

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from 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 26, 1899.

One of the lessons which must be learned in this country is that the right of the striker to strike is not superior to the right of the worker who does not care to strike to be protected while earning his living by work.

Fair Play for Alger's Successor.

The American people have had their protest against unacceptable features in the war department and it has been honored in General Alger's resignation. They owe it now to General Alger's successor to withhold judgment until he shall have had a fair chance.

Suggestions which are appearing from day to day in newspapers unfriendly to the administration, to the effect that Mr. Root will in military matters be at the mercy of Adjutant General Corbin, that he will continue the Alger policy of ignoring the major general commanding, that he will do this thing or be prevented from doing that thing; in short, that he will be a servant not a master in the detailed work within his sphere merit nothing but contempt. They aim to prejudice his case.

Unless biography and the testimony of friends are both grossly at fault, Elihu Root as secretary of war will do his own thinking and his own bossing. It will be time to believe otherwise when he shall have demonstrated otherwise. Just now, we repeat, he is entitled to suspended criticism and unclouded fair play.

The kindly comments of the majority of representatives of the pulpit upon the late Robert G. Ingersoll indicate that Christian charity is not so rare as some might suppose.

A Game Well Worth the Candle.

The activity now observable throughout American ship-building yards is said by experts to be simply a sample of what would follow the enactment by congress of a shipping bill to protect vessel owners flying the American flag against the competitive cheaper wages and consequently lower freights of foreign lines. The reason why our ocean shipping interests are comparatively so small is clearly explained by William E. Curtis in a letter to the Chicago Record, in which he says: "Steamers can be operated under a foreign flag at a cost of 30 per cent less than under the United States flag. The same difference appears in the cost of construction, because of the difference in the price of labor. About three-fifths of the cost of a ship is in wages to workmen, and the wages paid in the shipyards on this side of the Atlantic are one-half higher than in England, and as much as 75 and 80 per cent higher than those paid in the continental shipyards of Europe. For example, Mr. Griscom, president of the American Steamship company, testified before a congressional committee last winter that the steamships St. Louis and St. Paul, which cost \$3,100,000 on the Delaware, could have been built in England for \$2,000,000. William P. Clyde, president of the Clyde line, gave a more detailed statement. He said that the steamship Masconoco, of 4,200 tons burden, 370 feet long and 45 feet wide, with a speed of two knots, was built in England for \$217,000. At the same time bids were invited from American shipbuilders. The lowest was \$325,000, and the highest was \$350,000.

"The cost of maintaining an American ship is 20 per cent greater than an English ship, chiefly because of the wages of the officers and seamen and the better quarters and the better food required by the Seaman's union. These conditions have filled our ships with foreign sailors. For example, on the steamer Finance, of the Panama railroad line, there are sixty-two men, all told, forty-seven of them being seamen. Thirteen are natives of the United States. Four are naturalized citizens. Eight are citizens of Ireland, three each of Germany, England, Scotland and Norway, two each of Finland and Sweden, four of Austria, one of Greece and one of Jamaica. These foreigners are attracted to American ships by the increased wages. The pay of ordinary seamen on this ship is \$25 a month, coal-bassers \$30 and firemen \$40. On an English ship of the same tonnage the same men would receive for the same duties \$12.50, \$17.50 and \$22, respectively. On a Norwegian ship they would receive about half as much. The captain of an American ship of this tonnage gets a salary of \$3,500 a year. An English captain would get about \$1,000 a year and a Norwegian about \$25 a month. A Norwegian sailor who makes \$8 to \$10 a month considers himself well paid.

"A calculation was made some time ago from the actual facts, which showed that the cost of carrying a ton of freight from New York to Rio de Janeiro in an American ship was \$7.50, in an English ship \$6, in a Norwegian ship \$4.15. That is the reason why the American line to Brazil is with- drawn and the business for that reason the Pennsylvania railroad company operates the Red Star line under the Belgian flag, although 85 per cent of the stock is held in this country. For that reason money has found more profitable investment in the United States and has left the carrying trade to the English and Norwegians.

"The immediate remedy for this reluctance of American capital to go into the ocean carrying trade is for congress to increase the inducements. The total amount of all the subsidies paid last year by the United States and the cost of carrying the foreign mail by American ships amounted to \$1,255,452, while, according to the report of the

commissioner of navigation, France paid \$6,885,218. Great Britain \$5,274,277, Japan \$5,786,000, Italy \$1,941,477, Spain \$1,904,963, Germany \$1,835,855, Austria \$1,425,649 and Russia \$1,211,000. Next year Germany more than doubles her subsidies and pays the North German Lloyd company \$1,320,420 for its service on the Pacific alone. The French government pays \$2,406,570 for its Pacific line service and the British government \$1,893,500. The result of the foregoing conditions is, as Mr. Curtis points out, that last year only 9.3 per cent of our foreign trade was carried in American bottoms. The total volume of our exports and imports was \$1,847,531,384. Of this only \$161,325,617 was carried in our own ships, and it is estimated that we paid at least \$200,000,000 to foreign shipowners for carrying the remainder, which amounted to something like \$1,706,000,000.

