

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JUNE 19, 1899.

Rumor has it that General Miles is to be sent to the Philippines. The place for the commanding general certainly should be at the front.

The Last Prop Gone.

The last prop having been knocked on Saturday by the court from under the absurd and vindictive opposition of the defeated rivals of the Barber Asphalt company to the carrying out of the ten-year street repair contract—for, in its first inspiration and continued guidance this whole kick-up was the work of a disgruntled competitor of the Barber company which the latter company had fairly and squarely underbid—there remains nothing for the recalcitrant city officials to do this morning but to take their medicine and look cheerful. They have played to the galleries from the curtain's rise to its fall, now let them do their duty.

Speaking of the galleries, it is worth while to remark that they have not been fouled so generally as the posture of the local politicians who make it their business to play to them might lead one to believe. It has not escaped their notice that the lowest bidder got the contract, that the men who now claim that the Barber bid was high-way robbery made no effort to underbid the Barber company when bids were in order, and that even if the Barber bid, after much litigation, could be invalidated and the Barber contract annulled there would still be no assurance that the bidder falling heir to the Barber company's business in this city would exhibit superior liberality. As between a Barber "octopus" and, for example, an Alcatraz "octopus" the bid last year showed decidedly which is preferable.

The threat of an appeal to the Supreme court is made for effect, but its only result would be to add a page to the already long chapter of delay. The Supreme court will not reverse itself to suit the political necessities of a few gallery-playing Scranton city officials. It is already on record touching all the legal points in the present controversy and an appeal could have no other result than to prolong indefinitely the agony due to our dilapidated streets. The man who causes further delay in asphalt repairs must reckon the probability that he will have to settle with the people of Scranton.

Still another formal denial is made that Secretary Alger intends to resign. This topic of "news" is becoming tiresome.

Delivery of Express Packages.

The express companies doing business in Scranton have in combination established a radius within which they make free delivery of packages and, in combination, they refuse to deliver beyond that radius. A considerable portion of the South Side, of Hyde Park, Providence and Green Ridge, of Petersburg and of the Seventeenth and Ninth wards east of Prescott avenue lie outside of these arbitrary limits and persons receiving express packages addressed to a residence or place of business in the districts mentioned must pay extra for delivery or provide their own transportation.

Sometimes when an influential citizen enjoying a vigorous health wants delivery made beyond the local line he can secure this after an animated correspondence with the august chief officials of the express companies, but to the ordinary citizen this discrimination in delivery privileges is inflexible. And yet the courts of Pennsylvania, in a case decided only a fortnight or so ago, have decided that an express company, if it delivers to any person in a certain community, must deliver on equal terms to all persons in that community; that a postal card notice of the arrival of a package does not constitute a delivery or a release of the company from its common carrier obligations.

Under this decision, an extension of the delivery limits in Scranton to coincide with the city limits is necessary to save the express companies from the risk of litigation, but even if the law did not make uniform delivery imperative it would be a just and business-like proceeding to establish a general delivery. The rate charged at the forwarding office on the undelivered package is precisely the same as that charged on the package which goes to an address within the delivery limits. The consignee in the one case pays as much as the consignee in the other and fair play requires that he should get all that he pays for.

Barrow, the kidnaper of Marion Clarke, gets two months less than the maximum sentence of fifteen years. Two months in 189 may not be worth quarreling over, but we consider that the Judge's mercy was wasted.

A Typical American Hero.

There is now in this country on leave of absence a man who, in the calm judgment of men who weigh their opinions, is as truly a typical hero of the war as Admiral Dewey is, and perhaps just as much entitled to enthusiastic acclaim. We refer, of course, to General Leonard Wood.

In store for Wood. He personally does not need it. His is the type of equipment which does with thoroughness what is to be done regardless of praise or blame. But at a time when extravagant homage is paid to purely destructive ability as indicated in the dashing and gory fighter it would be educational to arrange a corresponding display of appreciation for the infinitely more valuable and necessary kind of ability which patiently, tactfully, thoroughly reconstructs and regenerates. If some of our heroes be not of the Wood type we shall fare ill in our new role as the keeper of strange dependencies.

The French journalist, Henri Turot, who has just returned from Manila, says we need 100,000 men there. The conservative and judicious character of Mr. Turot's observations concerning the Philippines gives his opinion on this subject some weight. He is at least disinterested. Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador to this country, says virtually the same thing, and he has no motive for alarming us. Better too many troops than too few.

Civil Service Reform.

