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, AUGUST 17, 1899.

Mayor Moir has evidently forgotten what he said in his inaugurat address about divorcing the police force from

Rural Free Delivery.

The city letter carriers, who just now have their minds full of Scranton and their coming national convention, will soon have professional competition, if present experiments in rural free mail delivery indicate correctly. According to First Assistant Postmaster General Heath, rural free delivery is now in operation in upward of 200 towns in the United States, every state having not rescued. had a trial of it. Mr. Heath adds:

"In every instance the amount of mail delivered has been greatly increased after the establishment of the free delivery. In nearly every instance it has doubled, in most it has trebled, in many quadrupled and in some quin tupled. I recall one place in Michigan in the district of a congressman who was opposed to the establishment of the service. The thing was done, however, and within three months the amount of mail delivered to the country people of that place had more than quintupled. I showed the report to the congressman and he said he had no further opposition to rural free delivery. Another feature of the system that will surprise you is that the cost of delivery to the rural population is not more per piece than it is to the urban population. This is almost too much to believe, but it is an absolute

"One of the chief arguments against ocen the extreme expense estimated. high as \$100,000,000 per annum for the | causes general establishment. But in this there was no account of returns. We pay the carriers \$40 per annum. This remuneration being so small, we permit the carrier to carry packages, and thus increase his income. This is not only a benefit to him, but to the whole community, for the farmer or his wife often wants some little thing from the store when no one can go for it conveniently, and is willing to pay a small compensation to have it brought to them. Speaking of this matter of expense, it is amusing to look back to the discussions in congress in the early days of the republic, when it was doubted by many whether it was feasible to have a postal system at all. Presidents Adams and Jackson both were impelled to present labored arguments in their messages in support of a postal system which one day might give the 'comforts of friendly correspondence and the lights of the periodical press to the remotest parts of the Union' at a very light expense to the individual.

We observe in the Chicago Record a letter from Crawfordsville, Ind., right in line with Mr. Heath's opinions. It describes the operations of the rural free dilvery system in Montgomery county, Indiana, and incidentally says: The first month of the delivery each of the carriers then in the service delivered about 1,000 pieces of mail matter. At the end of the first year they are each delivering over 5,000 pieces a month. For the first three months of operation they would collect along the route from eight to ten letters a day. Now the daily collection on each of the year-old routes is from fifty to sixty letters daily besides packages and newspapers. When rural delivery was established in Montgomery county not a single daily paper was taken along any route. Each carrier now delivers from 70 to 100 daily newspapers. The increased subscription to magazines and other periodicals is just as great When the routes were first established many of the farmers were decidedly opposed to the innovation. Some even refused to put up boxes. All opposition has now disappeared, however, and so greatly pleased are the farmers that an increased valuation of \$2 per acre is given farms lying along rural routes. People living as far from the route as two miles frequently place lock boxes at the nearest point on the route and have their mail delivered there. The pople living on by roads have in some instances adopted a novel method of obtaining the coveted benefit at small expense. The mail for all the people living on a certain by road will be delivered at a box placed at the intersection of the road with the route and from this box it will be taken dally and delivered for ten or twelve miles back in the country by a boy paid for the

"Rural delivery is proving a great stimulus to the construction of good roads and at least two new pikes in Montgomery country can be attributed to the hope of securing the service. The carriers are allowed to deliver packages and to transact business for the people living along their routes and in this way they manage to supplement in a very acceptable manner the meagre salaries allowed by the department. The carriers' wagons on leaving the Crawfordsville postoffice each morning will be seen to be filled with packages of laundry, dry goods, hardware and all manner of merchandise. Orders of all kinds are placed with the carrier. In the busy summer season he is an especial benefit in this way.

