

The Scranton Tribune

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NOW FOR STREET REPAIRS.

The men who have fought asphalt repairs are not the men who make much use of the streets of Scranton. Their defeat is a substantial victory for good government.

Queer Reformers.

The experiment of Sunday journalism has been abandoned by the London daily papers which recently started it, the protests being too numerous and strong. There are still Sunday papers in London but they are of the stop-bucket order. The net result of the organized opposition of religious influences to Sunday journalism in the British metropolis has been the searing of the intelligent and respectable publishers out of the field and the complete surrender of it to the peddlers of froth and fith.

The Sabatarians.

The Sabatarians movement in its opposition to Sunday publications has worked similarly in this country. It is almost entirely a paper war. The sewer sheets like the Scrantonian are given an uninterrupted swath in which to disseminate their shocking pollution and pander to the public's growing appetite for scandal. Just how far this constitutes a gain for civilization and morals we have never been able to discover, but that may be owing to a defect in our own powers of perception.

A time may come when the decent people of the community will take adequate steps to protect themselves from the nefarious activities of the gutter-snipe type of Sunday journalism and abate it as they would abate a deadly plague; but it does not seem to be very near. The attitude of too many good people is like that of the London Sabatarians who revolted at the clean Sunday papers and left the sewer-sheets to stink to the full limit of their malodorous possibilities.

General Miles affirms that the situation in the Philippines is serious. The general will get a court martial if he isn't careful.

Utlanders Vs Boers.

A succinct statement of the grievances of the Utlanders in the Transvaal has been given by the London correspondent of the New York Times, who says they are four-fifths of the population and pay nine-tenths of the taxes. "They have," he adds, "converted a bankrupt, pastoral community into one of the richest areas in the world. Yet they have no share in levying or spending the oppressive taxes they pay; they have no control over the payment of officials; they have no voice in educational grants; their children above the third standard can only be educated in the degrading Boer schools, which is unintelligible, even in Holland; they have no voice in the municipal government of Johannesburg, which they built; their press is gagged; public meetings are prohibited, and they have no right to a trial by their peers. For dynamite, a necessity for mining purposes, they have to pay exactly twice the market value, the difference going into certain favored pockets."

The answer of the Boers is that inasmuch as the Utlanders were not asked to come into the Transvaal, but did so of their own volition, in pursuit of riches or employment, they should accept the existing laws and customs and not try to change them. This answer is in direct conflict with our own Declaration of Independence, which affirms that whenever a government becomes destructive of life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. The Declaration further affirms that while revolutions should not be lightly entered upon, yet when a long train of abuses and usurpations evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security. The train of Boer abuses and usurpations in the Transvaal is both long and galling and every effort to secure an amelioration of it by peaceful and respectful means has ended disastrously, with exhibitions by the Boers of insolence and petty meanness intolerable to men of spirit. In interpreting the news from Johannesburg during the next few months, the American people should bear in mind the sentiments of their own Declaration of Independence and remember also that the Utlander majority in the Transvaal has the same blood in its veins that our Revolutionary forefathers had when they decided to stand no further tyranny from an earlier Dutch dynasty. The sympathy hitherto given in American public opinion to "Oom Paul" Kruger and the Boers has been ignorantly misplaced and it is time to rectify the error and give sympathy where it is due.

The navy department's outgivings on the Hodson-Schley affair put Schley in the light of having entrapped a brother officer into making an apparent sweeping denial when in fact he denied

simply the particular wording of the New York Sun's report of the colloquy on board the Brooklyn, while affirming its substantial accuracy. Schley now stands convicted not only of a questionable naval maneuver but also of a campaign trick of a character impossible to a man of sensitive honor. The conclusion seems to be warranted, although it is drawn with regret, that there is a good deal of the cheap John faker about Winfield Scott Schley.

In calling the state convention for August 14 State Chairman Elkins has chosen a rather sultry period in the calendar.

The Peace Congress.

The reported inability of the peace congress to agree on any substantial propositions looking to the minimization of war and the amelioration of its horrors does not come as a surprise to any observer who has looked upon its deliberations with an unbiased eye. The principle of arbitration is a beautiful one and the dream of universal peace has pleased the fancy of mankind since history dawned; but when we get into the realm of realities we find the devil a very active and substantial factor to be reckoned with, and so long as he is unchained there will be wars and the rumors of wars, among nations as well as among individuals—wars of force as well as wars of cunning, bloody wars, meant to work destruction and characterized by all the carnage and no doubt an unpleasantly large proportion of the atrocities of the wars of the past. For human nature remains unchanged from age to age and only in our ideals do we grow better.