In the Chicago Record William E. Curtis, the Washington correspondent and former official of the state department, explains with a newspaper man's lucidity the effect of the recent order of the president withdrawing from the jurisdiction of the civil service commission certain subordinates of the several executive departments, which has been so sharply criticized by civil service reform theorists. Says Mr. Curtis:

"More than half of the persons affected are in the war department and comprise casual and temporary employes of the engineer corps, and the quartermaster, commissary and medical departments of the army, such as carpenters, masons, painters, blacksmiths, stonecutters, machinists, teamsters, packers, helpers, laborers, watchmen, guards, hostlers, etc. After two years' experience it has been found that the ordinary civil-service rules cannot be applied to this class of men for several reasons. In the first place the best of them will not submit to examination. They are usually needed for only a few weeks or months at a time. They are scattered all over the plains and mountains of the west, where it is not only inconvenient but often impossible for the civil-service commission to hold examinations, and in almost every case during the last two years when a list of eligibles for such positions has been called for it could not be furnished and the persons in charge had to employ such persons as they could find under the emergency clause of the old rules. For example, when one of the embankments of the Mississippi river breaks it is scarcely practicable for the engineer in charge to call upon the civil-service commission for a list of eligibles to repair it. Again, when the quartermaster at an army post receives telegraphic orders to fit out his regiment for the Philippines, he needs immediately 500 or 300 skilled or semi-skilled mechanics, teamsters, packers, carpenters and laborers, and it would be absurd for him to ask the civil-service commission to hold an examination and send him a list of eligibles."

"Last year thousands of men were given temporary employment upon coast defenses and other fortifications, and when the engineers called upon the civil-service commissioners for lists of eligibles none could be furnished, so that the only result was embarrassment and delay. Mechanics of this class will not go to Washington or anywhere else to undergo an examination, because they do not care to spend the time or the money that the journey will require, and they have natural prejudice against 'school masters.' Experience has also taught that the efficiency of teamsters, mule packers, blacksmiths and other artisans employed by the army cannot be determined either by an oral or a written examination, but as a matter of fact this class of employes has not been entirely exempted from examinations by the new order. Only the method of their appointment has been changed. A rule that could not be enforced has been revoked, and a new one that can be applied in almost every case has been adopted. They have been removed from the classified service, but rule 1 of the recent order requires that the moral character and efficiency of employes shall be ascertained and recorded upon a list of eligibles, and that when a quartermaster, an engineer or any other officer requires such assistance the men shall be selected from the top of the waiting list."

"Another paragraph in the order which has been severely criticized is that 'all persons serving under temporary appointments at the date of the approval of this section may be permanently appointed in the discretion of the proper appointing officers.' This applies to a number of clerks who were employed under the emergency clause of the civil service law in the war and navy departments at the beginning of the war. Most of them have served faithfully and worked night and day for more than a year, and have thus proved their efficiency. Another large class of persons who are made exempt from civil service examinations by the recent order are several hundred half-civilized Indians, employed under the secretary of the interior as teamsters, policemen, cooks, woodchoppers, and in similar capacities. Two years of experience has demonstrated that the untutored mind of 'Lo, the poor Indian,' is not up to the civil service rules. Special agents of the Indian bureau and the land office, whose duties are similar to those of detectives, are also exempt because experience has demonstrated that 90 per cent. of the detectives furnished by the civil service commission are absolutely worthless. No one will pretend that penetration of mind or shrewdness of judgment can be ascertained by a written examination. The same remark applies to the employes of the Smithsonian Institution, who are taken out of the classified service upon the recommendation of Chief Justice Fuller, Prof. Langley, Senator Gray, of Delaware; President Angell, of Michigan university; ex-Postmaster General Wilson, Alexander

Graham Bell and other members of the board of regents, who are quite as much interested in promoting the welfare and usefulness of the institution as the officers of the Civil Service Reform league or the editors who have criticized the action of the president. When there is a vacancy in the Smithsonian Institution of the National museum the regents want to fill it with the very best man they can get, and they find that competitive examinations are not a test of fitness."

In proof of this last statement, Mr. Curtis gives an illustration. There was recently, says he, an appointment to the office of editor of scientific publications in one of the departments. One of the candidates had been for twenty-five years employed in such duties by the publishers of scientific books, encyclopedias, magazines and other similar literature, and was considered an expert. He probably knows ten times as much as all the members of the examining board combined about this particular line of business, but he was unable to display that knowledge in an examination, and when the papers were turned in his were marked 68, and his name was at the bottom of the list of eligibles. The man at the top of the list, who was marked 95, had never had the slightest experience, but had the gift of answering questions. He had never edited a page of scientific manuscript in his life. He had never been inside of a printing office, except perhaps as a visitor, yet twenty-five years of experience counted for nothing against his glib tongue and tact. The joke in this case is that the editor who failed has been an ardent advocate of competitive examinations up to this time, but now declares that they are a delusion."