"The practical operation of the rural free delivery has demonstrated conclusively that many of the objections made to it are unfounded. It has been urged that rural delivery would be an immense expense to the government, but its operation in Montgomery county proves that it will on the contrary be a source of considerable revenue. Each of the year-old routes in the county is now paying the government a net profit of \$40 per month. As a rule, each route does away with either a fourth-class postoffice or a I In Carter's case the verdict was ap- I tendered by Mr. Croker.

star route. These, of course, have always been an expense to the government as great as the operation of a rural route, so the substitution could make practically no difference in the cost to the government. The rural route, however, so increases the postal receipts from the country that the government makes a good profit. The tradesmen in towns from which rural routes run at first objected that they would prove the ruination of business. They reasoned that if the farmer had his mail delivered he would have no cause to come to town and would consequently stay away. Their fears proved groundless. With his mail delivered daily, the farmer still makes his weekly or semi-weekly visits to town. He is enabled to keep in touch with what is going on in town by the daily papers and to take advantage of opportunities of which he was formery kept in ignorance."

There can be little doubt that this innovation in the postal service has

The best evidence that there was nothing in the French colonial minister's scare over the reported intention of an American syndicate to rescue Dreyfus is the fact that Dreyfus was

Pensions. As was noted recently in the telegraphic dispatches, the turning point seems to have been reached in the volume of pensions paid on account of the civil war. On June 30 last there were 991,519 pensioners on the rolls, against 993,714 the year grevious, a decrease of 2,195, which is the first time n recent years that a decrease has been noted. Unless congress shall greatly liberalize the pension laws, it is the opinion of experts at Washington that from now on the pension item in the government's expenditures will continually diminish.

The net increase of the pension rell in recent years has not been so large as many people think. In the following table, taken from the Washington correspondence of the New York Sun, the increase of the roll is clearly shown, the figures in the last column representing the net gain to the roll the introduction of the system has each year, after making proper deduction for all those dropped during the This has been put by some as year by reason of death and other

		Pensioners:	Net increase
		on rolls.	of rolls.
1890	*************	527,944	45,219
1801	***********	676,160	138 214
1892		878,068	199.908
1893	************	966,012	89,944
1834		969 544	3,532
1896			260
1897	***************	576,014	154
1898	************	293,714	17,790
1899		991,519	*2,195

How the losses to the roll by mortality and otherwise have offset the increase in pensions may be seen in the

	T	otal dropped	Pensions
	Deaths.	from rolls.	issued.
1890	14,169	20,319	495,637
1891	13,229	20,525	156,486
1892	17,771	25,396	224,047
1893	25,065	33,690	121,620
1894	28,070	37,161	39,085
1895	27,816	42,411	39.185
1896	29,393	44,063	46,374
1897	. 33,960	41,122	50,101
1898	33,691	46,651	52,648
1899	34,345	43,186	37,077

For some years to come, if the war in the Philippines shall continue, the decrease in pension disbursements to civil war recipients may be counterbalanced by new pensions chargeable to the Spanish and colonial wars. But our young men will live to see the pension item almost entirely eliminated.

The Carter Case Contrasted with

the Dreyfus Case. Announcement is made that Attorney General Griggs, to whom has been referred for review the testimony and hundred western women. While most pleadings in the court-martial of Cap- of us would prefer Pennsylvanians for tain Oberlin M. Carter, the officer of osculatory interviews, the sinker of the corps of engineers of the United States army who has been convicted of defrauding the government to the extent of nearly \$2,000,000, has decided few envious reporters, who received to withhold judgment until Wayne MacVeagh, Carter's attorney, returns from Europe. MacVeagh is to make an oral argument in his client's behalf. Major Carson, the Philadelphia Ledg-

