

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 28, 1899.

The New York board of health has taken steps to prevent the soft coal nuisance in that city. If there is any ground the Scranton board should follow suit.

The Supreme Test.

The removal of General de Negrier from the French council of war in punishment for his action in exhorting the French army to resist the efforts of the civil authorities to "humiliate" it brings the whole political situation in the French republic to a focus.

General de Negrier, it is stated, has been a first class soldier, in rank only one chief removed from the position of chief general. It is also said that he was not implicated in any degree in the Dreyfus affair.

Through that exciting episode, we are told, he remained scrupulously non-committal in opinion on Dreyfus' innocence or guilt, contenting himself with saying that the affair was purely a judicial matter.

His removal, therefore, it must be assumed, was strictly a matter of discipline, but one which cuts to the heart of the Dreyfus agitation and all the allied agitations in that it raises the direct issue whether the army exists for the republic or the republic for the army.

Americans find it difficult to comprehend the Dreyfus episode because it is almost impossible for them to conceive of a condition of public opinion in a republic which seriously and with passion contends that the army is above the government; that the government owes its first loyalty to the army and is only secondarily in duty bound to protect civil liberty and civil institutions.

In General de Negrier, Corbin and the other prominent leaders in our army should, either personally or through their followers, proclaim the doctrine that the president, congress and the Supreme court are creatures of army suzerainty, mere figureheads in everything relating to army management; and that the first allegiance of the American voters is to the army, which is the depository and safeguard of the nation's patriotism, the one high and mighty institution in the republic, as compared with which all other institutions are of minor importance, a parallel would exist to the situation which has for many years made the French republic an anomaly among governments.

In this country cannot imagine such a situation as applied to ourselves; but we must try to realize that it is the attitude assumed not only by many army men in France but also by a large element of France's non-military citizenship—how large, events will soon tell.

The denunciation of General de Negrier strikes this insolent opinion a blow full in the face. France's new secretary of war, the Marquis General de Gallifet, took office upon the pledge that he would execute the will of the republic if he had to wade to his neck in blood and he is showing that this was no bombastic boast. He is determined that the army must return to its proper place as the republic's servant, not its master. If he wins, it means the establishment of French republicanism on a basis of unassailable permanency. If he loses there will be chaos and perchance another commune.

It seems a very easy matter for a boys' strike to develop into a hoodlums' holiday.

An Object Lesson.

The assassination of General Heu-reaux, the dictator president of the republic of Santo Domingo, apart from its other aspects, is interesting as an object-lesson in government. This man, a mixture of French, Spanish and negro blood, well educated, speaking four languages, a natural leader and skilled in the diplomatic wiles common among the Latin-American races, was elected president thirteen years ago. At that time the constitution of Santo Domingo forbade the president's reelection, but Heu-reaux wanted another term and the constitution was changed. He was a progressive ruler and under his sway the people prospered, but it was a one-man government, existing primarily by force. As illustrative of how things went we quote from the Sun:

"In the spring of 1886 the president found himself called upon to deal with a conspiracy against his power in the province of San Pedro Macori. General Ramon Castillo, his minister of war, had shortly before asked for 1,000 rifles to put down an insipient rebellion in that province, and had gone there in command to restore order, as he said. Instead, he distributed the 1,000 rifles among malcontents in the province and placed himself at their head to overthrow Heu-reaux. When news of this state of affairs reached the president he sent word to General Jose Estay, governor of San Pedro Macori, to shoot Castillo. The governor's son tried to carry out the order, but his bullet missed General Castillo and killed his son. The minister of war suspected the true condition of affairs, and so when a summons came for him to return to the capital he declined to obey it. The summons said that he was wanted to take charge of important operations of the war department, but the wily general, taught by experience, replied with frankness that a former minister of war returning under similar circumstances had returned to his death; and he called attention to the fact that he himself had, three years before, acting under the president's secret orders, shot and killed a former governor of San Pedro Macori. President Heu-reaux was unable to put down Castillo's insurrection by force, so he intimidated

Castillo that Estay had been the real author of the attempt on Castillo's life, and directed the war minister to arrest Estay and bring him to the capital. This Castillo did. Estay was immediately liberated and Castillo was put to death. Then, to encourage obedience in future governors, the president had Estay killed for not having carried out his instructions to kill Castillo in San Pedro Macori."

Just what led to the present assassination has not yet been disclosed; but that a rule founded on treachery and cruelty would be likely to provoke assassination of the ruler could have been predicted any time within the period of Heu-reaux's administration. Repeated attempts had been made on the president's life prior to the one which put an end to it. It was in this atmosphere that General Maximino Gomez lived and yet Americans wonder why the Cuban chieftain is not an Abraham Lincoln. The experience of Santo Domingo, typical as it is of most Latin-American countries, teaches us what to avoid in setting up an independent government for Cuba.

