the Scranton Tribune

Published Dally, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

New York Office: 159 Nassau St., S. S. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

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

When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics its friends bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, JULY 12, 1899.

The report in another column of the special audit of the accounts of the American Mutual Indemnity company made recently by Mr. C. E. Bradbury, expert accountant, constitutes, it would seem, a pretty good fortification against malicious attack.

Civil Service Humbug.

Last fall a circular was sent out to the federal office-holders of New Hampshire by the Republican state committee of which Senator Gallinger was chairman which, after calling attention to the importance of the issues and the Immense amount of work to be done in the state and nation said: "Absent voters must be brought home, literature must be sent to all sections of the country, speaking must be maintained throughout the campaign, while the bills for travelling expenses of speakers, postage, telegraphing, printing, etc., will be necessarily large. No help will be received from the national or congressional committee, We must look to those who are honored by the party of this state to meet the expenses of this campaign. Knowing the interest that you feel in Republican success. I take the liberty of asking you to contribute \$---, which sum you can send by check or money order in the inclosed stamped envelope to the treasurer of the Republican State committee at Concord, N. H. Please inclose this circular with your remittance that there may be no mistake in the name.'

One of these circulars fell into the hands of a factional enemy of Senator Gallinger, who transmitted it to John R. Proctor, president of the civil service commission at Washington, and as a result that official has caused an investigation. Mr. Proctor says that under the law a federal office-holder has no right to solicit campaign contributions from other federal office-holders, the penalty for conviction of such an alleged offence being "a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or such fine and imprisonment both, in the discretion of the court."

The outcome of this investigation will be awaited with general interest. To the ordinary mind not befogged by the sophistries of the professional civil service reformers the requesting of those who hold political office as a mark of party favor to contribute out of their official incomes to the preservation of party supremacy does not assume the proportions of a crime justifying such drastic penalty as President Proctor mentions. It is conceivable that the soligitation of contributions from government employes might be carried to an unfair extreme or be characterized in exceptional cases by dishonesty; but the humbug of the attempt to make such solicitation illegal is indicated in the fact that ways of evasion are open to any campaign chairman who lacks Senator Gallinger's manly willingness to face the music over his own name.

It is well known to everybody conversant with politics that every federal office-holder from the president of the United States down is expected, if in a political place dependent for its tenure upon the result of periodical political campaigns, to make contribution to the campaign expenses of the party to which he owes his election or appointment. We cannot see that this is unfair; at all events, it is the rule in both parties, has always been and presumably always will be. That being true, why is it a crime to ask for that which it is not a crime to give?

Perhaps one cause of the extravagance is that there are not enough taxpayers on the Scranton Board of Control.

Municipal Special Laws.

(Philadelphia Press, Editorial.) One of the closing features of the State Bar association meeting at Wilkes-Barre was the defeat of a proposition to so amend the constitution of the commonwealth as to permit the legislature to enact special laws regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, boroughs and school districts. The proposition came from a special committee on constitutional prohibition of special legislation, and was severely attacked by several speakers, two of them having been members of the convention which

framed the present constitution. It is probable the proposed amendment as offered was rather too sweeping, but it had unquestioned merit in the main. It extended the utmost protection to the citizen by requiring that any proposed special legislation should be submitted to a vote of the people affected and approved by a majority of the voters before it could be passed by the legislature. This seems a much better method than the present one. If it were adopted the people of any city, borough, county, township or school district would absolutely control the acts applying to their local government. As it now is the legislature may enact general law and it must be accepted by the various municipalities, whether it fits their case or not, and no matter at what inconvenience. All the people affected might be opposed to it, but

they would have to submit. The Supreme court has decided that the cities of the state cannot be divided into more than three classes. Philadelphia is the only city of the first class; Pittsburg and Allegheny are alone in the second class, while the fourth class embraces all others from Scranton, with 75,215 inhabitants at the last census, to Corry, with 5,677, Legislation for cities of the third class must class. The embarrassment and incon- Duluth or that of Moorhead can at-

more than once. It is manifestly impossible to enact laws for a city of fit one of 5,000. Local conditions are often radically different even in cities of nearly equal size, and it can be readily understood what a gap there is between the more populous and the smaller ones. Municipal growth has been much hampered by these restric-

So far as the reports of the debate on the proposition before the Bar association show, the chief reason given for opposing it was that the constitution had been drawn by more brilliant and brainy men than the gentleman who, as chairman of the committee, had reported the proposition. This was the chief reason advanced by the three leading speakers in opposition and two brainy members of the constitutional convention of 1873. Apparently they are disposed to look back upon their work of twenty-three years ago as one of perfection. Experience has convinced that convention that the constitution has its faults, and in more than one particular. It has many excellencies, but in recognizing that fact it is not necessary to shut our eyes to its weaknesses. It was excellent in prohibiting special legislation, as it had afflicted the state in all previous time, but in doing away with evils which all wanted to get rid of it was made entirely too restrictive regarding legislation for municipalities. It is not proposed by anybody, and never again will be, to open the doors to miscellaneous special legislation, but such change as would enable municipalities to obtain proper legislation applying to their local necessities would have many advantages, and is worthy of careful consideration and intelligent discussion.