er's Washington correspondent, in Tuesday's Ledger, gave a five-column review of the case against Carter, which is most interesting. Carter, it will be remembered, for many years had charge of harbor improvements at Savannah, Ga. In 1896 he was sent to London as military attache, and his successor at Savannah, Captain Gillette, found irregularities in Carter's work. He notified General Wilson, the chief of the corps, who appointed a board of three engineers to investigate. They unanimously reported that Carter had been gullty of gross and pakeable frauds. A court-martial followed. It convened in Savannah Jan. 5, 1898, and consisted of the following officers, representing every department of the army: Brigadier General Elwell S. Otis, United States Army; Colonel Jacob Kline, Twentieth infantry: Lieutenant Colonel Samuel M. Mansfield, Corps of Engineers; Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hasbrouck, Fourth artillery; Major William S. Stanton, Corps of Engineers: Major Charles A. Woodruff, commissary of subsistence; Major John L. Tiernon, First artillery; Major William S. Patten, quartermaster: Captain Daniel M. Taylor, ordnance department: Captain Samuel M. Mills, Fifth artillery: Captain Charles G. Penney, Sixth infantry; Captain Theodore F: Forbes, Fifth infantry; Captain Richard P. Strong, Fourth

The evidence before this court showed that Carter had systematically and continuously thrown contracts to a company in which he was a slient partner, paying exorbitant prices for inferior material. The trial lasted four months, and the result was a unanimous verdict of guilty, with a recommendation that Carter be dismissed from the army, fined \$10,000 and im-

prisoned. Here begins the peculiar part of this case. Ordinarily a court-martial verdict passes through the usual military channels, is approved by the judge advocate general, the general commanding and the secretary of war, and goes to the president for final action.

proved by the judge advocate general HUMAN NATURE STUDIES and secretary of war, but when it reached the president he was persuaded by Carter's influential friends to submit the entire proceedings to a disinterested lawyer for review. Ex-Senator Edmunds was the lawyer chosen for this purpose, and he in turn approved the main features of the verdict. One would think that after such a circuit of approvals sentence would be pronounced. But it was not, The president next referred the matter to the attorney general, and he has not only gone over the law points and testimony, but intends to re-open argument and evidence on the merits of the case. No one knows when he will reach a conclusion or whether, when reached, it will be accepted by the president

Major Carson says there are no intricacles in the Carter case requiring such extraordinary and unprecedented action. "The testimony," he asserts, "is clear and convincing, and the guilt of the accused is established beyond all possibility of doubt. There is not a person who has been called upon to take official notice of the case except the president, who has not been convinced of Carter's guilt and the righteousness of the judgment of the court-martial. But in any event, whether the president has or has not doubts touching the degree of guilt found by the court-martial, there can be no justification for the extraordinary course that has been followed in the case. The record of the court, upon which its action was based, is before the president, and to practically assail that record by inviting further argument and introducing additional testimony is not only to do an unprecedented thing, but to impeach the integrity of the court. If there are errors they can be pointed out, and it is within the discretionary power of the president to correct them and to give the accused whatever benefit would logically and rightfully follow. He can mitigate the sentence in whole or in part, or he can disapprove the entire proceedings and restore the accused officer to duty. But he cannot, without violating all precedents, making military justice a travesty and assailing the honor of the army, place the members of the court-martial, together with its prosecuting officer, a tribunal ordered and created by his own act, in accordance with the requirements of law, in the position of defendants, with the accused and his counsel as

prosecutors." This opinion, we may add, is generally held by army officers, who view in the unprecedented caution of the president a show of favoritism to the wealthy and influential friends of an audacious scoundrel which would never be exhibited to a defendant without such influences at his back. On the other hand, we have in the executive's ourse an exact antithesis of the course pursued in the French republic in the initiatory stages of the prosecution of Dreyfus. There the power of the government, both military and civil, was put forth to hasten the conviction and punishment of an innocent man. Here the executive exercises deliberation even beyond the normal in order that no doubt may remain when once the finding is anextremely careful; but if so, the error is on the right side.

