as much as was paid during the entire four years of President Hayes' administration.

The Philippines by One Who Knows

Chicago, June 7.—In an address before the Union League club, delivered tonight, ex-Minister John Barrett said in part: "I am deeply sensible of the great responsibility resting upon me to tell you the truth as actually seen and learned by me about the Philippine islands, their possibilities, their people and their bearing upon our commercial and political stand in the Pacific and far east. I cannot overestimate the importance of the subject before us. We are face to face in the Pacific and far east with a situation of immeasurable possibilities. Upon our policy depends our position in that great ocean, where by the hand of God, by destiny and by fortune, it is intended that we should be first, but where if we fail to seize and develop our opportunities, we may not only become forever second, but come trailing along behind Great Britain, Russia, Japan and Germany, and even France. It is an issue of the hour, it is not over yet. If we weaken one iota, we give an entrance for the wedge that will destroy the unity of policy and integrity of principle which alone can bring us success."

"While I am not an enthusiast or a deft waver of a false philosophy, I am from long association with the section which I am discussing, deeply impressed by the extent of our opportunities, the gravity of our present responsibilities and the necessity of meeting the situation with courage, hope and persistence, with the absolute belief that the reward will be sufficient to outweigh the cost. I have no sympathy with the conception that we are not equal to what is before us. On the other hand, I maintain that there is nothing so fatal as meeting and mastering new responsibilities. At the same time I recognize the value and advantages of argument and discussion. If I may be called an expansionist, I am not so radical that I do not respect the arguments of those who hold other views, and I have the highest respect for many of the distinguished and good men in our country who hold that our policy is wrong. They are doubtless sincere and mean only well for our country, but might not they, if they are, in the opinion of some, doing any harm, it is not that they are creating a discordant influence at home, but that they are, and possibly without their intention, giving comfort and aid to our enemies? In the Philippines and in Hong Kong, and, moreover, in Europe, wherever any anti-American sympathizers are gathered, every word and every utterance of those who oppose our policy in the Philippines is repeated, emphasized and broadcast to encourage not only those who are fighting us, but those who would secretly assist them. I say this with all frankness because I could not help seeing and noting it only too plainly in my recent trip home from Manila by way of Europe."

"If I were asked what was the great signal result of the late war with Spain, I would say it was one which had amply repaid all the difficulties brought upon us by the assumption of sovereignty of the Philippines. It is simply this: It has suddenly and unexpectedly made us the first power of the Pacific. Before the war and before we took the Philippines—not from conquest, but from moral responsibility—we could not contest that position with either Great Britain or even France. We were then not a power in the far east. We were nothing more than what could be rightly termed a 'little' power. From Bangkok to Peking our ministers and our consuls were everywhere hampered by our lack of national influence. For the administrative respect felt for us by Oriental statesmen and by the constant evidence that what America said, could or would do, cut little or no figure in Asiatic politics or commerce. Formerly, as I traveled along the coast, visiting both political and commercial capitals, I was always depressed by the indications of our seeming insignificance. When I made my last journey in December to these same points, I was astonished to note the mighty change that had been worked since Dewey sailed into Manila and destroyed the Spanish fleet. I found America, American influence and American trade everywhere the first consideration. Whether discussing matters with the high officials of foreign diplomats, or leading business men, or devoted missionaries, at dinner parties or in the club, or in the street with common, every-day natives and coolies, I found one sensible, tangible thought that had to do with the mighty change that had been going to do, what will be her policy, which way will her influence be thrown?"

"But this is not all. There is the practical and commercial side of it, which appeals to us all for commerce is the life-blood of nations. While formerly it was most difficult to arouse interest in American products and to get European or native houses to handle American imports, now all is changed, and there is a grand movement all along the line from Java to Japan in favor of American interests. These same native and foreign firms want American connections, and wish to handle American goods. What a vista of opportunities here opens before us, and yet largely dependent upon two great points: First, whether we shall meet, master and hold the situation in the Philippines; and second, stand inflexibly for the maintenance of our treaty rights and freedom of trade throughout all China. Gives this mighty nation of ours in that incalculable position of strength resulting from permanent sovereignty over the Philippines and perpetual enjoyment of freedom of trade in China and you will have a nation whose power and influence will be paramount not only in the Pacific but throughout all the world."

"Manila occupies undeniably a strong place for both trade and strategic purposes, and under the progressive administration of the United States she has a brilliant opportunity which cannot be hidden and may yet prove a worthy rival not only of Singapore and Hong Kong, but also of Shanghai and Yokohama. Manila is the most central city of the entire Asiatic Pacific coast from Siberia to Australia, more so even than Hong Kong and Shanghai, because it is on the direct route to Australia and nearer to the great range of Southern Australia ports. This is not a mere advantage on the map, but an actual, practical, favorable condition from the way titles and routes run, as well as winds blow; and Manila's unique strength of position is therefore not only commercial, but strategic."

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"If ever it could be said that God physically fashions any part of this earth with a recklessly prodigal hand it could be said without exaggeration of the Philippine group. A richer isolated land or group of islands, viewed comparatively as to area and population, variety of agricultural, mineral and forest resources undeveloped as well as those already improved, cannot be found on this globe. In comparison with the opportunities afforded by other Asiatic countries, the Philippines provide more than their natural share of opportunities for the investment of capital for the development of various enterprises. Not one acknowledged authority on the islands has yet come forward with a less cheerful view of the situation than I have depicted. Moreover, many a doubting Thomas, who has held the sixpence of climatic considerations, and danger of 'The White Man's Burden,' so near his eye that he could not see beyond, later, on a personal investigation of the field, not confined to Manila, but the great country back of it in Luzon and the other islands—has frankly acknowledged his error and that here is one of the greatest undeveloped fields of investments that remain outside the borders of the United States."

