

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JULY 11, 1899.

Maybe, in spite of yellow Journalism, the great mystery of Roosevelt's visit to McKinley is actually explained by Roosevelt's explanation.

Testimony in the High School Investigation.

We have read carefully the eighty pages of typewritten testimony covering the recent investigation of the management of the High School and it conveys no worse impression than that among the teachers examined there has been some difference of opinion as to whether the general discipline of the school has been sufficiently rigid.

Among the other charges are that Professor Phillips has done clerical work—that is, kept his own records instead of turning that work over to a subordinate—that he has not instituted periodical drills of teachers; that each teacher has been allowed to use considerable discretion in methods, being held accountable chiefly for results; and that the principal has tried rather to put the pupils on their good behavior by appealing to their honor and pride as young ladies and gentlemen instead of ruling them with a rod of iron.

To consider the dismissal of a high school principal on the meager and petty grounds here brought forth is to exhibit an utter unfairness for the office of school controller. Let this episode end.

Secretary Alger's absence from the McKinley-Roosevelt conference is noted but it is not surprising. That conference was one between men.

The Home for the Friendless.

The desperate crisis just made public concerning the affairs of the Home of the Friendless has shocked the community beyond measure and touching as it does the popular heart, it would seem that with the wealth and influence to be commanded in this city the institution which for twenty-seven years has perhaps done more work in the way of preventing crime and alleviating suffering than half the churches, should be relieved from the heavy burden under which it is struggling.

It will be remembered that the plot of ground now occupied by the institution was donated to the home by the Pennsylvania Coal company, through the kindness of the late John B. Smith. The crowded state of the old building made some change imperative, and as a new structure had to be erected, it was deemed best by all concerned to give the little children and the feeble old women the benefit of the fine air and the beautiful location of the Dunmore property.

The bank is not a bank where current accounts are kept; there is no payment of checks over the counter; no customer can enter into any confidential relations with the bank—in fact, there is no bank management in the ordinary sense of the term. For the receipt of money the bank has an office in every town and village in the Kingdom; there are now over 1,000. The withdrawal of money is a leisurely affair and must be conducted by correspondence; consequently the direct relations of the head office with the public are of the slightest character and the office can be located in a suburb as well as in the business center of London.

While the suggestion that those who annually patronize the Home excursion might send the money thus usually expended to help defray the expense of the summer, is one which should be acted upon, it is still necessary to do something more and it is now time that the encumbrances on the Home for the Friendless be cleared up once and for all. Let the people who intend leaving handsome bequests to the institution pay it in now while they are alive, to see the blessing they confer and reap the full reward of their generosity.

A faction among Kentucky Democrats are so mad at their regular party

nominee that they are threatening to nominate ex-Congressman Breckinridge as an independent. Breckinridge posing as a moral reformer would certainly look picturesque.

It was, of course, somewhat unfortunate that just while the president of the Mennon church was solemnly affirming that the Mennonites had all quit practicing polygamy one of his own ostensibly discarded "ex"-wives should have been so unthoughtful as to present to him a daughter but the incident illumines the subject of Mormonism's sincerity.

Railroads and Canals.

One of the things which impressed ex-Governor Bockwiler, of Ohio, on the occasion of his recent journey through Russia and Siberia, and a subject upon which he comments freely in his very interesting volume, "Siberia and Central Asia," is the liberality with which the Russian government has protected navigable waterways and constructed canals so as to utilize to the utmost the natural opportunities for water transportation. "Everywhere," he says, "one sees the river beds deepened by dredging, the channels widened, the banks carefully walled, and the shores suitably jetted, and every means employed to render them suitable for navigation. So thoroughly is this done that little bits of straggle only a few rods wide are by suitable ditches and other means converted into excellent channels for boats."

It is with sorrow mingled with disgust that one recalls the shameless neglect of our mighty river systems, the grandest on the globe—the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Missouri and scores of other rivers with their tributaries—and even the complete abandonment of the Wabash, the Illinois and many others that in early days were so valuable and serviceable. With the noblest river on the globe permeating with its many tributaries almost the entire region from whence our exportable agricultural surplus has been derived, and which could be carried entirely by water to the consumptive centers of Europe, we today discover the astounding situation that our country is almost exclusively dependent upon the railways to carry this great surplus to the seaboard. Were our main rivers only, to say nothing of the smaller streams that other countries would readily render serviceable, improved and utilized to anything like the degree of the Seine, Rhone, Garonne and Marne of France; the Elbe, Rhine and other streams of Germany; the Danube, the Don, the Volga and for that matter even the Obi of Siberia, no nation on the globe would possess such facilities for cheap transportation to foreign countries so that no matter what natural advantages of agriculture they might possess in Siberia, Argentina, India or elsewhere, we should be placed beyond competition in foreign markets.