"It is," says Mr. Curtis, "claimed by the advocates of the Payne shipping bill, now pending in congress, that its provisions will place American shipowners on an equality with those of other nations by making up to them from the treasury of the government the difference in the cost of the wages they pay to their seamen and other expenses of maintenance. The bill provides that American ships shall receive a bounty of 1 1/2 cents per gross ton per 100 miles for the first 1,500 miles, both outward and return voyages, and 1 cent per gross ton for any distance over 1,500 miles. It is estimated that the total expenditure for this under the act for the first year will be \$2,096,257, or an increase of about \$500,000 from the present cost of our foreign mails. Ten years hence it is estimated that the cost will be \$3,750,000 a year, by the probable increase of our merchant marine fleet to 800,000 gross sail and 450,000 tons steam." The game is worth the candle.

The cause which has to be backed up with dynamite is confessedly in a bad way.

The Country's Sober Judgment.

(Editorial in Philadelphia Press.) The attempt to array public opinion against the military management of the campaign in Luzon has failed. Secretary Root will enter on the active control of the war department and on official responsibility for operations soon to commence with a public conviction that the opening attack, after the rainy season is over, will be decisive. The criticism and fault-finding of a month past is ebbing. As the facts have become known the basis for this criticism has vanished. The administration, it was declared, has sent too few troops. A year ago when General Miles was advising 5,000 troops and General Merritt twice this number, nearly 18,000 troops were sent, or almost twice the number demanded by its military advisers. When last February the Tagal attack precipitated a war which every effort had been made to avoid by the offer of complete autonomy to Aguinaldo and his government, the administration has been charged with providing too few troops. It was a month to a day after this attack before congress passed the law providing for an army to be organized after peace was declared, an army for which the president had asked in December.

With peace the war army was dissolved, though the volunteer regiments in Luzon heroically continued a service not required by the terms of their enlistment and made necessary by congressional delay. The peace army had to be reorganized on the basis of a regular army only 27,400 strong. This army has been, since last March, expanded at the rate of 2,000 men a week. By July General Otis had 23,000; by the middle of next month he will have 30,000, and by October 40,000. Criticism that troops were not being provided fast enough has stopped in the face of these figures. A government which begins in March with only 27,400 under a permanent enlistment, every other man being free to leave, and which by September has in the Philippines 40,000 men, an adequate garrison in Cuba and Porto Rico, and sufficient troops for home purposes, or 75,000 in all, has shown no slack hand, and the country sees it and admits it.

Lastly, comes the use of these troops in Luzon. The American troops have held Manila, a city of 175,000 inhabitants, confidently expected to rise; they have cleared and held an area of from 600 to 1,000 square miles; they have broken every large organized force opposed to them in an army with 70,000 on its rolls; they have carried every important capital and depot of supplies, and by continuing operations in the field through half the rainy season, until the monsoon broke in July with double the usual rainfall, they have deprived the Tagals of the customary period in which tropic troops retreat while temperate troops leave the field. Our Indian wars were never over until we took the field in winter. General Otis has followed the precedent in pushing on through the rainy season. It has cost some illness, though the proportion is far less than in most of our European expeditions; but in the end this vigor will save more life than it loses. It is confidently predicted that the result of this policy will grow plain as events unfold in the Philippines.

"Nor is this all that has been done. Hilo has been occupied and resistance has ceased on Panay. In Negros the coast is occupied and there remain only such bands of doctos as Captain Byrne has broken up by his courageous assault, delivered four to one. This action, small as are the number, is a fair illustration of the work before our troops. The peaceful peasantry asked only to till their fertile and thickly settled fields. A Spanish renegade or half-breed had gathered in the hills a band of 500 or 600 drawn from a savage tribe which was plundering the plains. The misery, the cruelty and the barbarous oppression and plunder which follow this condition of affairs no man can conceive who does not know Oriental life and has not seen something of it. Our troops have wiped out the plundering horde and the palm-thatched village of the peasant is safe from the doctos' torch and his women from outrage. The flag protects him and his as well as the land that sent it.

It is this task and works like it for peace and civilization which we have

before us and which England has discharged more than once. It was not sought by us, but it has come, and it is the sober judgment of the country both that it must be done and that it has been performed thus far with such vigor as the conditions and the delay of congress permitted.

Ex-Secretary Hoke Smith is of the opinion that "sentiment all over the south is overwhelmingly against the retention of the Philippines." According to Mr. Smith's view of the situation there may be some excuse for such a statement, but the voice of the press and people in the South heard at long range indicates that the sentiment referred to overwhelms in spots only, and very small ones at that.