Naval Constructor Hobson has again been heard from. Hobson complains that he has been grossly misrepresented by the reporters and that the kissing business incident to his trip across the continent was greatly exaggerated in the papers. It is feared that Hobson takes the situation too seriously. If one is constituted to stand it, there can be no great harm in kissing a few the Merrimac should feel sufficiently complimented by his reception to look with indifference upon the shafts of a

The demonstration of cordiality made by the Austrians was so marked during the visit of Admiral Dewey at Trieste, that the great naval commander has made it the subject of a special letter to the administration at Washington. This intelligence will no doubt be received with pleasure by the credulous readers of the yellows, who Imagined that Austria would declare war upon Admiral Dewey on account of the Hazleton strike.

The proposal to enlist more colored men for service in the Philippines is opn to but few objections from a general view, but in some sections of the South the scheme to take negroes out of the country would probably not be received with favor. The present stock of Mormon missionaries will scarcely meet the demand for lynching mate-

Elmira's curfew law has been marked success thus far, and now Binghamton papers insinuate that the population of that city has always been asleep at the hour of sounding the

In the interval awaiting active hos-

ilities no doubt many of our Democratic friends would be pleased to hear a eport concerning the condition of Coin Harvey's campaign collection box. Reed and Croker in the anti-expansion calamity list furnish another Il-

lustration of strange lodgers reclining on the same mattress. July's exports were \$20,000,000 in excess of the exports of the same month last year. Expansion is no longer a

theory, but a fixed fact. The Jiminez revolution in Santo Domingo bids fair to prove as profitless as an average Klondike prospecting

There is a suspicion that the silver leader is regarded in Kentucky as a sort of William Jonah Bryan.

Bryan's friends think there may be ptomaines in the cream puff of peace

They Didn't Recognize Mrs. Catt. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, general or, ranizer of the Women's Suffrage party in this country, is a young and strikingly bandsome woman. She is a brilliant talker, amiable in manners and k at-ways stylishly dressed. A year or two ago she was on her way to address a state convention in Topeka, Kan., where she got into conversation with two gen-tiemen on the cars. One of them was a county judge, and the other a newspaper editor of the same town. A few seats in front of them sat a spectageed, angular woman, sallow as to complexion and drab as to dress. Her clothes were cut in a fashion soverely plain. The talk had turned upon the rights of women.
"See that women yonder?" said the judge. "I'll bet she's a delegate to that

Women's Rights convention up at To-"Sure," chimed in the editor. "Funny, sint it? There's a woman that has no nusband-never could get one, has all the aint it?

rights she needs, and she gallvants around the country asking for more. Funny, ain't it? I'll wager she's Mrs. att. Well named, ain't she?" Mrs. Catt smiled and changed the sub-When they reached Topeka she

said to the judge:
"I am very glad to have met you. am Mrs. Catt. The lady in front is the wife of a banker in Chicago. She is go-ing out to visit her married daughter. know her very well. She is opposed to woman's sunrage. Good-bye. -Saturday Evening Post.

Without Affectation. simple couple, an Englishman and his wife, had driven out to one of the more famous suburbs of Stockholm, and had been particularly struck with the beauty of a villa they noticed perched among the woods. Having learned in their sojourn in Sweden that the teahouses generally occupy the coign of vantage in resorts of this kind, the tourists ventured to accost a gentleman they saw working in the garden. Invited to see the view from the house, the three fell into conversation and were presently joined by a very charming lady on the balcony. Refreshments were offered and accepted, and the hostess, in doing the honors of the teatable, began to speak of her love of England and of the beauty of Keswick. in the Lake country, "A very distin-guished countryman of yours goes every year to Keswick." said the Englishman-"I mean the Crown Prince of Sweden."
"Yes," said the lady, "that is how we
know the Lake district so well. We go to Keswick for the church conference."
"But I was speaking of the crown prince," repeated the bewildered visitor.
"So was I." said the hostess, with a smile; "my husband is the Crown Prince

He Marvelled Much.