"Holding and developing the Philippines is not mere imperialism, not mere expansion in the popular use of those misleading terms, but taking legitimate advantages of a splendid material opportunity, where unavoidable moral responsibility has compelled us to assume the sovereignty of these rich Antilles of the Orient. If we call it expansion or imperialism, then these terms are synonyms for legitimate commercial extension, and commerce is the life-blood of nations, provided it has the moral strength of sinew and bone to absorb the nourishment and ozone of new blood, and not be poisoned by those elements which invariably accompany extraordinary efforts in untried fields. I believe that we have the power of discrimination, the capability of taking what is best and leaving what is worst, in so guiding our policy that in this great race of nations for supremacy in the world's competition we shall be forever a strong first."

"The climate is not such as to interfere with the investment of capital and with providing an extensive market for American products, which in turn, will benefit far more people in the United States than the different tribes of the Philippine islands, and which might seek the Philippines as a place of residence. At the same time there is no great danger for Americans or foreigners residing in the tropics who take care of themselves. After a careful study of the different tribes of the Philippine islands, and an intimate acquaintance through several years of races of Asiatics, similar to them in tendencies, habits, methods of life and ways of thinking, it is my honest conviction that their good nature and intelligence, and that there is much of hope and promise in their makeup and that, in comparison with other Asiatic people, they are above the average. While not as industrious or thrifty as the Japanese, they compare favorably in intelligence and industry with the best of other Asiatics. I believe firmly that the masses of the people are not turned against us with those feelings of hatred and revenge which we cannot overcome. When they fully understand that our intentions are honorable, that the recent conflict has not been justified from their standpoint, and that possibly they have been misled by ambitious leaders, I am confident they will readily accept any form of government we may institute. No greater misfortune could befall us than to have the Philippines a dumping ground for mercenary politicians. Here is our greatest danger, and if we can safely import native Filipinos with a goodly portion of the national influence of the administration of the Interior, we will save ourselves from the greater of two evils."

"The United States have assumed a mighty and unavoidable responsibility, not only to themselves and the natives, but to the world, in occupying the Philippines. If they could not return them to their former sovereignty, sell them to another power, or yield them to native rule without shirking such responsibility and taking a backward step from which the nation would never recover."

Waited for the Door to Shut. The sun blazing down on a race course, far, far east of here, and on a field of hot, excited horse and men, waiting till the eccentricities of the starter and an even more eccentric horse combine to get the United States of the former is at last exhausted. "Bring up that horse! Come up on that beast! You'll get into trouble over this, I tell you," and so forth. The Australian, light-weight replies patiently: "I can't help it, sir. This is a cab horse, this horse is. I haven't got a door shut—and I haven't got a door!"—Academy.

REXFORD'S. SCRANTON, June 8. Been to the Clock Sale yet? Saw so many new faces along the show cases yesterday, don't know whether yours was there or not. Three days more of unusually interesting clock prices—balance of the week—today, tomorrow, Saturday.

Dollar Alarm Clocks are 62 cents. Two Dollar Dresden China Clocks are \$1.90. Three Dollar Handsome Oak Carved Clocks are \$1.90. Six Dollar Royal Bonn Ware Elaborately Finished Clocks are \$3.00. Clock makes a handsome wedding present. Sensible. Interested? THE REXFORD CO., 132 Wyoming Ave.

The Watch Sale is next week. Is it not surprising that a remedy that has been the Physician's Trump Card for a century—his ace of trumps!—should now, for the first time, be so prepared as to make it possible to offer it to the public in a form available for immediate use, and capable of being preserved without loss of virtues for a decade?—or until the occasion arises? Such a surprise exists in Ripans Tabules.

The Fashion. REBUILDING SALE. Entire stock to be closed out at slaughtering prices. This Week's Specials: 89c Will buy Ladies' White Lawn Waists, late style front, a garment worth \$1.50. 50c Will buy a Ladies' Sun Umbrella with Dresden handles, steel rod, actually worth \$1. 35c Will buy Men's French Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers that always retailed at 50c each. 69c Will buy Ladies' Lawn and Percale Wrappers, nicely trimmed, former price, 98c. 308 Lackawanna Avenue

Star Automatic Paper Fastener. Fastens papers in a jiffy, feeds itself and improved in every respect. Prices lower than ever. We are still selling the Planitary Pencil Sharpener. The only sharpening device which never breaks the lead. On trial in your office for 10 days free of charge. We have numerous other novelties in office supplies, together with a large line of Blank Books and Typewriter's Supplies. FOR \$10 A Twenty-Year Gold-Filled Gasc With a 15-Jeweled Waltham Movement. Both Guaranteed. The Best Watch in the Whole World for the Money.

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, 25-27 PENN AVENUE.

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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.

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. FOOTE & SHEAR CO., 119 Washington Avenue.

The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas an Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. 434 Lackawanna Avenue. HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District for DUPONT'S POWDER. Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Smokers and the Ripans Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Exploders. Room 401 Connell Building, Scranton. AGENTS: THOS. FORD, Pittston. JOHN B. SMITH & SON, Plymouth. W. E. MULLIGAN, Wilkes-Barre.

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