There is, of course, another side to this proposition. The building up of rail in place of water transportation has carried civilization and its advantages to thousands of localities which never have been reached under a system of transportation by water; and if we have lost opportunities in foreign markets by reason of the higher cost of rail commerce we have immensely gained them in the greater development which the railroads have rendered possible in our domestic markets. Nevertheless it is a mistake to suppose that in order to have prosperous railways there must be no canals. There is business enough for both systems of transport and a time must come when there will be general and imperious insistence upon a more thorough utilization of the possibilities of internal communication by waterways, natural and artificial.

Judge Van Wyck is doubtful of the opinion that the ex-governor of Texas could appropriately drop the extra "g" in spelling his name.

A Postal Savings Bank.

The recent laying in a suburb of London of the corner-stone of a new five-acre building for the headquarters staff of the British Postal Savings bank calls attention to an institution which is often held up to Americans as the model of something needed in our own land. From an interesting letter by H. H. Chamberlin in the Sun we extract the facts set forth below.

There may be doubt as to the practical value of the Women's International congress, but in choosing an American woman for its president the congress entitles itself to the benefit of the doubt.

A Kluk-Klux Klan reunion is to be held in Georgia. This seems to be about the limit.

Col. Blair's Ride Behind Moose Power

Quebec Letter in the Sun. SOME extraordinary stories of adventure with game. New Brunswick and Maine have recently appeared in print, but none that for interest can exceed the recent experience of a party of men on Lake Edward in this province, who, having lassoed a large moose in the water, were towed ashore in their steamer by the animal, which finally gave them the slip, after an exciting contest. Lake Edward, which is twenty-two miles long and one of the most picturesque and most richly stocked trout lakes in the province of Quebec, is 112 miles from Quebec city, on the line of the Quebec and Lake St. John railway. On Tuesday, June 28, Colonel Austin Blair, a banker of Scranton, Pa., was proceeding down the lake in a motor launch, accompanied by the steamer Grace, a screw vessel, twenty-eight feet long. With him were his two fishing guides, Joseph Dechene and Dechene's brother-in-law, Loni Muir. When they had gone about four miles down the lake and almost reached the old cabin still known as Auirondeck Murray's camp, Joseph, who is half an Indian, noticed a moose swimming in the lake about a mile ahead of them. He signalled the engineer, George Grenier, to shut the steam off, and pointing the animal out to Loni Muir, he lifted his bark canoe off the steamer into the water and started out to intercept the moose. Colonel Blair's story of the adventure, as reported in Quebec by people who had it related by him, was of so remarkable a character that, having failed to find him, the writer ran up to Lake Edward and took it down from Joe Dechene's recital of the facts. The story, as reported in Quebec by Canadian French, with the usual regulations in the presence of his brother-in-law, Loni Muir, and of his employer, Bob Rowsley, the lessee of the lake. The remarkable story fully warranted the interest which has occurred as attributed in Quebec to Colonel Blair.

Joe Dechene told this story: "As the animal was apparently bent upon crossing the lake in front of the steamer, we dropped back and by a circular course contrived, unobserved, to approach it from the further side, thus getting in rear of the beast, and between it and the shore from which it had set out to cross the lake. The moose, however, dropping back and the steamer on the one hand and the canoe on the other. The latter gained rapidly on the animal, and the more fatigued it became the harder it was driven by us toward the steamer. I started the animal to come on the other side of the animal and head it off. The engineer did so, but when we closed in upon it the moose, which had hitherto paid all its attention to the steamer, charged at us in the canoes, striking with its forefeet and endeavoring to hurt itself upon us with its eyes glaring and as large as my fists. Meanwhile, I had called to George Grenier, the engineer, to throw a rope from the steamer over its head, and as he tried to tighten it there the moose promptly turned from us to attack Grenier, raising itself in the water in a most extraordinary fashion and striking out at the steam launch with its forefeet. As he gave the animal rope, the engineer made an effort to climb on the railing of his vessel, thinking that the moose was about to come aboard, and declaring that he was afraid of a beast that used his front legs so freely. I gave the canoe a turn with my paddle and jumped into the water, fearful that Grenier would let go the rope. We pulled on it together and when Loni joined us and took hold with me, the engineer put in steam again and away we went, towing the moose in the water at such a rate and with the rope so tightly around its neck that after a little while it was in danger of drowning."