During the first two weeks of this month there were 315 deaths in Havana as compared with 2,160 deaths in the corresponding fortnight last year. It is time the Cubans began to realize their change for the better.

Arthur Pue Gorman.

Undoubtedly ex-Senator Gorman as the Democratic nominee for president next year would prove a more formidable candidate than Mr. Bryan, and the Croker contingent exhibits shrewd politics in placing Gorman in the field. Gorman is not a silver extremist and he might not be supported by the howling sixteen-to-ones with irrepressible enthusiasm. But as the nominee of his party he would get their votes, which would be the main consideration, and he would also stand a chance, which Bryan never could, of catching the votes of conservative gold Democrats and such Republican malcontents of the Hoar, Hale and Mason type as would feel compelled by the logic of past utterances to vote against McKinley because of his Philippine policy.

Gorman, although a master of cunning, is also a man of intellectual breadth, mentally far superior to Bryan. His acquaintance with public men and public measures is larger and more varied. He is a man of far greater experience and in the event of his nomination there would not prevail throughout the country that feeling of uneasiness which Bryan's radicalism and fiery demagogism inspires among men naturally cautious or timid. He would be regarded more like Tilden was regarded after the Democratic convention in 1876. There would be a consensus of belief that in the improbable event of Gorman's election the office of president would not be given over to revolutionary purposes and the foundations of national credit would remain stable.

Such is the argument for Gorman, looking beyond the day of the convention. But it is undeniable that unless a revolution shall be worked Bryan, not Gorman, will have the support of the great majority of the delegates.

Shirt waists are said to be the latest thing for the manly form. The one who wears them may have a "manly form," but he will probably be found to possess a girlish head.

In these days of shameless adulteration we are now confronted with an ambitious scientist who proposes to make artificial coal. This is really too much.

The problem of jail building in the south in future will not be that of keeping the prisoners in, but the best means of keeping the mobs out.

Texas was once known as the New Philippines. An occasional lynching down that way indicates that there are a few Filipinos left.

General Wheaton has illustrated at Manila that a man can wear a ram's horn moustache and be a hero at the same time.

THE NEGLIGEE SHIRT.

With fond satisfaction we're hailing Return of the negligee shirt, Whose bosom with starch is ne'er stiffened.

Whose collar lies low and inert, It may not be what is called "dressy," But not an iota we care, For comfort is what we're now seeking In things that we eat, drink and wear.

At last we are free from discomfort Of bosom as stiff as a board, Which held us erect as the armor That in the old times turned a sword. No more by long cuffs are we bothered, The kind that encircled our fists, For negligee sleeves we're now wearing, And they only come to the wrists.

No more are we worried by collars In which our poor necks were long couped, And by which we nearly were strangled Each time we unthinkingly stooped. Our heads we are now freely turning In any direction we please, Without making any revolution Or swinging around by degrees.

The broad silken scarfs we've discarded For others of much smaller size, And now 'round our necks we are wearing The narrow and neat little ties. The shirt studs we fumbled so often Until we were red in the face, Have gone, and the old-fashioned buttons Are back in the time-honored place.

When hot waves rush in and assail us 'Tis comfort all mortals desire, And that is just what we are finding In making this change of attire. Though some will declare it's not "dressy," Remarks of such critics don't hurt Our feelings, for gladly we're hailing Return of the negligee shirt. —Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

WHITNEY'S WEEKLY BUDGET OF NEWS

UNDERGROUND RAILROADS OF SLAVERY DAYS.

Death of a Prominent Resident—The Extradition of Buckley—Facts Concerning the Sweet Girl Graduate—The Sad Plight of Our Oil Man—Susquehanna Sundries—Personal Drift.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Susquehanna, Pa., June 18.—In Slavery days Susquehanna and Wayne counties had the reputation of the "underground railroad" for slaves escaping from the South to Canada. Among the slaves to escape was Tom Harris, who was owned by Colonel Harris, of Culpepper Court House, Virginia. As soon as war was declared, Tom returned from Canada to Wayne county, where he has since lived, doing odd jobs on farms. When Tom came to Wayne county he was as black as the ace of spades, but for the past three years white spots have appeared upon his person, and today he is more than two-thirds white. Each succeeding white spot is whiter and larger than the one preceding, and their coming is accompanied by intense pain and itching. Tom's hair, once twisted and "kinky," is gradually straightening out, and he expresses the belief that before long he will be "as white as any person in Wayne county." Tom's singular transformation is greatly interesting to scientists all over the country.