It is a matter for congratulation that the yellow journals are already expressing dissatisfaction at the appointment of Elihu Root as secretary of war. If this selection had been agreeable to the saffron malcontents, the public would have had sufficient cause to feel uneasy.

The demand of the Spanish military prosecutor that Generals Toral and Jaudenes be imprisoned for life, the one for surrendering Santiago and the other for yielding Manila, to be complete, should call for the decapitation of Shafer and Merritt. They were the real culprits.

The boasted sanctity of states rights ought not to permit a morally down-at-the-heel commonwealth like Louisiana to be continually indulging in lynching frolics which the Federal government has to apologize and pay for.

Even in London the impression evidently prevails that Sir Charles Tupper, in his grandiose threats against the United States, is talking to the galleries, and not delivering much of an oration at that.

The more the returns are studied, the greater appears ex-Governor Hastings' victory at the Center county primaries, and nobody should begrudge him this flattering home testimonial.

There is no household howsoever defend- ed. But one microbe is there; No pantry shelf however watched and tended. But germs are in the fare.

Traps may be set, but not for the bacillus. We feel his presence dread In everything he lurks to kill us In dainty loaves of bread.

The air is full, they say, of mists and vapors. And other direful things, Amid which the bacillus cuts his capers. And dread contagion flings.

We're told he lives in liquor alcoholic, Ten years quiescent lies, Then wakes to give us fever, grip or colic. Assuring our demise.

In years to come, when we again behold Him, He will not be a germ; Some scientific chap will have enrolled him By some quite novel term.

But by his deeds mankind must always And know him As the most deadly foe, And seek for ways to pay the debt they owe him And give the world a show.

Some time the hour will come to circumvent him— Some poison will be mixed, Or some still smaller atom will be sent him— Thus will his fate be fixed.

A Child's Plea. I think the world is really sad, I can do nothing but cry; For little boys are all born bad, And I am born a little boy.

It doesn't matter what's the game, Whether it's Indians, trains or ball, I always know I am to blame If I am busy myself at all.

I said one day on mother's knee, "If you would send us right away To foreign lands across the sea, You wouldn't see us every day.

"We shouldn't worry any more In those strange lands with queer new men; But here we stamp, and play, and roar, And wear your life out with our noise.

"The savages would never mind, And you'd be glad to have us go There, nobody would be unkind, For you dislike your children so.

Then mother turned, and looked quite red, I do not think she could have heard; She put me off her knee intending Of answering me a single word.

She went, and did not even nod, What had said that could annoy? Mothers are really very odd, If you are born a little boy.

Scene I fold my hands and wait, Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea; I rave no more 'gainst time or fate, For, lo! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays, For what avails this eager pace; I stand amid the eternal ways, And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day, The friends I seek are seeking me; No wind can drive my bark astray, Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone? I wait for joy the coming year; My heart shall reap where it has sown, And garner up its fruit of tears.

The waters know their own and draw The brook that springs in yonder heights; So flows the good with equal law Unto the soul of pure delights.

The stars come nightly to the sky, The tidal wave unto the sea; Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high, Can keep my own away from me.

I am glad to think I am not bound to make the world go round; But only to discover and to do With cheerful heart the work that God appoints.

I will trust Him, That He can hold His own; and I will take His will above the work He sendeth me, To be my chiefest good.

Health. If lectures about wealth you scan, His golden thought you'll see; "It's dangerous for the other man, But very good for me."

LAUGHS. Settling an Old Score. Young Wife—Am going to make a nice steak and kidney pudding for supper tonight.

Young Husband—(with recollections of the last one)—Ahem! I did intend to bring a friend home tonight.

Young Wife—Well, so much the better. The more the merrier; he will fetch him along. He served me a mean trick himself once.—Tit-Bits.

Little Jack's Home Thrust. "I am out of all patience with you, Jack. I should just like to know why George Jones is always at the head of his class, while you are always at the foot?" Jack hesitated for a moment, and then, looking his mother squarely in the face, he said, innocently: "You forget that Jones has very clever parents."—Tit-Bits.

Like Father's. Freddy (aged 10) was seated in a barber's chair. "Well, my little man," said the barber, "how would you like to have your hair cut?" "Like father's, with a round hole at the top."—Tit-Bits.

Cyclopic faith. "Faith," said the man in clerical garb, "will move mountains."

"Great mackerel!" exclaimed the Kansas man. "It's worse than cyclopes, isn't it?"—Chicago Evening Post.

M. D. Tommy Waag—Pa, what does "M. D." after a doctor's name mean? Mr. Waag—Perhaps it refers to his patients, my boy, and stands for "many dead."—Fun.