The American state department's treatment of Austria's claim for damages because of the Lattimer riot signifies, in plain words, that aliens who come to this country voluntarily and face and accept the consequences. The position is sound.

For a New National Park.

At the suggestion of John S. Cooper f Chicago, President Hill of the Great Northern railway, Governor Roossvelt H. H. Kohlsaat and other prominent lovers of nature and of sport, an effort will be made before the next congress to have steps taken for the erection in northern Minnesota of a national park or forestry reserve of about 7,000,000 acres, to include all territory around the headwaters of the Mississippi river and to be an asylum for the rapidly disappearing fish and game of the primeval northwest.

"This," says Governor Roosevelt is doing for the common people what rich men are now doing for themselves. It is an evil of our times and of this nation that rich men and rich men's clubs are buying up choice tracts of game and forest land and shutting out from them the common people." The promoters of the proposed new national park have no other object in view than to try to save the unrivalled natural beauties of this great game and fish area from destruction at the hands of careless or reckless men. The Times-Herald of Chicago thus gives the history and purpose of the movement:

"Colonel John S. Cooper, a respect ed and prominent attorney of Chicago, a man of wealth and a lover of sport, has hunted over the lake region of Minnesota for years. More than eighteen menths ago he conceived the dea that the vast wilderness of the state north of Brainerd might well be converted into a natioanl park or forestry reserve. He was influenced by two motives in revolving the project in his mind-first, the duty of the national government to take such action as should forever make the headwaters of the Mississippi common property: second, the preservation for historical, educational, sport and pleasure purposes of a region which otherwise, left alone, is doomed in a short period of time to become a vast, barren waste, denuded of timber, crossed by dry water ways, unfit for agriculture, and the home of the timber fire. Colonel Cooper gave his opinion on the subject to prominent Minnesotians, and later to citizens of Illinois and other states. He found so many enthusiastic over the project that he finally took the embryonic plan to President Hill of the Great Northern railway, and gave him all the details. The result has been that matters have progressed so far that a national organization is a certainty.

"The plan of reservation as now formulated does not precise & fix the boundaries of the proposed park. That must eventually be done by congress. But as a feeler of public sentiment on the subject it is proposed that the reservation shall take in the better portion of the counties of Cass, Hubbard, Beltrami and Itasca, and the source of the Mississippi river. The size of the tract would be practically about 140 by 125 miles. In the entire region there are more than 4,000 lakes. The tract does not include the White Earth Indian reservation, but it does include six large and small Indian reservations, whose territory is already under the control of the national government. Within the section is the state park of Minnesota, which surrounds the headwaters of the Miss-Issippi. Of the whole amount of land in the region the government owns 3,000,000 acres already, the Indians what it pleases under the guise of a have 3,600,000 acres, and there are about 1,000,000 acres of merchantable pine

controlled by lumber interests. "The physical beauties of the region it is almost impossible to describe. The interminable chain of lakes, of little and great rivers, the standing timber, the constant succession of wierd and entrancing views, the dryness of the air, the abundance of game, the easy accessibility from civilized points, form a combination of circumstances naturally selecting this spot for a forest reserve such as it is almost impossible to find elsewhere in the middle state country. The few who have gone through the region either apply to all the municipalities in that by the gateway of St. Paul or that of

venience of this has been demonstrated | tempt to describe Kabekona Bay, the Little Boy country, the Schoolcraft, Frontenac, Bemidil, Winnibgoshish, nearly 100,000 population which would the Bow String or the Vermillion, but that is all. Northern Minnesota east of the Red River Valley and south from the Canadian border is an unknown land of beauty, fit in reality only for some such project as a forestry reserve or a national park for the preservation of the source of the Mississippi and the waters of the true lake region. The sportsman who hunts or fishes for the finding and eating of the thing and not the slaughter would find there, under goveroment military and police protection. woodcock, ployer, prairie chicken, wild geese, quail, pheasant, wild ducks, grouse and snipe. There the elk, moose, caribou, deer and bear are to be found. In the fish there are muskof them were among the brilliant and alonge, great northern pike, black bass, wall-eyed pike, pickerel, lake trout, whitefish, silver bass, croppies, rock bass and perch. These need only governmental protection, supplemented by the game laws of the state of Minother brilliant and brainy members of nesota, to multiply faster than a season's sportsmen can thin their ranks. The Yellowstone, the Grand Canon, Battlement Mesa, the Pecos, the Cascade Range are reservations only accessible to the wealthy. The proposed Minnesota reserve would be open to any man of moderate means who desired to travel to nature's home at least once a year."