It does not follow from this that the peace congress has been in vain. The congress may not result in tangible good in the directions immediately pursued but there is a gain to civilization which is by no means inconsiderable in the mere coming together of representatives of the nations for a humane purpose. Such a concert of effort, although directly fruitless, is fruitful indirectly in the information which it spreads, in the intellectual and moral energies which it calls into focus upon practical problems and in the demonstration of the superiority of frank diplomacy over passion as a means of adjusting differences. The congress which is followed by such indirect consequences as these is of historic significance even though in the immediate purposes of its assemblage it does not achieve a tangible success.

There is one consolation about the numerous strikes now reported throughout the country. Strikes rarely occur on a falling market. They are in a certain sense sure evidence that business has begun to revive.

The Possibilities of Agriculture.

Prince Kropotkin has issued recently an intensely interesting volume, a large part of which he devotes to agricultural economics, a subject which has received little or no attention from the doctrinaires who make a special study of other departments of orthodox political economy. He calls his book "Fields, Factories and Workshops." One might assume from the peculiar political opinions of Prince Kropotkin that he would have run into socialistic, if not anarchistic, extremes in propounding the philosophy of such questions. This is not the case. He is honest in collating his facts, and rational and conservative in his conclusions. He advances innumerable statistics to sustain each argument he sets forth, and these are drawn from the writings and experience of practical agriculturists in all countries in the world.

What we are concerned with here is not the sociological features of his schemes, but with that vast amount of practical information which he has collected on what is known as "intense agriculture." Experts mean by "intense agriculture" the cultivation of the land as it is carried out in "truck gardens," bringing similar operations to bear on early potatoes, onions, cabbages and leguminous and cereal crops as the scientific gardener does on such horticultural produce as grapes and vines. In a country like this the introduction of such a system is not pressing. Nevertheless, the United States has immensely developed it. It has been a favorite theme with writers on political economy in Great Britain to contend that that country is incapable of growing on its own soil sufficient foodstuffs to support its population of thirty millions; that England is purely a manufacturing country, and that in the nature of things she cannot be anything else. This has been maintained, moreover, that this is her true economical policy, and a cheap one in the end. Kropotkin endeavors to show that this cannot remain long a possibility for England. The marvelous expansion in manufacturing industries in recent years is not confined to Germany and the United States. Industrial expansion has claimed the whole world for its sphere, and the industrial renaissance of the Continent is at hand. The conclusion our author arrives at is "that the present tendency of economical development in the world is to induce more and more every nation, or rather every region, taken in its geographical sense, to rely chiefly upon a home production of all the necessities of life. Not to reduce, I mean, the world exchange—it may still grow in bulk; but to limit it to the exchange of what really must be exchanged, and at the same time immensely increase the exchange of novelties, products of local or national art, new discoveries and inventions, knowledge and ideas." In other words, Prince Kropotkin believes that small local industries combined with agricultural will supersede the mammoth manufacturing of the present day; that decentralization will inevitably follow the intolerable industrial centralization of our own time. The day when the farm laborer shall unbend his back and stand upon his legs like a human being; when the city artisan shall learn to know and appreciate nature may come, as Kropotkin predicts. But that time seems remote.

When Kropotkin comes to hard, practical facts he is too much of a man of science not to deal with them in a scientific manner. There is still room

enough in the world to grow the food upon which the children of men may subsist, if it is only sufficiently cultivated. The huge prairie farms of the West are features of the past. They produced immense crops owing to their immense area. But the inflow of population has made this impossible much longer, and so much the better for all. Prodigious fertility is a chimera. Plant life is a physiological and not a chemical phenomenon. The plant requires moisture, heat and organic nutrition because these are necessary to the existence of the microbes which are necessary to its existence. The microbes disintegrate the plant food, just as microbes in our own system are a necessity of our organic reconstitution in the process of tissue waste. It has been demonstrated at an experimental station that with a quantity of loam (fertilizer) and the requisite heat and moisture, a crop of onions or tomatoes can be raised on an asphalt pavement. We are only at the beginning of a stupendous era in scientific agriculture. "While the people of London continue to pay," he says, "four pence (eight cents) for a lettuce imported from Paris, they have in Boston and Chicago immense greenhouses where garden vegetables are propagated all the year round by means of electric light."