Correspondents at Manila complain that they are unable to write the truth. If any are prompted to such a desire General Otis should certainly give them an opportunity. It is too rare to be missed.

The Trouble with Canada.

Last winter the American commissioners who were trying to negotiate a general treaty for the settlement of long-standing disputes with Canada, having come to the Alaskan boundary dispute, offered, as an act of courtesy to Canada to lease to the Dominion government for a nominal sum a port on the Lynn canal, which would give Canada a water outlet from the Klondike gold region. Although this is what she is anxious for, Canada rejected this neighborly proposition with scorn, demanding that the United States submit its title to the Alaskan coast, which, until the Klondike gold discoveries, had not been challenged, to arbitration before a European arbitrator, well knowing that the prejudice existing among European officials against the United States would, as in the past, militate against a fair decision. The American commissioners replied that the United States, knowing its title to be sound and just, would be perfectly willing to submit to an arbitrator to be named by any North or South American power, which could have no motive in influencing an inequitable verdict; but that no more jug-handled European arbitrators would be considered.

How the matter still stands. Canada wants to arbitrate before a European arbitrator. We refuse. The United States is willing to arbitrate before a disinterested tribunal to be chosen by Mexico, a wholly neutral power, or by one of the South American republics. Meanwhile we offer to lease to Canada a port which will open up for her a water route to the Canadian gold fields, but Canada demands that we surrender a port and threatens to send soldiers to take it, on the ground that... is Canadian territory; although the Canadian maps, until within a few years ago, invariably indicated that the territory now claimed as Canadian belonged to Alaska. It is not likely that the threat to send soldiers will be executed. Should that be attempted, we should have to meet it and there would be trouble. The likelier outcome is that Canada will calm down, accept our proposition for a lease and look nice.

Secretary Root is undoubtedly about to enter upon a hard task, but there are lots of editors about the country who will be willing to tell him just how the department should be conducted.

As to Compulsory Arbitration.

This proposition is advanced by the North American, of Philadelphia: "Every corporation, whether public, like a railroad, or private, like a manufacturing enterprise,—is a creation of the state. Therefore the state may, before granting existence to a corporation, impose such conditions as it pleases. It is within the state's right to require citizens forming themselves into corporations to agree that in the event of differences with their employees, these differences shall not be settled by the rough trial of strength called a strike or a lockout, but be taken before an impartial tribunal for adjudication. Here is the plain road to that 'compulsory arbitration' about which there has been so much writing and talking that have led to nothing practical."

As a statement of law this appears to be correct. The only question relates to the expediency of the application of this right. It must be admitted that the worst sufferers from a strike usually are persons not directly concerned in it. Where a difference between an employer and his employees is put to the arbitration of a strike, involving not only a tie-up of their particular business, imposing losses upon other lines of business and frequently producing scenes of violence which terrorize innocent people and necessitate temporary recourse to martial law, the public in the chief victim and on this account it might feel inclined to demand compulsory arbitration.

But the practical difficulty with our contemporary's suggestion is the same that has nullified other propositions looking to the compulsory adjustment of economic disputes by arbitration. It would lay the stress of compulsion on only one side to the dispute. It would compel corporations to accept the verdict of arbiters without providing for any assurance of its acceptance by the discontented workmen. The state could say to the corporation: "Accept our verdict or we will revoke your charter," and the corporation, needing a charter, would have to submit. But it could not say to the employees of that corporation: "You, too, must accept our verdict," for it has no means to compel them to accept. The right of each man to work or not to work as he sees fit is a right beyond the reach of state legislation. The utmost that the state could do in the

event of a refusal on the part of the workmen to acquiesce in a state tribunal's decision would be to throw around the corporation a protecting force in case it should employ other labor; and it does this now.

We confess that we can see no relief in this direction.

Nicaragua papers announce that the United States is anxious to "annex" that particularly lively plot, and are endeavoring to arouse Nicaraguan sentiment against such a proceeding. It is probably safe to agree with the "ants" so far as Nicaragua is concerned. With Santiago yellow fever, the cholera typhoid and the banality of Cobos the United States has trouble enough on hand without arousing the black and tan patriots of Central America.

The strange lack of interest over the news from the Transval is probably occasioned by the suspicion that Uncle Paul's blue pencil is passed over anything that would be considered worthy of a two column headline. Official news concerning Paul and his raid is as devoid of thrilling features as a census report.

A Spanish sailor formerly of Cervera's fleet has arrived in this country and wishes to join the American navy. He is convinced that the Yankee tar holds all the drum numbers in the distribution of prize money.

The French government has just disgraced another general. In this country the official act of degradation is seldom necessary. The newspapers usually attend to that.