Left His Name. Lady—A gentleman called, you say? Did he leave any name? Parlor Maid—Oh, yes'm. He said it was Immaterial.—Boston Traveller.

Defined. "What is a snob, Uncle Christopher?" "A snob is a nobody who spends time and money trying to make people think he is somebody."—Chicago Record.

VERSES GRAVE AND GRAY. Multum in Parvo. There is no household howsoever defend- ed. But one microbe is there; No pantry shelf however watched and tended. But germs are in the fare.

Traps may be set, but not for the bacillus. We feel his presence dread In everything he lurks to kill us In dainty loaves of bread.

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We're told he lives in liquor alcoholic, Ten years quiescent lies, Then wakes to give us fever, grip or colic. Assuring our demise.

NUGGETS OF KNOWLEDGE.

American woolen mills employ 38,100 women.

John Bull uses 1,700,000,000 matches annually.

It is said that some of the sheep farms in Australia are as large as the whole of England.

It is estimated that about 40,000 acres of land in the United States are planted with vines.

There has been a considerable increase in the weight of iron moulins all over the United States. In general, the increase has reached 10 per cent.

State pencils are made in Tennessee from slate dust and other ingredients compressed by heat and pressure. One concern made 5,000,000 in a year.

Belgium exports 2,200,000 dressed rabbits yearly to England. They weigh from six to eight pounds apiece and the rabbit crop sells for \$1,150,000 on the average.

For the past few days Denver and, in fact, the entire West, has been suffering from a potato famine. As high as two cents per pound has been paid on the market for new potatoes.

A German officer has invented a lamp for use in war time, which can be carried in a soldier's knapsack without adding much to the weight. It is supplied with acetylene gas, and is destined for use on the battlefield to assist in the search for wounded.

The railroads of Australia have never discovered that it is possible to take up tickets on the trains, hence the passengers are locked in the cars, to prevent any of them stealing a ride, and when they arrive at their station are hustled out through a turnstile and held up for their tickets. There are no retiring facilities provided for men or women passengers, although the carriages frequently run hundreds of miles. There is no drinking water on any of the trains, the only refreshments of this kind being at way stations, where the thirsty passengers have to fight their way to canvas bags which are hung up in the shade.

PERSONALITIES. The Earl of Dudley holds a single life insurance policy of \$8,000,000.

The Shah of Persia smokes a pipe when he holds half a pound of tobacco.

King George, of Greece, receives the smallest salary of any European sovereign—\$20,000 a year.

General P. M. Anderson, commander of the Department of the Lakes, is one of the best amateur oarsmen in the army.

The North China Herald insists Li Hung Chang is the richest man in the world, estimating his wealth at \$30,000,000.

M. Zola will visit Scotland in October. He is to be the guest of a Scotch country baronet, and will probably study the slum problem in Glasgow.

John D. Rockefeller recently declared that many men missed their chance for making a fortune by thinking too much about their neighbors' wealth.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox announces that she will give \$5,000 for any proof that she did not write "Lullaby and the World Laughs With You."

John Clark, who died in Indianapolis the other day at the age of 91, came to the site of that city with his parents in 1829. They had been trying through trackless forests, blazing their way as they went.

Joseph Jefferson studied medicine early in life and was intended for a physician. He attributed his good health to strictly keeping the rules which he laid down for himself while an enthusiastic medical student.

Joseph Jefferson says that in his young days he was played in the Southwest and was bothered by a disreputable double. One night he as Richard III was wooing the Lady Anne, a cowboy in the pit spring to his feet and cried: "Don't you believe him, marm. He's got two wives in San Antonio!"

Booker T. Washington and Mrs. Washington, who are now in London, will sail for home today. Mr. Washington has made several addresses while abroad, including one made before the American University Club in Paris. He also addressed a meeting in London over which Ambassador Choate presided.

Herbert Spencer is now living in strict seclusion at Brighton, the state of his health being such that his replies are limited to letters of immediate personal concern. A friend inquiring as to the health of Mr. Spencer had the pleasure to receive the following reply: "Thanks for your inquiry. I am about up to par, and not without hope of rising above it presently.—H. S."

An amusing story comes from Christiania, where there has recently been a congress of journalists who invited Bjornson to dinner. The veteran dramatist evidently does not love the press, for he replied: "It is not my habit to go 200 kilometres for a dinner, especially when I should have to take it in company of persons who annoy me during the entire year."

Professor Nordenfalk, the famous Arctic explorer, just lost the whole of his fortune. He was on intimate terms with the heads of the great Stockholm publishing firm of Messrs. F. & G. Baker, which was allied with liabilities stated at \$1,250,000. Unfortunately, Nordenfalk is deeply involved in the speculations carried on by the firm. Some time since he had to sell the whole of his valuable geographical library, and now it is stated that all his life's savings, amounting to \$300,000, have gone in the crash.

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