The merc statement of these plans and intentions is sufficient to commend them to public favor. By all means let the project be urged.

present is an age of falsehood. "Thousands of men," says he, "will not tell in packages, sent out in barrels and acts are common. The whole commercial world is honeycombed with untruthfulness, and the inordinate love of money which has taken hold of our reverend gentleman been getting his views of life from the pages of the blackmailing Scrantonian?

Against Captain Watkins' one mistake, which lost the Paris, public opinon should weigh the 48 years of faithful and efficient service which is to his credit as a seaman and navigator, during which he made over 500 trips across the Atlantic without a mishap: and then let the man without mistakes east the first stone,

Ex-Consul Waller's plan to have the United States appropriate \$20,000,000 for with wealth and brains, the Republican the purpose of removing the American party, but with no good will toward the negro to Cuba, to be successful will require the assent, first of the negro himself, then of the Cubans and lastly of the others concerned. In other words it is not likely to materialize.

refusal to arbitrate her differences with Paul Kruger throw doubt on the sincerity of her representations at The Hague. Arbitration does not fit a case like Kruger's. What he needs is the educational influences of a club. Philadalphia Yadger

accuses President McKinley of pursuing toward the Philippines a "halfhearted policy intended for political effeet." We don't know which is the worse in war, an open foe or a skulking supporter. The writer of "The Picture That Is

The writer of "The Picture That Is for a quarter of a century. The Re-Turned Toward the Wall," who died publican party enacted a homestead law, penniless, made about \$500 from the composition while the publishers received \$25,000. This is a picture of injustice that should also be turned to the wall. It is now understood that President

which will make campaigning difficult for the British. That may postpone but it will not modify his finish. These are tremulous times for men of prominence in Pennsylvania. The prospect of having one's portrait appear in the Philadelphia newspapers is

Kruger is also delaying operations un-

til the arrival of the rainy season,

enough to drive the ordinary man into Some of Aguinaldo's assistants who draw pay as United States senators are not feeling altogether comfortable these days but they have no one to blame

A brave man does not stand much chance of becoming a hero these days unless he has a well organized press bureau.

but themselves.

THOROUGHLY WELCOME.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch. Theodore Hallam, a Kentucky attorney, is generally reputed to possess about the nimblest wit in that bluegrass commonwealth. A story of his repartee at the expense of the inte "Deacon" Rich-ard Smith, the widely known editor of the old Cincinnati Gazette, runs thus: Smith was chatting in the cafe of the St. Nicholas with a friend about political affairs. It so happened that just then the police superintendents of Covington, Ky,, and Cincinnati were having a row over a fugitive, which ended in the charge that the Covington officials were affording "protection" to criminals. As Hallam entered the cafe "Deacon" Smith

"Hello, Theodore, I see by the papers that you're accused of harboring thieves over in your town."
"Yes, Mr. Smith," Hallam drawled, 'come over.'

SHE SHOPS.

She shops! She does not mean to buy, For funds are low and prices high, So many people wonder why She shops!

She shops! She keeps herself apprised Of all the bargains advertised, And with a gusto undisguised-She shops!

She shops!

The tired assistant sighs. For long experience makes him wise, He knows wherein her weakness lies-She shops!

She hurries to and fro, And when the sun is setting low. A thousand captured samples show She shops! -Pearson's Weekly.

Colonel McClure's Opinion of Trusts

From the Philadelphia Times. HE politicians are prepraring for an lesue against trusts in the next

national contest. Trust are un-popular, and in some instances have been severely oppressive and merited popular reprobation; but the con-centration of capital and business energy that has now become practically uni versal throughout this country is not, as rule, the organization of despotic trusts to force extortionate prices upon consumers, but it is the concentration of capital and labor that is compelled by existing conditions to attain cheap-ness of product as the one supreme necessity of the nation. This policy has not been formulated by any political party nor is it the growth of statesmanthip. It is entirely and absolutely the reation of business necessities, and ese new conditions are upon us because this country is compelled to rival the nations of the world in cheapness of product, to command the markets of ev-ery clime for the now rapidly increasing urplus creations of our industry.