He had been elected member for his na-ive county, and had come up to the metropolis to take his seat in the house, He was a modest, retiring individual, and felt quite overawed as he stood diffidently in the lonby among a throng of the ordi-nary members.
"Well, Mr. G—." said one of the legis-

lators near him, "and what are your im-pressions of the house?" "To tell you the truth," replied the new how I got here!"

A week afterward he made a speech which astonished them, and the same member button-holed him again after the "What are your impressions of the

house now?" was the question. "Getting to know us, eh?" "Yes," quietly replied Mr. G-; "and now I wonder how you all got here!"-London Answers.

Aesop's Fable Over Again.

A mischievous youngster at the Mission amusing himself with a vasc, managed after several attempts to get his hand through the narrow neck, and was then unable to extricate it. For half an hour or more the whole family did its best to nounced. It may be that The Dreyfus withdraw the fist of the luckless young affair has made President McKinley offender, but in vain. It was a very valuable vase, and the father was loath to break it. After a final attempt, he gave up his efforts in despair, but tried a last "Open your hand." he commanded, "and then draw it forth." "! can't open it, father," declared the boy "I've got my penny in my hand." "You young rascal." thundered his father, "drop it at once!" The penny rattled in the bottom of the vase and out came the hand.—San Francisco Wave.

SMILE PROVOKERS.

Incessant.

In the spring the little brooklets Babble to a merry rhyme; But it's different with the gossips-For they babble all the time. -Philadelphia Inquirer.

Gone When Discovered.

How long after your marriage was it before you found that your wife had a quite a while, and I never knew the had it till she lost it."-Boston Cour-

His Better Half. Gillback-Is it true that you don't spend

as much money now as you did before you were married?

Packett—It is. I wish I could say the same thing of my wife.-Judge.

Impossible.

First Girl-Cholly isn't such a fool as Second Girl-No, indeed. He couldn't .-Washington Star.

Like an Egg.

"My child," said the mother to her married daughter, "a man is like an egg. Keep him in hot water a little while and he may boll soft; but keep him there too long and he hardens."—Advertiser.

Not Much of a Drawer. "I conclude," said a famous painter to Raphael, who had criticised his drawing

of a cow, "I conclude from your re-marks that you are no critic." "Which shows," retorted Raphael, that you cannot draw a conclusion any better than you draw cows."-Puck.

Appropriate.

That was an appropriate flower Lord mpecune were when he was married to Miss Nuggets. "I have not heard of it. What was it?" "A marigoid."

which. "I," said one candidate, smiting his breast in conscious rectitude, "shall man-age my office in the interests of rich and

or alike." I." shouted the other candidate for the same job, "am going to run things so the poor man will get the best of it."

Can there be any doubt as to which one, in our age of perfect adherence to abstract justice, received the overwhelm-ing majority?-Indianapolis Journal.

Hard to Suit.

Housekeeper-How long did you remain in your last place? Applicant—Sure, I left in wan day. There was no playin' the leddy, at all.

t all. "Whimsdeal, was she?" "Indade she was that. The first night she complained because I boiled the tay, an' th' next morning she complained be-cause I did not boil the coffee. Thin I left."-New York Weekly.

Her Question.

'You're all the world to me." he cried, And she, with gentle mirth And tenderness, said: "Have you told Papa you want the earth?" -Washington Star,

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

London's omnibus company employs 5,000 men. The annual receipts are about \$6,000,000. An English traveler declares that the

east interesting country in the world to visit to be Korea. It is supposed that the average depth of sand in the deserts of Africa is from thirty to forty feet.

A syndicate is being formed in Cork to insure quick and wheap transport of Irish dairy produce to the English may-

Australia has over 1,000,000 souare miles of fertile land, and could eventually sup-port at least a hundred millious of inhabi-

In the Sutro baths of San Francisco, there are sixty-nine shower baths, seven toboggan slides and dressing rooms for A set of maps of the time of Ptalemy

the geographer, has been found in some eleventh century manuscripts in the Vati-can library, according to the Tablet. Referring to the recent report that a tussian florist had succeeded in raising due roses, a Slavonian gardeter de-lars that blue roses grow wild in Ser-

About twenty-four women in 100 arstronger in the left arm than they are li the right; women, too, are more fre-quently equally strong in both arms than

Old age pensions have been established in Korea, but are not a large item in the national expenditure. Old age pensions o men over 60 years of age swallow up total of more than \$230.