A PROMINENT RESIDENT DEAD.

After a brief illness, Olin T. Smith, an old and prominent business man, died at his home on Wednesday evening, aged 72 years. He is survived by the widow and two daughters. He was highly respected by all who knew him. He was president of the board of trade, and a prominent member of many secret societies. The funeral occurred Saturday morning.

EXTRADITION OF BUCKLEY.

John Buckley, arrested for a criminal assault upon a young girl in Susquehanna some weeks since, was on Wednesday afternoon extradited from Oswego jail to Susquehanna. He was arraigned before Justice Williams, pled not guilty and waived examination. A Chief of Police McMahon on Thursday morning took him to Montrose jail to await the action of the grand jury.

IN A PLEASANT VEIN.

If heaven is what a man loveth best, Here in this world of care, They'll need some wonderful fishing ponds When Hubbard goes up there.

Owen Loeb, Carbonate.

"When it comes down to facts," the girl graduate probably does know more about the science of government than many persons of the masculine gender who pose as statesmen."

No thoroughly occupied man was ever miserable. Possibly not, but how about the man occupied in fighting a dozen hornets up his trousers legs?

A Susquehanna man in "setting" a hen made a mistake and got hold of a number of porcelain eggs instead of the genuine article. The hen is doing all she can, but there is a tired look of wonder in her eyes that is pitiful.

The fact that so many American locomotives are being sent to foreign countries reminds an old man of a young man sung about 1850. One verse ran as follows:

"A steamer of the Collins line, a Yankee Doodle notion, Has also quitted cut the line across the Atlantic ocean; The British agents, nowise slow her merits to discover, Have been and bought her just to tow the Cunard packets over."

IT WILL BE A PLEASANT DUTY.

During the excitement attendant upon the finding of a lifeless infant floating in the Susquehanna river, suicides and other crimes committed at Susquehanna, we hear the "White" aspirant to be a candidate for sheriff. What is the nation coming to? Echo answers, What?—Hallstead Herald. In the event of my election, unless he reforms very materially, it will probably be my sacred duty to hang the editor of the Hallstead Herald. Last week he narrowly escaped drowning. There is an old saying that 'a man born to be hung will never die in any other way.'

IN A LINE OR TWO.

The current number of the New York Police Gazette contains a portrait and sketch of Tim Hurley, Susquehanna's promising pugilist. Some men are born famous, others acquire fame, while others have fame thrust upon them. The board of trade will on Friday evening make final arrangements for the coming state fair.

AN OLD MAN'S SAD PLIGHT.

On Sunday afternoon, Lloyd Austin, aged 80, late an inmate of the Susquehanna-Oakland poor asylum, left the home of William Keene, a son-in-law, in Oakland borough, in search of a missing cow. He did not return in a few hours, and a search was made for him, but without success. From that time a large number of men searched the hills by day and by night, and on Tuesday afternoon he was found on the hillside, about eighty rods from the point where he entered the woods. He had fallen from a ledge of rocks, and was injured and helpless. He had been fifty-six hours without food. He will recover.

SOME COUNTY CURRENCY.

The second annual reunion of the Hall family was held at East Lake on Thursday. The Susquehanna County Farmers' Alliance and Industrial union met on Tuesday at the Pearl school house in Lenox. The Susquehanna county medical pension examining board met in Susquehanna on Wednesday, the usual number of veterans appearing for examination.

SUSQUEHANNA SUNDRIES.