It begins to look as though a small standing army would also be necessary to look after the "ants" who are endeavoring to exterminate the African race in Georgia.

Oom Paul Kruger evidently appreciates the value of a resignation with a string attached.

PERSONALITIES.

Eldridge T. Gerry, in his house on Fifth avenue, New York, has the finest private collection of law books in the United States.

Albert Pierre Levy, a resident of Atlanta, Ga., was a classmate of Dreyfus, and says the latter was the most popular lad in the school.

The many Senators Chandler and Gallinger, of New Hampshire, was caused, it is said, by a dispute regarding a postoffice appointment.

Colonel M. J. O'Brien, the new president of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, started life as a driver of one of the wagons of the Adams Express company.

Rosa Bonheur led many unfinished pictures, among which was one depicting horses running at full gallop. Though offered \$8,000 for this she refused to finish it.

Tim Healey, the cattle king of New Mexico, has more money than he knows what to do with. He has an income of \$7,000 a year, and lives in a hut that cost about \$60.

M. de Block, whose work on war is well known, is a rich Dutchman, 65 years old, short, fat, gray-haired and with rugged features.

Carolus Duran is next year to paint a life-size portrait of General Miles, to be hung in University hall, at Harvard, from which college General Miles received his LL.D. degree.

Governor Joseph B. Sayers, of Texas, ordered the old federal flag captured by the Confederates in the War of the Rebellion. He intends presenting it to the State Historical society.

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De Witt C. Cregier, ex-mayor of Chicago, went to the Windy City in 1885, and was elected to accept the nomination of a city of 40,000 to the office of city president and attorney general have taken such an interest.

It will probably surprise most people to know that Sir Arthur Sullivan is the inventor of something else than tuneful melodies. His brain evolved the contrivance known as the Sullivan safety shaft, which is a device for fastening bolts that are entirely unmanageable and bolts it can be released, leaving the occupants of the vehicle in safety.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale says that when he brought his first report from the famous Boston Latin school it showed that he stood only nine in a class of fifteen. "Probably the other boys are brighter than I am," he said. "God made them so, and you cannot help that. But the report says you are among the boys who behave well. That is from my side, and that is all I care about."

An officer who has been under General Wood at Santiago says of him: "I saw General Wood at his desk for the first time when I really believe he was the steekest man in Santiago. Once, going into the palace in the morning, I saw him lean against the wall for support. In a moment he braced up again and went on and worked just as hard that day as on any other. With chills shaking his entire body he would press his hand hard against the desk so as to stop the trembling while he wrote."

POEMS BY EDWIN MARKHAM.

A Look into the Gulf. I looked one night, and the Semiramis. With all her mourning doves above her head, Sat rocking on an ancient road of Hell, Withered and eyelids, chanting to the moon. Stitches of song they sang to her of old Upon the lighted roofs of Nineveh. And then her voice rang out with rattling laugh: "The bugles! They are crying back again! Bugles that broke the nights of Babylon, And then went crying on through Nineveh. Stand back, ye trembling messengers of ill! Women, let go my hair. I am the Queen. A whirlwind and a blaze of swords to queen! Insecure cities. Let the iron tread Of armies shake the earth. Look, lofty towers; Assyria goes by upon the wind! And so she labbers by the ancient road, While cities turned to dust upon the earth Rise through her whirling brain to live again! Babbles all night, and when her voice is dead Her weary lips beat on without a sound.

The Goblin Laugh. When I beheld how men and women grud And grovel for some place of pomp or power, To shine and circle thro' a crumbling hour, Forgetting the large mansions of the mind, That are the rest and shelter of mankind; And when I see them come with weary brain, Pale and powerless to enjoy their gains, I seem to hear a goblin laugh unwind.

And then a memory sends upon its billow Thoughts of a singer wise enough to play, Who took life as a lightsome holiday; Or how I see him make his arm a pillow, Drink from his hand, and with a pipe of willow Blow wild music down a woodland way.

only "let out for the wedding," but was given a free pardon.

To Dad's Rescue.

Once when John Van Buren, son of President Van Buren, was making a speech in behalf of his father, an old Democrat rose in the audience and upbraided him as a boister. Few men were more effective on the stump or quicker at repartee than John, and he replied to the charge with an anecdote something like this: "One day a man on horseback came up with a boy who was contending with an overturned load of hay. Instead of tossing the hay back in the wagon, the boy was energetically lowering it and taking it to the ground where it landed. The traveler halted and said: 'My young friend, why do you work so furiously this hot weather? Why do you toss the hay back in the wagon and be more deliberate in your labors?' The boy stepped, wiped the streaming perspiration off his face on his forehead and then, pointing to the pile of hay on the roadside, exclaimed: 'Stranger, dad's under thar, and then he set about work more furiously than ever.'—Rochester Chronicle.