A philosophical statistician calculates that in the year 2000 there will be 1,700,000. 000 people who speak English, and that the other European languages will be spoken by only 500,000,000 people.

A new law has just gone into effect in Massachusetts forbidding the perform-ance of the marriage ceremony by justices of the peace, unless they have been specially designated for that purpose

Since January 1, ninety colleges, academies, and seminaries and eight art galleries in the United States have rereived gifts amounting to \$27,072,358, no counting contributions of less than \$5,000 A curious barometer is used in Germany and Switzerland. It is a jar of water, with a frog and a little step-ladder in it. When the frog comes out of the water and sits on the steps a rain-storm will

The authorities at Greenwich observa-tory, at Kew, are greatly agitated for fear the construction of the electric line n the neighborhood, which have been authorized, should disturb the magnetic recording instruments.

The sacred fires of India have not all been extinguished. The most ancient, which still exist, was consecrated at Voiwada twelve centuries ago, in commemo-ration of the voyage made by the Parees when they emigrated from Persia to

For the contemplated telephone con ection between Berlin and Paris, two lines are to be constructed, one a direct line from Berlin to Parls, and the other by way of Frankfort, so that a complete breakdown of the service between the two capitals will be a remote contin-

People marvel at the mechanism of the human body, with its 492 bones and sixty arteries. But man is simple in this respect compared with the carp. That re-markable fish moves no fewer than 4.3% bones and muscles evry time it breatles. It has 4,320 veins, to say nothing of its ninety-nine muscles.

PERSONALITIES.

Lord Kitchener is the fourth bachelor who has been elevated to the peerage in the last seven years. Thomas Bain, new speaker of the Can.

mer to gain that post. George B. Loving, of Texas, the promoter of the proposed Consolidated Cat-tle company, holds options over 600,000 head of cattle and 25,000,000 acres of

Professor William Somerville, doctor economics at the Durham College of Science, has been elected to the newly established professorship of agriculture at Cambridge. The father and brother of Elihu Root

have both held professorships in Hamil-ton college, where they were known among the students as "Cube" Root and "Square" Root. Lasker, the world's champion at chess and winner of the first prize at the recent tournament, is only 31. Yet he has been a conspicuous figure in the chess world

for the past ten years. Edward Everett Hale says he recent Edward Everett Hale says he recent-ly asked a little boy where Lake Cham-plain was. "I don't know," was the an-swer, "but my father has some of the water in bottles and it's very good."

M. Zola has not yet settled down again to literary work, but is busy developing the photographs he took in England. They will, he hopes, be valuable, should he decide to write a work on London. Professor George W. Jones, of Cornell university, is in Tacoma, having just returned from a trip to Alaska. He says the skeletons of thousands of til-fated horses are to be seen along the White

The rapidity with which women are coming to the front in violin playing is illustrated by the fact that the muchcoveted Sainton scholarship in London, held for three years by the successful candidate, has been awarded Miss Elsle M. Southgate, who succeeds Miss Flor-ence E. Moss, before whom no woman ever held the honor.

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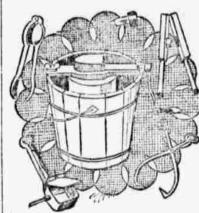
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Ripans Tabules

A machinist in St. Louis relates that for eighteen months

his life had been a perfect torture by reason of pains and

general bad feeling arising from indigestion, but having

he said: "I made up my mind at last to try them, and they are great! I now use them every now and then, and have no more indigestion, no bad feeling, and my appetite is much better. Everybody that suffers from indigestion should try them."