"I hauled it in close to the steamer and I took hold of its big ears to keep its head from coming ashore. At times I tired of this and put one hand right under its nose to keep it out of water. In spite of this I feared that it would choke to death, and I called to the engineer to go ashore, so that we might secure it in some other manner. Loni's brother-in-law was opposed to running ashore with the animal, but I felt that we could not tow it back to the station alive, and we headed for land. As the vessel slowed a little we managed to tie its forelegs together, and almost succeeded in binding the hind legs too. As we neared the shore I saw that I had made a mistake and that the moose was more than we could control. As its feet touched the ground where the lake gradually shallowed toward the shore, nearly a quarter of a minute was required for the captive brute to reach the bank by great leaps and bounds, fifteen feet at a time. Three of us hung on to the rope that held it and pried our feet against the steamer's side, but it quickly towed us ashore, in spite of all our efforts. The engineer had tied the end of the rope to the vessel's anchor and thrown the latter overboard. Having succeeded in grounding the steamer the moose tore away from us, snapping the three-quarter-inch rope that bound its legs as if it had been twine. It leaped for the woods, but the anchor caught on a saw log that lay on the shore. This it dragged behind it, apparently with the greatest ease, until the log caught up on two balsam trees, between which it had bounded. At the log bent the trees forward, it slid up their trunk for at least three or four feet, and seeing that the animal had been brought to a standstill, three of us jumped into the water and waded ashore after it, my idea being to tie the moose securely."

"As we approached the moose, charged us furiously, three times twisting the rope around a tree as it did so. With its mouth wide open, howling with rage, it bounded toward us, its ears thrown back upon its neck like those of a biting horse, while the hair upon the back of its neck stood up like bristles several inches high. Its continued efforts to reach us very nearly strangled it, and it fell exhausted to the ground. I rushed forward and secured its forelegs with a stout rope, and was about to fasten its hind legs when it started in to kick so vigorously that I had to get out of the way of its feet but not before we had wound its twine from the tree and taken the end of it and the anchor on board the steamer. The engineer had now got up eighty pounds of steam. We decided to tow it up the lake. The boat had been got well aloft, but it was all that we could do to overcome the desperate resistance of the powerful brute and tow him again into the water. Before we could get it

Prosperity's Proofs.

From the Buffalo News. The spring reports of the national banks for this year show that they had more money lent out in April than eleven months before by \$35,000,000. That is to say, the industries of the country are so far more active this year than last that their directors are using \$35,000,000 more money borrowed from the national banks. But the national banks do only a part of the country's banking business. There are also the state banks, the great private banks, and the trust companies, whose loans for industrial uses have increased in like proportion. Without exact statistics from them it is perfectly safe to say that the merchants and manufacturers of this country, the men who pay wages and keep the wheels going round, are borrowing and using at a profit between one-half and three-quarters of a billion dollars more this year than they could find remunerative use for a year ago.

DEPENDS ON APPETITE.

From the Buffalo News. "Now, boys," said the Sunday-school teacher, "can any of you name the three great feasts of the Jews?" "Yes'm, I can," replied one little fellow. "Very well, Johnny. What are they?" "Breakfast, dinner and supper," was the unconsciously logical reply.

REXFORD'S.

SCRANTON, July 11, 1899. Boxes soiled and some of the pieces tarnished. That's why Rogers & Bro. silverware will be sold at prices one-third or one-half below regular. For instance: \$2 fish knives, \$1. \$1.75 fruit knives, 90c for 6. 90c sugar tongs, 48c. \$1.75 berry spoons, 95c. 75c butter knives, 30c. Lots more.

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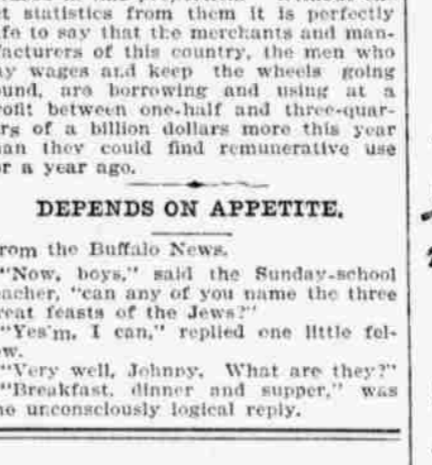
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