A Namesake Overlooked. A story of the German emperor is being circulated in army circles. At a recent inspection of recruits his majesty asked of them: "What do you know of me?" On his majesty asking him if he was aware that he had a famous namesake, the soldier answered in the affirmative. "Who told you that?" asked the emperor. "My captain, your majesty." "And what did your captain tell you about Andrew?" "Your majesty, he said that he only wished Andrew had taken me with him!"

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THREE SMILES.

Explaining. "I am glad to see that you punished those men for cannibalism," said the tourist to the Pacific Island king. "Oh—ahem—thank you. Only it wasn't for cannibalism they were punished—that is to say, not exactly. Their conduct was a violation of our game laws."—Washington Star.

Wasn't Expecting Him. Bobby—Sister never knowed you was comin' tonight. Mr. Oldsow—How do you know she didn't, Bobby? Bobby—Cause she wrot an' et onlos for supper.—Ohio State Journal.

Woman's Passion. "My wife always leaves our house in primer order when we go away." "What's that for?" "She wouldn't want even a burglar to think she was a poor housekeeper."—Chicago Record.

NUMS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The Prussian army includes nearly 11,000 officers, among them 293 generals.

There are only 10,000 Britishers in India—one to every 1,000 of the population.

The toll of an ordinary ship passing through the Suez Canal averages about \$1,000. The distance is ninety-two miles.

It is estimated that at the present rate of growth London, which now has a population of 5,677,000, will, in 1941, have over 13,000,000.

At the commencement of Dorea College, in the Eastern Tennessee Mountains, 1,500 saddle horses were plucked on the grounds.

The machinist employs a dog on his lathe; he takes a hog out, if the tool will stand it; the castings are made of pigs of iron, which in turn were fed from a sow.

The Salvation Army has opened several stands in Boston for the sale of ice cold lemonade and buttermilk at one cent a glass. Over 5,000 drinks are being dispensed daily.

Notwithstanding the fact that there is nothing new under the sun, the United States patent office granted nearly 25,000 patents last year to people who had hit upon a new idea.

The president of a large telephone system has offered to pay \$1,000,000 for a telephone repeater which would be an efficiency in telephony. The telegraph repeater is in telephony.

The boom in lake traffic is unprecedented. Rates are 15 per cent higher than they were in '95, 40 per cent higher than in '96, 50 per cent higher than in '97 and 50 per cent higher than in '98. There is more business than there are boats.

The Illinois Central is constructing a freight car yard at New Orleans which will have 28 miles of tracks and will hold 3,000 cars. The yard is being so arranged that cars can be distributed from the receiving point to any other point by gravity. This will save an immense expense for switching cars.

The game of whist originated in England. It is believed to have developed from the older game of triumph, or trumps, which was played as early as 1530. In fact, in that year sermons were preached denouncing the game as one that tended to take the mind off the truths of religion. Whist is first mentioned in English literature.

In comparing the countries by the length of railroad compared with the amount of population that they serve, we find that the colony of South Australia stands first with 52.3 miles for each 10,000 people, this result, of course, being due to the comparative sparseness of the population. In the United States are 28 miles to each 10,000 inhabitants.

The law recently passed by the Connecticut legislature for the protection of the trailing arbutus is said to be the first measure ever passed in any state of the Union to foster the growth of a wild flower. The enactment of the law in question is said to have been largely due to a newspaper article calling attention to the need of such a measure.

Caviar, which is made from sturgeon eggs salted in brine, is the most costly product of the fisheries of this country; and while largely relished by epicures, a taste for it must usually be acquired. Until recently its manufacture was monopolized by the Russians, most of it being exported on the Volga river and Caspian sea, and at the present time about 8,000,000 pounds of it are exported annually from the dominions of the Czar.

The Indian population of the United States is increasing rather than decreasing, contrary to the popular idea. By the census of 1880 we had 256,127 Indians enumerated. By the census of 1890 the total was given as 225,241, but it is claimed to have been imperfect, as the enumerators failed to do their duty on several reservations, and the vital statistics were so incorrect as to be almost useless. In 1884 a census taken by the Indian bureau showed 222,965 Indians of adult age.

A painting representing four barrels stuffed with United States bills of all denominations, from the one dollar silver certificate to the \$1,000 treasury note, was seized by the Secret Service authorities at Boston the other day. It was very cleverly executed, and represented three months of diligent work on the part of the artist. In size, colors and the small details the bills were faultless facsimiles of the denominations they represented, even the signatures having the shades and characteristics of the originals. The luckless owner had refused an offer of \$20 for the painting two days before it was confiscated.

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