Such are some of the possibilities of the agriculture of the future. The premonitions of Malthus that the possibilities of cultivation could only reach a certain point are belied by realized facts in France, Belgium, the Channel Islands and the United States. A dense urban population and the depletion of rural districts are the results of a high development of industry. Rural England has practically been depopulated, and the same process is going on in Germany and the United States. But the time may come when the process will stop, when there shall be no more world-wide markets; when the Chinaman and the Hindoo shall manufacture, may export, their own industrial arts; when the poor negro races of tropical Africa are exterminated and a reversion from a highly artificial to a natural and normal stage of the world's existence may supervene.

It is false economy to spare numbers in war. If 50,000 soldiers are not enough in the Philippines, double or treble that many should be used. The flower of our regular army is there and while the regulars are generally willing to fight 20 out of the 24 hours in each day as long as human nature will hold out, even regulars have limits to their powers of endurance and should be sufficiently re-inforced to permit of adequate rest and recuperation between fights. The way our regulars were used at Santiago is not the way that they can be used indefinitely without giving out.

Rudyard Kipling has used the proprietors of "The Philistine" for publishing some of his poems without first obtaining his consent. An exchange hints that but for the fact that Mr. Kipling has been so well advertised by infringement of copyright laws, his productions would not command one-fourth the rates that he is now receiving. This is undoubtedly true. Let the press at large ignore Kipling and his efforts and he would drop out of sight quicker than Edward Atkinson has.

As we read of the movements of the American and Filipino forces in the press reports of correspondents about Manila, the map of the Philippines in the average reader's mind of the average reader than ever.

Until the Czar of Russia stops quarreling with his mother he cannot expect to cut much of a figure in the interest of universal peace.

Germany's acquisition of Spain's remnant islands was a bargain sale in which Spain seems to have got the fat end.

Question Is One of Duty, Not Politics

From the Interview with Attorney General Griggs.

THE UNITED STATES stands bound to all other countries as the responsible sovereign of the Philippine Islands. It cannot, consistently with its international obligations or its own self-respect, assume any other attitude. Its title to the islands and to the sovereignty thereof, is regular, valid and unimpeachable. To attempt to shift international responsibilities to any ill-formed or partially formed government would be to shirk a responsibility solely assumed by this country and would subject the United States not only to ridicule, but to the just contempt of all nations.

"The theory that there can exist in any indefinite body of people the right to substitute their own will or self-constituted form of government for the regular constituted sovereignty of any particular territory, is contrary to reason and to all international practice. The rightful sovereignty of these islands at the present time is indisputably in the United States. Any insurrection against its authority in the islands is unlawful—just as unlawful as though it arose in Porto Rico—and the United States is justified in putting it down by force. The sovereignty of lands at the present time in any manner which any other nation has recognized as valid to the insurgents, but was by the treaty of Paris transferred to the United States by solemn convention, which convention was ratified by the Senate of the United States and that transfer is universally recognized by all the nations of the world."

"There is one consideration respecting the United States and the Philippine Islands that ought to be already understood by those who approve or those who disapprove the administration's course. That is the question of sovereignty, as that term is used and understood in the technical and international sense. The sovereignty of a country or territory cannot rest in more than one nation or body. It cannot, at the same time, rest in Spain and in the insurgent forces claiming to maintain a government in the same territory. It is admitted that in this international sense Spain has for more than 300 years exercised all the rights and powers of sovereignty over the Philippine islands. Spain was responsible not only for the internal control and government of the

islands, but likewise was responsible to the other nations of the earth for all matters of an international character relating to those islands or to their people.

"This does not imply, however, that the future policy of the United States toward those islands is fixed. Whatever the United States shall hereafter do by way of granting to the people either independence or local self-government will be a matter of discretion and expediency. Those who criticize or oppose the administration in its efforts to maintain the authority of the United States in the Philippines might just as well oppose its efforts to maintain law and order in Porto Rico or Alaska, or to put down insurrection occurring within those territories. The question is not one of party politics, but simply of national duty, and ought to be approached and considered by our citizens from their sense of duty to this country."