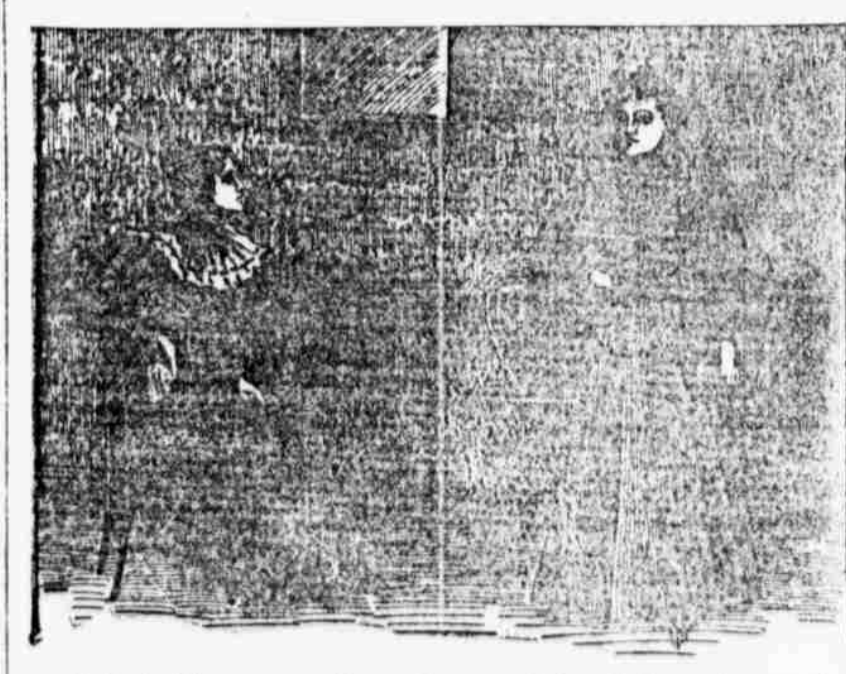
Rev. Edward J. Burlington, until recently assistant at St. Stephen's church, Wilkes-Barre, succeeds Rev. W. J. Cleveland as rector of Christ Episcopal church in Susquehanna. Another effort is being made to organize a base ball nine in this place. Rev. P. P. Brodrick is at Glen Summit, attending the annual retreat of the senior priests of the Catholic diocese of Scranton. Whitney.

The Fashion. Another Mighty Blow Has Been Struck at Prices and Values at Our REBUILDING SALE. At 5c 500 doz. of ladies' and men's pure linen collars, all the newest and latest spring styles, that are actually worth 12 1/2c and 18c, to go at 5c. At 15c Pair—Ladies' Lisle Hose, in black only, or 2 pairs for..... 25c. At 19c All the window shades at one price. Come and pick out the fine ones. At 39c Bleached table linen extra wide, latest patterns, formerly sold at 69c yard. 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 Planetary Pencil Sharpener. The only sharpener 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. ONE DOLLAR and still make a fair margin of profit—as good as we used to make when we used to sell the pins at \$1.75 and \$2. They are here at store now. Warranted solid gold. THE REXFORD CO., 132 Wyoming Ave.

Reynolds Bros. STATIONERS and ENGRAVERS. Hotel Jermyn Building. 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. MERCEREAU & CONNELL, 130 Wyoming Avenue.

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. Luther Keller LIME, CEMENT, SEWER PIPE, Etc. Yard and Office West Lackawanna Ave., SCRANTON, PA.



I find Ripans gentle and natural in their action and I would not be without them in the house. My children are generally troubled in the summer time with a variety of complaints, chiefly arising from a disordered stomach. This year I have given them the chocolate coated Tabules, with the result that, even during the hot spell, their health has been unusually good. Ripans Tabules are, I think, the best possible family medicine, and I have lately heard many friends speak highly of their wonderful curative properties. A new style packet containing THE RIPANS TABLETS in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—SEE LIST. This low priced set is intended for the poor and the aged. One dozen of the Ripans Tablets (20 Tablets) may be had by mail by sending fifty-cent note to THE RIPANS CHEMICAL WORKS, 25 West Street, New York—a 50-cent note (25c each) will do for five more. FRANK CARROLL has a lot of gloves, general storekeepers, some agents and a liquor store and barber shop.

FINLEY'S One Week Devoted to Shirt Waist Selling At Reduced Prices! In order to get our stock of Colored Shirt Waists down to normal proportions, we have made a general reduction all along the line and on SATURDAY MORNING our entire stock will be at your disposal at tempting prices. The acknowledged superiority of our line (which is practically unbroken as to sizes and assortment), together with the lowness of price, should be inducements for the biggest week of Shirt Waist selling of the season, and we have provided accordingly by including every number in stock, comprising Cambric, Percale, Scotch and French Gingham, Corded Gingham and Piques, Etc. Sale opens Saturday and continues for one week. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE.

This Week We are giving with every purchase amounting to \$5.00 or over, a PLYMOUTH LAP-BOARD. These handsome and useful articles can now be seen in our window. FOOTE & SHEAR CO., 119—Washington Ave.—119

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.

DUPONT'S POWDER. Blasting, Sporting, Smokless and the Ripans Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Exploders. Room 401, Central Building, Scranton, Pa. AGENTS: THOS. FORD, Pittston; JOHN B. SMITH & SON, Plymouth; W. E. MULLIGAN, Wilkes-Barre.