Foreign countries have attained cheap-

ness of product by a reduction in the wages of labor. That is an impossible colley in the United States. The concentration of capital and energy to assure the cheapest products for consumers at home and abroad, has been attended here by allberal increase of wages to American workmen, and our superior skill is toworkmen, and our superior skill is to-day equal to the necessity of producing articles for the markets of the world cheaper than they can be sold by for-elgn competitors even with just wages paid to American labor. In our present business conditions our surplus of pro-ducts must be largely increased, and un-less we can reach the markets of the less we can reach the markets of the world fearful revulsion and disaster must inevitably follow, resulting in the de-According to Eishop Morrison, the struction of the income of capital and starvation wages and largely increased idleness among workingmen. The suands of men," says he, "will not tell preme business necessity of this country the truth unless they know they can today is cheapness of product, and that make something by it. Lies are put up is ostensibly what the general centraliza-in packages, sent out in barrels and tion of capital and energy means. Of course, the greed of capital will seek to hung up on hooks. Men are justifying profit in some instances by extertionate themselves with the fact that their prices to consumers, but that can be done only where high tariff duties probination of capital, with free competition at home and abroad, could not result in extortionate prices. The logical result, then undertake to defy our laws must | people is at the bottom of it." Has the | therefore, of this centralization must be enlargement of products, enlargement of employment and cheapness in the necessaries of life consumed by labor,

> These are the new conditions which confront us. They can be changed only by overthrowing the whole business structure of the nation, and that would can anarchy.

A PARTY OR THE PEOPLE.

From the Globe-Democrat.

A beautiful illustration of the muddiness of mind which characterizes the average demagogue of today is furnished father has not made a half dozen by an agitator named Lawrence Gronspecches in his life. lund. "In this country," says Gron-lund, "we have on the one side a party masses. On the other side we have the Democratic party, which has absolutely no brains, but which has good will toward the masses.' Gronlund's characterization of the Democracy is a little more favorable to that party than the judgments usually passed upon it. The Democracy has often been stigmatized According to Paris advices, England's

all its wealth and brains, has "no good will toward the masses," has a comical will toward the masses." has a comical sound. Good will toward the masses—the defense of the people against the slave oligarchy of the Democratic party who wanted to sure their system of the captain in ondage through the territories and reluce the workingmen of the North, as they already had those of the South, to the condition of serfs-was the cardinal principle on which the Republican party was founded. The Republican party of course, had to overthrow the Demcratic party, and to keep it overthrown which the Democracy always opposed, upon what to say. "Say anything except and which a Democratic president vetoed the truth," was the reply. "It's custowhen passed at one time by Republican | mary." votes That act, which a Republican congress passed, and which a Republican president signed, has provided free omes for millions of persons in the past third of a century. It has materially Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian line. In

aided in peopling every state from the arrival of a quorum.

Alleghenies to the Pacific, and from the still has his little joke. he entire hundred years of the Democracy's career that party never gave any aid to the people which will bear an in-stant's comparison with the splendid service which the Republican party ren-dered to human freedom and civilization n each of those magnificent achieve-

wearing them and works in them. Locomotive works, of Philadelphia, who accompanied her husband across the great Siberian waste and steppes, over uncompleted Trans-Siberian railway

COMMON SENSE.

From the Washington Post.

We do not know that any American newspaper has, in so many words, urged evacuation of the Philippines. It is and by wagon and tarantass from Petersburg to Vladivostock. The journey o 9.877 versts was accomplished in forty foubtful if there is one that would deem it expedient to thus outrage Amer-ican sentiment. There is no American two days. newspaper that is so stolidly stupid as to be ignorant or forgetful of the duties and responsibilities we have incurred in those islands. To leave them in chaos, to leave foreigners and friendly natives to the mercy of assassins, would be a crime against universal humanity, would sink us almost beneath the contempt of every decent member of the family of nations, and, worse than all, that would make us wish the days were ten times onger in order to give us time to sufficiently despise ourselves. Since, then the only alternative to the suppression of disorder in the Philippines is impossible; since we are bound to go on, and therefore cannot turn back, is it not a patriotic duty to put the best face of the situation? Is it wise, is it expedient to magnify the ills and minimize the better aspects of the case? We are not now discussing what may or should be done when our present task is finished. Our future relations with the Filipines may be left for decision by the American people through their agents in congress, but the present duty is one as to which there ought to be no dissensions among us. Is it not, therefore, incumbent on a patriotic press and on all good citizens to stand by the government until our army in the Philippines no longer faces an enemy? Are not those who dare not suggest a retreat, who have not the courage of their convictions, and, therefore, shrink from the ordeal of unmitigated contempt, bound by an obligation incident to citi-zenship to cease their artificial contributions to the natural difficulties of the na tion's task?