COMPLIMENT TO SCRANTON.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. The people of Scranton await only the official figures of the next decennial census taking instant steps to enlarge their form of government from that of a third-class city to that of a second-class, like Pittsburg and Allegheny. Although that will turn a population of only seventy-five thousand nine years ago, local inquiry has given birth to the conviction that more than one hundred thousand persons are now contained within its limits, and it is even claimed by the more enthusiastic residents that the next census will show almost one hundred and twenty thousand. It is probable that the latter estimate is a trifle high, but it is certain that the city has grown with a rapidity rarely witnessed in a Pennsylvania town, and the boast, indeed, is made that few cities of the booming West have exceeded the recent growth of the so-called Electric City. The departure will not be made without some opposition, but there is little reason to doubt that the progressive spirit which has dominated the Scranton people will overcome those who would resist the radical changes which the advancement will entail.

Accepting, then, the theory that the progress of Scranton has been remarkable, an inquiry into the causes which brought about that result becomes logical and interesting. Such an inquiry, indeed, will be found of considerable value to other Pennsylvania towns that are now working out the problem of municipal and industrial improvement. The natural advantages of the place were obvious. Coal was there in abundance and the hope of carrying that product inland by means of a railway to extend the lines to the city or its borders. Labor naturally followed. There is a surplus of it now, but at some time during the development of the region many hands were needed and were found. The cheapness of fuel was the potent reason for the establishing of some industries in and about Scranton, and the success of these naturally brought others. But over and above these causes, for other cities had as many natural advantages, was the enterprise of the leading men of the town in all matters pertaining to its development. The first of the anthracite people to realize that the community that existed exclusively upon one industry is handicapped in the race for wealth, they were the first to set systematically to work to secure others and to adapt that system throughout the varying years.

The result is known to the rest of the state through the portion which Scranton has assumed in the business world. With few exceptions the capitalists of the town invested such money as they could in mills and factories of various kinds, cheerfully and promptly meeting all investors who came with legitimate proposals. Each of these mills and factories became a source of energy and enterprise a body of its kind as the country probably ever saw, and since that time the advance has been constant. Scranton is no longer a mining town. It is an industrial city, with about all that the world implies, and the work of adding still more industries to its already crowded number goes as bravely on as before.

The policy there adopted is worthy of the emulation of other towns desiring to attain municipal greatness. It is not true that all of them can do as well as Scranton has done, but it is true that they all can try as that they will lose nothing by the trying.

SOME HEROES OF PEACE.

From Harper's Bazar.

It is with making a hero as it is with making a cup of tea; the water has first got to come to a boil. The job cannot be done with cold materials, be they ever so proper. At almost every hero-making some one gets hurt. Often it is the hero himself; and if the hurt is severe enough the job is spoiled, except for literary and moral purposes. Very often the hero gets off all right, and the other fellows get hurt. Sometimes, yes, often—the hero shows his quality in saving life, but he is not a hero until he has done it. It is a very common thing to read in the newspapers about the heroism of firemen, and especially about small, muscular firemen, who fetch exceedingly heavy women out of burning buildings and carry them down long ladders. No fireman minds being a hero, for he has plenty of company and is not bothered by overmuch admiration. Indeed, in every calling where the supply of danger is adequate heroes seem to abound. The New York fire department is full of heroes, tried and accredited, and it is so with the fire departments of other large cities. Police men of high courage turn up whenever an occasion offers, and occasions are not infrequent. Locomotive engineers are brave men, as a rule, very apt to run a head-on at a pinch, and to be buried two or three days later. Shipmasters usually meet expectations in a crisis, so that it is considered very scandalous when they do not. We are so used to heroism in all the ordinary callings that, though we admire it when it turns up, we are not unduly actuated by it. Heroism in war stirs our enthusiasm more thoroughly because we are less used to it, and we are less used to it, because wars are comparatively scarce, and the opportunities for American fighting men to make manifest their dispositions are rare.

HIS ART.

He cannot handle figures, He cannot shovel coal, He cannot write in numbers That stir the reader's soul, He cannot run an engine, He cannot wield a saw, He has no use for preaching Or laying down the law. He cannot paint a picture, He's not an architect, Nor is he a politician, Whose forte is to detect; In truth, he's not a sculptor, He never sculped a statue, He couldn't drive an ox team Nor fasten on a yoke. He's not a lion tamer, He cannot trim a sail; He's not a politician, Whose forte is to detect; He never broke a jail, He never earned a dollar, His father pays his debts, But oh, he is a master At rolling cigarettes. —S. E. Kiser, in Times-Herald.

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