FIRST NIGHT IN A "SLEEPER."

From the Topeka State oJurnal. A traveller from the short grass coun

A traveler from the ghore grass country boarded No. 1 at Dodge City a few nights ago. He were long, white whiskers and a wide-brimmed white felt hat, and he stood six feet six.

His boots were neatly blacked, and he had on a new suit of clothes. It was apparent that he was not at home in his new toggery. He was going to Califor-nia, he explained, to visit his oldest son, who was a presperous fruit raiser on the coast. He had engaged a berth in the Pullman, and he saked the conductor where it was.

"Right here, sir," said the conductor as re pointed out the section.
"Do you sleep in it that way, all

curled up on a seat?" he asked in amaze-

"No, it will be made up when you are ready to retire."
The man did not exactly know what "made up" meant, but he agked no more questions. He sat in the mawing room and smoked, and finally he said to the

onductor:
"Well, guess I'll turn in. "All right, siz; your berth is made up."
The man walked into the main part of the car. Then he went back to the drawing room. "They all look alike," he said; "you

will have to show me mine." The conductor showed him to his berth and left him. The man looked at it; then he went back to the rear platform and closed the door. In a few minutes he stuck his head in the car and shout-

'Look out; I'm coming," and he made a run for his berth with his clothes, or most of them, under his arm. In the morning he stuck his head out between the curtains and called the conductor. "How in thunder am I going to get out on the platform to dress with all these people looking?"

The conductor explained to him that he would have to dress in the berth. did so, but it took him two hours.

A FABLE FOR ART CRITICS.

By Ambrose Blerce.

While bathing, Antinous was seen by Minerva, who was so enamored of his beauty that, all armed as she happened to be, she descended from Olympus to woo him; but unluckily displaying her shield, with the head of Medusa on it, she had the unhappiness to see the beau-tiful mortal turn to stone from catching a glimpse of it. She straightway as-cended to ask Jove to restore him; but before this could be done a Scuiptor and a Critic passed that way and espled him.
"This is a very bad Apollo," said the

sculptor; "the chest is too narrow, and one arm is at least a half inch shorter than the other. The attitude is unnat-ural, and I may say impossible. Ah! my friend, you should see my statue of An-

"In my judgment the figure," said the Critic, 'Is tolerably good, though rather Etrurian, but the expression of the face is decidedly Tuscan, and therefore false to nature. By the way, have you read my work on 'The Fallaciousness of the Aspectual in Art?' "

HIS REFERENCE.

From the Fliegende Blatter. Chief (to commercial traveler seeking a place)-Do you know how to talk up goods to customers? Applicant-Allow me to turn on this ograph with a conversation between a customer and myself.

AT HOME ANYWHERE.

From the Topeka Capital. Roogevelt is one man who can go over the entire United States without one landing in "the enemy's country."

PERSONALITIES.

Miss Helen Gould is a during horse woman and immensely fond of riding, exercise in which she indulges regularly

One of Governor Rocsevelt's admirer has presented him with a rare old Damascus blade supposed to be that carried by Abram S. Hewitt, the millionaire, says

that he has never sought to acuqire wealth, and that today nearly every doi. as the "organized ignorance and vice of lar he owns is invested in his business, the country." It has good will, but no sense, according to Gronlund. It means college education a great help to an au Anthony Hope, though he considers a college education a great help to an au-thor, does not regard it as a necessity, well, but doesn't know. Gronland's as-sertion that the Republican party, with even to a writer of only average ability When Captair Coghlan, commander of

the town square. Prince Henry, of Prussia, brother of the kaiser, became so delighted with the Chinese language during his visit to the flowery land that he has taken up the study of the tongue, and thinks it susecomplished its object, but in doing this perior to any other, ancient or modern. A congressman tells the story that, be ing selected to deliver a culogy on a de The Re. | ceased colleague whom he had not known he consulted Mr. Reed, the the speaker, upon what to say. "Say anything except

> Senators Hanna, Lodge, Wolcott, Hoar, Jones and Spooner turned up at the United States embassy, in London, the other day, whereupon Ambassador Choate asked them to be reated and await the arrival of a quorum. The ambassador

Mark Twain has an intense dislike for clothes. "If I could," he said recently, 'I'd live in pajamas," He does wear them o breakfast, receives his friends while favorite mode of writing is to lie flat on his stomach with a pipe in his mouth A journey hitherto unequaled by an American woman is said to have been made by Mrs. M. M. Stevens, wife of the manager in Russian Asia of the Baidwin

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